

EMBRAC

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Upright brackets in emphasized text

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English documentation

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1 License and Requirements

EMBRAC is placed under the terms of the LaTeX Project Public License, version 1.3 or later (<http://www.latex-project.org/lppl.txt>). It has the status “maintained.”

EMBRAC loads and needs the packages `expl3`,¹ `xparse`² and `l3keys2e`,³ the first is part of the `l3kernel`⁴ and the others are part of the `l3packages`.⁵

2 About

Parentheses and brackets are not letters, and it makes little sense to speak of them as roman or italic. There are vertical parentheses and sloped ones, and the parentheses on italic fonts are almost always sloped, but vertical parentheses are generally to be preferred. That means they must come from the roman font, and may need extra spacing when used with italic letterforms.

The sloped square brackets usually found on italic fonts are, if anything, even less useful than sloped parentheses. If, perish the thought, there were a book or film entitled *The*

¹ CTAN: `expl3` ² CTAN: `xparse` ³ CTAN: `l3keys2e` ⁴ CTAN: `l3kernel` ⁵ CTAN: `l3packages`

View from My [sic] Bed, sloped brackets might be useful as a way of indicating that the brackets and their contents are actually part of the title. Otherwise, vertical brackets should be used, no matter whether the text is roman or italic: “The View from My [sic] Bed” and “*the view from my [sic] bed*.” [Brio4, p. 85]

Both this quote from *The Elements of Typographic Style* by Robert Bringhurst and the article “Aufrechte Klammern in kursivem Text” by Dominik Waßenhoven [Waß12] inspired this package. Indeed, **EMBRAC** heavily borrows from the code Waßenhoven provided in his article.

EMBRAC tries to redefine `\emph` and `\textit` in a way that neither parentheses nor square brackets are sloped.

```
1 \emph{This is emphasized [sic] text.} \\
2 \emph{This is emphasized text (as you can see).}

This is emphasized [sic] text.
This is emphasized text (as you can see).
```

3 How it Works

Both the commands `\emph` and `\textit` are redefined:

- `\emph*{<emphasized text>}`
- `\textit*{<text in italics>}`

They now both have a `*` argument that restores the original behaviour. Otherwise they’re used just as before.

Let’s see the example again:

```
1 \emph{This is emphasized [sic] text.} \\
2 \emph{This is emphasized text (as you can see).}

This is emphasized [sic] text.
This is emphasized text (as you can see).
```

As you can see you don’t have to do anything apart from loading **EMBRAC** in your preamble.

The following example demonstrates one point why you have to be very careful when using **EMBRAC**. Certain parenthesis-letter combinations might need adjustments of the kerning:

```
1 \emph{This is (just) emphasized text.} \\
2 \emph{This is (\kern.1em just) emphasized text.}

This is (just) emphasized text.
This is (just) emphasized text.
```

This of course strongly depends on the font you’ve chosen.

4 Adding More Brackets & Adjusting the Kerning

If you want you can change the behaviour of **EMBRAC**. Maybe it should only affect squared brackets? Or curly braces, too? This can be done with these commands:

- ▶ `\AddEmph{<o>}[<io-kern>][<oo-kern>]{<c>}[<ic-kern>][<oc-kern>]`
- ▶ `\RenewEmph{<o>}[<io-kern>][<oo-kern>]{<c>}[<ic-kern>][<oc-kern>]`
- ▶ `\DeleteEmph{<o>}{<c>}`

Here `<o>` means *opening bracket* and `<c>` means *closing bracket*. The optional `<io-kern>` is inserted after the opening bracket (inner opening), `<oo-kern>` is inserted before it (outer opening). `<ic-kern>` is inserted before the closing bracket (inner closing), `<oc-kern>` after it (outer closing).

EMBRAC initially makes these definitions:

```
1 % add some defaults:
2 \AddEmph{({})} [.1em]
3 \AddEmph{[[]]} [.1em]
```

This document uses “Linux Libertine O”⁶ for the roman font and redefines one of the pairs:

```
1 \RenewEmph{[]{} } [.1em] [-.1em]
```

You can change them as you wish, but be careful with the kerning! What’s to less for one letter might be too much for others:

```
1 \RenewEmph{({} [.1em] {} )} [.1em]
2 \emph{This is (just) emphasized text.} \\
3 \emph{This is emphasized text (as you can see).}
```

This is (just) emphasized text.

This is emphasized text (as you can see).

Please notice that `\RenewEmph` only replaces the specified kerning values and leaves all others as they’ve been specified before.

Deleting a pair has the expected results:

```
1 \DeleteEmph()
2 \emph{This is emphasized [sic] text.} \\
3 \emph{This is emphasized text (as you can see).}
```

⁶ <http://www.linuxlibertine.org/>

This is emphasized [sic] text.
This is emphasized text (as you can see).

5 biblatex Compatibility

This is **EMBRAC**'s only package option:

► **biblatex** = `true|false` Default: `false`

If set to true parentheses and squared brackets as defined by `\bibleftparen`, `\bibrightparen`, `\bibleftbracket` and `\bibrightbracket` are treated the same way (if not removed from the treatment with `\DeleteEmph`).

```
1 % this document uses \usepackage[biblatex]{embrac}
2 \emph{Let's cite the quote from section \ref{sec:about} again: \cite{
  bringhurst04}}.
```

Let's cite the quote from section 2 again: [Brio4].

6 Turn EMBRAC Temporarily Off

Redefining `\emph` and `\textit` is not without danger. Sometimes you might find that you'd want to keep the original definition for a small portion of your document. You can use the following commands whose functions are obvious, I guess:

► `\EmbracOff`

► `\EmbracOn`

This document for example uses the following lines:

```
1 \EmbracOff
2 \printbibliography
```

7 Watch out!

Please be aware that **EMBRAC** does not affect `\itshape` nor the commands `\em` or `\it` (which you shouldn't use in a \LaTeX document, anyway).

```
1 \itshape This is italic [sic] text.      This is italic [sic] text.
```

References

- [Brio4] Robert Bringhurst. *The Elements of Typographic Style*. Hartley & Marks, Canada, 2004. ISBN: 978-0-88179-205-5.
- [Waß12] Dominik Waßenhoven. “Aufrechte Klammern in kursivem Text”. In: *Die T_EXnische Komödie* 2 (2012), pp. 51–53.

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Section titles are indicated **bold**, packages sans serif, commands `\brown` and options `yellow`.

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