

The `texassert` package*

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Abstract

An assertion library for unit testing in plain TeX.

1 Introduction

This package emerged from a desire to explore `l3build` and literate programming. It provides a collection of Plain TeX macros that I originally used for unit testing, now converted into a `.dtx` file, allowing for regeneration of the original source files from the literate code.

All `.tex` files in this package are written in Plain TeX, offering a simple mechanism for performing assertions in unit testing Plain TeX macros. I hope you find it useful. *Profitez!*

2 Usage Examples

This section assumes you already have the `texassert` package installed via, for instance, running `l3build install` under the `project`'s root folder.

2.1 Length Assertions

To unit test the `\lengthof` macro in this library, for example, we can create a file `length-tests.tex` with:

```
% Import the necessary macros
\input import \import{lengthof} \import{assert}

% Length of an empty string is zero
\lengthof{} \asserteq\the\length=0

% Length of '0' is one
\lengthof{0} \asserteq\the\length=1

% Length of '12.3456' is seven
\lengthof{12.3456} \asserteq\the\length=7
```

*This document corresponds to `texassert` v0.0.2, dated 2024/11/07.

```

% Summary of the assertions made so far
\assertionsummary
\bye

```

Compile it with a T_EX engine, e.g. `pdftex length-tests.tex`, we get an output file `length-tests.pdf` with:

Assertion Summary: 3/3 assertions passed i.e. 0/3 assertions failed.

2.2 Number scanning

The following demonstrates how T_EX scans and expands the input tokens when a number is encountered. First, create a file e.g. `number-scanning.tex` with:

```

% Import the necessary macros
\input import \import{assert}

\count1=1
\count2=2
\count12=912

% Notice how \string\count2 gets absorbed to become
% the number of the first count!
\count3=\count1\the\count2
\asserteq\the\count3={912}

% Several ways to get around the issue.
\count3=\count1 \the\count2
\asserteq\the\count3=1

\count3=\count1\relax\the\count2
\asserteq\the\count3=1

\count3=\count1{}\the\count2
\asserteq\the\count3=1

% Summary of the assertions made so far
\assertionsummary
\bye

```

Compile it with a T_EX engine, e.g. `pdftex number-scanning.tex`, we get an output file `number-scanning.pdf` with:

```

2 2 2
Assertion Summary: 4/4 assertions passed i.e. 0/4 assertions failed.

```

2.3 More Examples

Many more examples can be found and easily extracted from the `*.lvt` files of the [regresssion test suite](#). I encourage the motivated readers to take a look. Go check out the repository and run them via `l3build check`!

3 Source Repository

<https://github.com/hansonchar/texassert>

4 Useful Resources

Not so much related to the library provided by this package per se, but some commands and external resources which I found directly useful or necessary for the purpose of *constructing* this package per se.

1. **Examples** in the **l3build** repository. The **simple-tree** example in particular.
2. `texdoc l3build` – information directly related to `l3build`.
3. `texdoc doc` – the `doc` package used by `l3build` implicitly.
4. `texdoc docstrip` – the `docstrip` package used by `l3build` implicitly.
5. `texdoc source2e` – information related to various macros that are or can be used in a `.dtx` file.
6. `texdoc dtxtut` – Scott Pakin. *How to Package Your L^AT_EX Package*. January 21, 2024. (I had lots of *Aha!* moments in reading this.)
7. Michel Gossens, Frank Mittelbach, and Alexander Samarin. *The L^AT_EX Companion*. Addison Wesley, Reading, Massachusetts, October 1, 1994. ISBN 0-201-54199-8.
8. David Salomon. *The Advanced T_EXbook*. Springer-Verlag New York, 1995. ISBN 0-387-94556-3.

5 Implementation

`import.tex` Contains `\import`.

```
\import {<filename>}. Used to prevent the same file from being \input more than once.  
1 \def\import#1{%  
2   \expandafter\ifx\csname import:#1\endcsname\relax  
3     \input #1  
4     \expandafter\gdef\csname import:#1\endcsname{}%  
5   \fi  
6 }
```

`common.tex` Contains common code and configuration used in this library.

```
7 \showboxdepth=\maxdimen \showboxbreadth=\maxdimen  
8  
9 \newtoks\result \newtoks\tokstemp  
10 \newcount\n  
11 \newcount\integer  
12  
13 \def\true{\let\bool=\iftrue}  
14 \def\false{\let\bool=\iffalse}
```

`\debug {<message>}`. Writes a line of debug message immediately to the terminal and the log file when debugging is enabled (via `\debugtrue` which is the default).

```
15 \newif\ifdebug  
16 \debugtrue  
17 \def\debug#1{\ifdebug \immediate\write16{[DEBUG] #1}\fi}
```

`\ifEmpty` [*parameter*]\then. Checks if the given parameter delimited by \then, when fully expanded, is empty. No parameter is treated as empty.

```

18 \newif\ifempty
19 \def\checkifempty#1{{\expandafter\def\expandafter\input\expandafter{#1}%
20 \global\ifx\input\empty \emptytrue\else\emptyfalse\fi}}
21
22 % Assigning \iffalse to \then and use as a parameter delimiter
23 % is critical in making the if-macros skippable.
24 % Source: https://tug.org/TUGboat/tb45-1/tb139wermuth-isint.pdf
25 \let\then=\iffalse
26 \def\ifEmpty#1\then{%
27 \checkifempty{#1}\ifempty
28 }

```

`\ifUndefined` {*cs token*}\then. Checks if the given control sequence delimited by \then is undefined.

```

29 \long\def\ifUndefined#1\then{%
30 \edef\x{\meaning#1}%
31 \let\e=\escapechar \escapechar=-1
32 \edef\y{\string\undefined}\escapechar=\e
33 \def\true{\iftrue}\def\false{\iffalse}%
34 \def\next{\expandafter\expandafter\expandafter
35 \aftergroup\ifx\x\y\true\else\false\fi}\next}}

```

`\ifDefined` {*cs token*}\then. Checks if the given control sequence delimited by \then is defined.

```

36 \long\def\not#1#2\then{#1#2\then \false \else \true \fi \bool}
37 \long\def\ifDefined#1\then{\ifUndefined#1\then
38 \false \else \true\fi \bool}

```

`lengthof.tex` Contains the code used to find out the length of a given string.

`\lengthof` {*string*} Computes the length of the given string parameter when fully expanded.

```

39 \newcount\length
40 \def\lengthof#1{{\edef\x{#1}\global\length=0
41 \expandafter\lengthofA\x\end
42 }}
43 \def\lengthofA#1{\ifx#1\end\else
44 \global\advance\length by1
45 \expandafter\lengthofA\fi}

```

`checkeq.tex` Contains the code used to check if two given strings are equal.

`\checkeq` {*string*}{*string*}. Used to check if two given string parameters, when fully expanded, are equal. Assume no space in the strings.

```

46 \input import \import{lengthof}
47
48 \newif\ifeq
49 \chardef\temp=\catcode'\catcode'\@=11
50
51 \global\eqtrue
52 % Assume no spaces
53 \def\checkeq#1#2{%
54 \edef\checkeq@fstparam{#1}%

```

```

55 \edef\checkeq@sndparam{#2}%
56 \lengthof\checkeq@fstparam \edef\lena{\number\length}%
57 \lengthof\checkeq@sndparam \edef\lenb{\number\length}%
58 \ifx\lena\lenb
59   \ifnum\length=0
60     \global\eqtrue \let\next=\relax
61   \else
62     \expandafter\expandafter\expandafter
63     \def\expandafter\expandafter\expandafter
64       \next\expandafter\expandafter\expandafter
65       {\expandafter\expandafter\expandafter
66        \checkeqA\expandafter\checkeq@fstparam
67        \expandafter\eot\checkeq@sndparam\eot}%
68   \fi
69 \else
70   \global\eqfalse \let\next=\relax
71 \fi
72 \next
73 }}
74 \def\checkeqA#1#2\eot#3#4\eot{%
75   \if#1#3{}% the trailing '{}' is necessary to avoid
76   \ifx\relax#2\relax % extra spaces
77     \global\eqtrue \let\next=\relax
78   \else
79     \def\next{\checkeqA#2\eot#4\eot}%
80   \fi
81 \else
82   \global\eqfalse \let\next=\relax
83 \fi
84 \next
85 }
86
87 \catcode'\@=\temp % restore the original catcode for @

```

`assert.tex` Contains the code used for assertion purposes.

```

88 \input import \import{checkeq} \import{common}
89
90 \ifDefined\ProvidesPackage\then
91   \ProvidesPackage{texassert}
92 \fi
93
94 \newcount\countassertions
95 \newcount\countassertionspassed
96 \newcount\countassertionsfailed
97 \newif\ifassertmessageonly
98 \chardef\temp=\catcode'\@ \catcode'\@=11
99
100 \let\assertDone=\iffalse
101 \def\unexpected{\toks0={unexpected!}}
102 \def\expected{\toks0={expected}}
103 \def\assert{\asserteq\the\toks0={expected}}
104 \def\assertTrue#1\assertDone{#1\then \expected
105   \else \unexpected\fi \assert}
106 \def\assertFalse#1\assertDone{#1\then \unexpected

```

```

107 \else \expected\fi \assert}
108
109 \def\resetassertions{%
110 \countassertions=0
111 \countassertionspassed=0
112 \countassertionsfailed=0
113 }

```

`\asserteq` [*string*]=*{string}* Asserts that the two given strings, when fully expanded, are equal, taking catcode into account. The first string, if not specified, is treated as an empty string.

```

114 \def\asserteq#1=#2{%
115 \global\advance\countassertions by1
116 \edef\assert@a{#1}%
117 % \message{assert@a: [\meaning\assert@a]}%
118 \edef\assert@b{#2}%
119 % \message{assert@b: [\meaning\assert@b]}%
120 \ifx\assert@a\assert@b\relax\relax
121 \global\advance\countassertionspassed by1
122 \else
123 \global\advance\countassertionsfailed by1
124 \message{...}%
125 \def\errmsg{*** assertion (\the\countassertions) failure:
126 '#1' not equal '#2' ***}%
127 \message{\errmsg}%
128 \ifassertmessageonly\else
129 \medbreak
130 \indent\indent{\errmsg}%
131 \medbreak\fi
132 \fi
133 }}

```

`\asserteqnocat` [*string*]=*{string}* Asserts that the two given strings, when fully expanded, are equal, disregarding any catcode differences. The first string, if not specified, is treated as an empty string.

```

134 \def\asserteqnocat#1=#2{%
135 \global\advance\countassertions by1
136 \edef\assert@a{#1}%
137 % \message{assert@a: [\meaning\assert@a]}%
138 \edef\assert@b{#2}%
139 % \message{assert@b: [\meaning\assert@b]}%
140 \checkedq\assert@a\assert@b
141 \ifeq
142 \global\advance\countassertionspassed by1
143 \else
144 \global\advance\countassertionsfailed by1
145 \message{...}%
146 \def\errmsg{*** assertion (\the\countassertions) failure:
147 '#1' not equal '#2' ***}%
148 \message{\errmsg}%
149 \ifassertmessageonly\else
150 \medbreak
151 \indent\indent{\errmsg}%
152 \medbreak\fi

```

```

153 \fi
154 }}

```

`\assertneq` [*string*]=*{string}*. Asserts that the two given strings, when fully expanded, are not equal, taking catcode into account. The first string, if not specified, is treated as an empty string.

```

155 \def\assertneq#1=#2{%
156   \global\advance\countassertions by1
157   \edef\assert@a{#1}%
158   % \message{assert@a: [\meaning\assert@a]}%
159   \edef\assert@b{#2}%
160   % \message{assert@b: [\meaning\assert@b]}%
161   \ifx\assert@a\assert@b\relax\relax
162     \global\advance\countassertionsfailed by1
163     \message{...}%
164     \def\errmsg{*** assertion (\the\countassertions) failure:
165       '#1' equal '#2' ***}%
166     \message{\errmsg}%
167     \ifassertmessageonly\else
168       \medbreak
169       \indent\indent{\errmsg}%
170       \medbreak\fi
171   \else
172     \global\advance\countassertionspassed by1
173   \fi
174 }}

```

`\assertionssummary` Typesets a summary of the assertions made, then resets to a state as if no assertion has been made.

```

175 \def\assertionssummary{%
176   \def\summary{%
177     Assertion Summary:
178     \the\countassertionspassed/\the\countassertions\space
179     assertions passed i.e.
180     \the\countassertionsfailed/\the\countassertions\space
181     assertions failed.}%
182   \message{\summary}%
183   \ifassertmessageonly\else
184     \medbreak
185     \summary
186   \fi\resetassertions}
187
188 \catcode'\@=\temp % restore the original catcode for @

```

`texassert.sty` Used for packaging purposes.

```

189 \input{assert}

```

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Change History

v0.0.1 – 2024-11-05

General: Initial version 1

v0.0.2 – 2024-11-07

General: Migrate source files
to `texassert.dtx` 1