

The homework class and style*

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Abstract

This package contains both a class and a style designed to simplify the authoring of schoolwork, homework and assignments. They may be used independently of each other; the class provides some slight modifications to the `article` class, while the style adds commonly used packages and functionalities.

Contents

1	Introduction	1
2	The homework class	2
2.1	Arbitrary section numbering	2
2.2	Class options	2
2.3	Implementation	2
2.3.1	Setup	2
2.3.2	Class option handling	3
2.3.3	Arbitrary section numbering	3
2.3.4	Document titling	4
3	The homework style	4
3.1	Implementation	5

1 Introduction

The `homework` package aims to put together a thorough and modern solution for the authoring of schoolwork, homework and assignments. I (Matt Bauman) am by no means a \LaTeX expert. I have, however, made my best effort in creating a package that uses the current best-practices in \LaTeX authoring. This means that `homework` relies on some relatively new packages (like $\epsilon\text{-TeX}$) that may not be available on older systems and some web-based compilers.

*This document corresponds to `homework` v0.1, dated 2011/02/12.

2 The homework class

The `homework` class provides minor enhancements and modifications to the `article` base class. Only alterations which cannot be reliably achieved across a variety of document classes are implemented here.

2.1 Arbitrary section numbering

Most notably, the `homework` class allows for the user to define arbitrary section numbers. As homework assignments are very closely tied to the *number* of the problem, relying on automatic sequential numbering can be problematic. Additionally, problem numbers are not always sequential or even sensible. Thus, the `homework` class augments the standard `\section`, `\subsection`, etc, syntax to optionally specify its number. For simplicity, I will describe everything in terms of `\section`, but this modification applies to all sectioning commands.

The optional argument of the original syntax `\section[toc-name]{sec-name}` is changed to allow a prefix `[number|toc-name]`. Recall that the `toc-name` is how the section will be reported to the table of contents and headers, and that when omitted, it is the same as `sec-name`. This addition attempts to be as compatible as possible with the original syntax. If a `|` character appears within the optional argument, then everything before it is considered the ‘number’ and everything after is the section name for the table of contents. Note that a `|` character may be ‘hidden’ by enclosing it within a double `{ }` group (Todo: is it possible to achieve this with just one group?), in which case it is no longer considered the separator.

Note that ‘empty’ parts of the optional argument are handled differently, depending upon which part was omitted. If the `toc-name` is omitted, e.g., `\section[number|]{sec-name}`, then the section name is used as the name for the table of contents. If, however, the `number` is omitted and the `|` remains, e.g., `\section[|toc-name]{sec-name}` then the section number is set to be empty.

2.2 Class options

In addition to the standard options provided by `article`, the `homework` class adds a `screen/print` option pair. These mutually exclusive options do not have very much functionality in the class currently. They do, however, change the default sidedness of the `article` class (`screen` defaults to `oneside` and `print` defaults to `twoside`). In addition, the `homework` style uses this switch to configure some options for the `hyperref` package.

2.3 Implementation

1 `*class`

2.3.1 Setup

Load `fix-cm` first, as per its instructions. This fixes some bugs in the Computer Modern font and allows for continuous scaling.

```
2 \RequirePackage{fix-cm}
```

Similarly, the font `rsfs` must be modified to support continuous font scaling. See <http://tex.stackexchange.com/q/10698> for details; thanks to user [Leo Liu](#) for this solution. (This could potentially be split off into a simple `fix-rsfs` package.)

```
3 \DeclareFontFamily{U}{rsfs}{\skewchar\font127 }
4 \DeclareFontShape{U}{rsfs}{m}{n}{ % Allow continuous sizing
5   <-6> rsfs5
6   <6-8> rsfs7
7   <8-> rsfs10
8 }{}
```

The `etoolbox` package is required for some of the operations within this class file, including `\newtoggle`, `\ifcsundef` and `\ifstrempy`.

```
9 \RequirePackage{etoolbox}
```

2.3.2 Class option handling

```
10 \newcommand{\hw@sidedness}[1]{\def\hw@side{#1side}}
11 \newtoggle{hw@print}
12
13 \DeclareOption{print}{\toggletrue{hw@print} \hw@sidedness{two}}
14 \DeclareOption{screen}{\togglefalse{hw@print} \hw@sidedness{one}}
15 \DeclareOption{oneside}{\hw@sidedness{one}}
16 \DeclareOption{twoside}{\hw@sidedness{two}}
17
18 \DeclareOption*{\PassOptionsToClass{\CurrentOption}{article}}
19
20 \ExecuteOptions{11pt,screen}
21 \ProcessOptions\relax
22
23 \LoadClass[\hw@side]{article}
```

2.3.3 Arbitrary section numbering

To implement this, first, save the kernel `\@sect` command as `\@@sect`.

```
24 \let\@@sect\@sect
```

Then, redefine `\@sect` to call the function that will handle the parsing and implementation of the new syntax. Add two `|` at the end of the optional argument to ensure that there will *always* be at least three parts separated by `|`.

```
25 \def\@sect#1#2#3#4#5#6[#7]#8{ %
26   \hw@sectsplit{#1}{#2}{#3}{#4}{#5}{#6}}[#7|]{#8}
27 }
```

The `\hw@sectsplit` macro is the meat of the implementation of arbitrary numbering. It parses the optional argument into three parts, `#3`, `#4`, and `#5`.

```
28 \def\hw@sectsplit#1#2[#3|#4|#5]#6{ %
```

As the `\thesection` (or `\thesubsection`, etc, but for simplicity, I will describe this in terms of `\section`) macro is overwritten whenever a custom number is used, we need to ensure that the original value is saved. The first time a sectioning command is called, we save this value into `\hw@theorigsection`. Note that this has the side-effect that the user may not redefine `\thesection` in the middle of the document.

```
29 \ifcsundef{hw@theorig#1}
30   {\expandafter\edef\csname hw@theorig#1\endcsname %
31     {\expandafter\expandonce\csname the#1\endcsname}}
32   {\relax}
```

Now we must parse the optional argument. Argument `#5` simply absorbs any extra `|`s. If it is empty, then that means that there were no `|`s in the input, and only a `toc-name` was specified. In this case, simply ensure that `\thesection` is defined as its original definition and call the kernel's `\@sect` using the defined `toc-name`.

```
33 \ifstrempy{#4#5}
34 {
35   \expandafter\edef\csname the#1\endcsname %
36     {\expandafter\noexpand\csname hw@theorig#1\endcsname}
37   \@sect{#1}#2[{#3}]{#6}
38 }
```

If, however, argument `#5` was not empty, then the user is calling the new custom syntax. We define the `\thesection` as argument `#3` and then call the kernel's `\@sect` command. If argument `#4` is empty, use the default `toc-name`. Otherwise, use the input provided by the user in argument `#4`.

```
39 {
40   \expandafter\edef\csname the#1\endcsname{#3}
41   \ifstrempy{#4}
42     {\@sect{#1}#2[{#6}]{#6}}
43     {\@sect{#1}#2[{#4}]{#6}}
44   }
45 }
```

2.3.4 Document titling

The homework class also provides a few convenience macros to simplify document titling.

```
46 \newcommand*{\hwClass}[1]{\def\@hwClass{#1}}
47 \newcommand*{\hwTitle}[1]{\def\@hwTitle{#1}}
48 \title{\textbf{\@hwClass:} \@hwTitle}
49 \</class>
```

3 The homework style

Put text here.

3.1 Implementation

```
50 <*package>

Here follows the source:
51 \usepackage{fixltx2e}
52 % Use utf-8 encoding for foreign characters
53 \usepackage[T1]{fontenc}
54 \usepackage[utf8]{inputenc}
55 \usepackage[scaled=.86]{beramono}
56 \usepackage{textcomp}
57 % Use microtype, but with half the expansion and protruding punctuation
58 \usepackage[stretch=10,protrusion=true]{microtype}
59
60 % Math stuffs
61 \usepackage{amsmath,amsthm,amssymb}
62 \usepackage{mathtools}
63 \usepackage{dsfont} % \mathds{R} for reals, etc
64 \usepackage{mathrsfs} % \mathscr for scripts
65 \usepackage{xfrac} % \sfrac{1}{2} for slanted fractions
66 \usepackage{empheq}
67 \newcommand{\sch@swap}[2]{\let\sch@tmp#1 \let#1#2 \let#2\sch@tmp}
68 \sch@swap{\theta}{\vartheta}
69 \sch@swap{\phi}{\varphi}
70 \sch@swap{\epsilon}{\varepsilon}
71
72 % Graphics and colors
73 \usepackage[svgnames]{xcolor}
74 \usepackage{graphicx}
75
76 % amazing unit rendering with si{\micro{}}A/cm^2, SI{3}{\meters\per\second}
77 \usepackage{siunitx}
78 \sisetup{per-mode = symbol} % use units in 'm/s' format
79 % And good chemical formula rendering
80 \usepackage[version=3]{mhchem}
81
82 % Figure handling
83 \usepackage{float} % Allow "unfloating" with the H placement specifier
84 \usepackage{wrapfig}
85 % \floatstyle{boxed}
86 % \restylefloat{figure}
87 \usepackage[small,labelfont=bf]{caption}
88 \DeclareCaptionFont{singlespacing}{\setstretch{1}}
89 \captionsetup{font=singlespacing}
90
91 \usepackage{placeins} % Allow \FloatBarrier
92
93 % Package for including code in the document
94 \usepackage{listings}
95 % For faster processing, load Matlab syntax for listings
96 \lstloadlanguages{Matlab}
```

```

97 \newcommand*{\matlabuserfunctions}[1]{
98   \lstset{language=Matlab, morekeywords=[3]{#1}} }
99 \lstset{language=Matlab,
100         frame=single,
101         basicstyle=\footnotesize\ttfamily,
102         keywordstyle=[1]\color{Blue}\bfseries,
103         keywordstyle=[2]\color{Purple},
104         keywordstyle=[3]\color{Blue}\underbar,
105         identifierstyle=,
106         commentstyle=\footnotesize\ttfamily\itshape\color{Green},
107         stringstyle=\color{Purple},
108         showstringspaces=false,
109         tabsize=5,
110         % Put standard MATLAB functions not included in the default
111         % language here
112         morekeywords={xlim,ylim,var,alpha,factorial,poissrnd,normpdf,normcdf},
113         % Put MATLAB function parameters here
114         morekeywords=[2]{on, off, interp},
115         % Put user defined functions here
116         % morekeywords=[3]{},
117         morecomment=[\]\color{Blue}}{...},
118         numbers=left,
119         firstnumber=1,
120         numberstyle=\footnotesize\color{Blue},
121         stepnumber=5
122     }
123 \newcommand*{\matlabscript}[2]
124   {\begin{itemize}\item[]\lstinputlisting[caption={\texttt{#1.m}. #2},label={lst:#1}]{#1.m}\end{itemize}}
125
126 \usepackage[marginpar]{todo}
127
128 % \iftoggle{hw@print}
129 %   {\usepackage{hyperref}}
130 \usepackage[colorlinks,linkcolor=blue]{hyperref}
131 \newcommand*{\magicref}[2]{\hyperref[#2]{#1 \ref{#2}}}
132
133
134 \usepackage{tikz}
135 \usepackage{pgfplots}
136 \pgfplotsset{compat=1.4}
137 \end{package}

```