

# The ziffer package\*

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This package provides the macros

`\ZifferAn`            (equivalent with `\ZifferPunktAn \ZifferStrichAn` )  
`\ZifferAus`           (equivalent with `\ZifferPunktAus\ZifferStrichAus`)  
`\ZifferPunktAn`  
`\ZifferPunktAus`  
`\ZifferStrichAn`  
`\ZifferStrichAus`

If `\ZifferAn` was used, then in numbers in math-mode the following happens:

‘.’ is used as a ‘one-thousand separator’ as common in Germany  
‘,’ is used as a decimal separator as common in Germany  
‘--’ generates a -- with better spacing (e. g. in 1.000,--)

You may still use the symbols ‘.’ ‘,’ and ‘-’ in other context in math mode.

The first two conversions are switched on by default, the last conversion has to be switched on explicitly (this has been changed in v2.1): You may switch on/off the conversions with

`\ZifferPunktAn/\ZifferPunktAus`    (for the first two conversions) respectively  
`\ZifferStrichAn/\ZifferStrichAus`   (for the last conversion).

The reason why the last conversion is not on by default (and why it might be necessary to [temporarily] switch off a conversion) is that certain packages (in particular, newer versions of `amsmath`) cause problems with it.

There were some discussions which should be the correct output of the above conversions (in particular, of ‘--’). If you do not like my choice: You may customize (i. e. redefine) the macros `\ZifferLeer` and `\ZifferStrich` after loading the package to produce the ‘one-thousand separator’ respectively the ‘--’.

All above command-names are in German, because I had expected that this package is only needed for German texts. Meanwhile, I learned that also other countries use this strange convention for numbers. However, for downward compatibility, I decided to keep the name conventions anyway (after all, the name of the package is in German anyway).

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\*This manual corresponds to `ziffer.sty` v2.1, dated 2002.

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