

The wiki package*

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1 Features

The ‘wiki’ package enables L^AT_EX users to use some of the markup used in editing Wikipedia pages, cf.

`http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Cheatsheet`

or German:

`http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hilfe:Bearbeitungshilfe`

`http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hilfe:Textgestaltung`

Advantages of such a kind of markup are:

1. easier and faster to type than L^AT_EX code;
2. intuitive, understandable at a glance;
3. in reading the source code of the document, the markup doesn’t much distract from the *text* to be printed.

There is a binary ‘**easylatex**’ available on CTAN which is more powerful than the ‘wiki’ package; the idea here is that a *macro package* doing something similar is easier to use and to customize.

1.1 What the Package Supports

1. ‘*Italics*’ are marked up by surrounding pairs of apostrophes, ‘**boldface**’ needs one apostrophe more on each side. Boldface and italics may be nested or overlap. (This endangers quoting, but I have dealt with it.)
2. Surrounding “equals” symbols (=) mark up section headings etc.: ‘**== Section ==**’, ‘**=== Subsection ===**’, down to ‘**===== Subparagraph =====**’.

*This manual corresponds to wiki.sty v0.2, dated 2008/07/02.

†<http://contact-ednotes.sty.de.vu>

3. If a line starts with ‘*’, it becomes an item in an ‘`itemize`’ environment. Likewise, ‘#’ creates an ‘`enumerate`’ environment, and ‘;’ makes an item in a ‘`discription`’ environment (differs from Wiki! – since I don’t understand what the Wiki version is good for). ‘:’ makes a ‘`quote`’ – while on Wikipedia instead is used for comments on talk pages. But it is also used for indented math displays, so it may be combined with \dots here. An indented line is typeset *verbatim*. Each of these environments is ended by a code line without leading blank spaces.

1.2 Limitations

1. The markup “language” provided here replaces a few most common L^AT_EX commands only in their most simple versions. (Yet I think that already this makes the code more readable; the more special cases are very rare.) E.g., it’s not possible to suppress the italic correction as with ‘`\textit{... \nocorr}`’. However, in “normal” cases it should be possible to use the more powerful L^AT_EX markup mixed with “Wiki” markup.
2. The parsing algorithms employed here differ in outcome to those of Wikipedia in difficult cases.
3. Tables, nesting lists, links, Wiki templates and tags are not supported – and I don’t expect that I can afford improving this soon!
4. I still have encountered problems that I didn’t understand...

2 Package Options and User Commands

`\usepackage[⟨options⟩]{wiki}`, of course. There are ⟨options⟩ ‘`noEnvironments`’, ‘`noFonts`’, ‘`noHeadings`’ giving up functionality for lists etc., for italics and boldface, for section headings etc., respectively.

There are commands `\wikimarkup`, `\wikiEnvironments`, `\wikiFonts`, `\wikiHeadings` to turn respective functionality on (unless disabled by package option). `\nowiki-markup`, `\nowikiEnvironments`, `\nowikiFonts`, `\nowikiHeadings` turn them off.

Vital: The package does *not* execute `\wikimarkup` because this would have strange effects, e.g., packages loaded later may break. The user must put activating commands into the ‘`document`’ environment, maybe just preceding the first heading.

Dangers to be avoided by `\nowiki...` are:

- `\wikiHeadings` (which also is executed by `\wikimarkup`) disables T_EX assignments using ‘=’.
- `\wikiEnvironments` (executed by `\wikimarkup`) executes macros at every end of a code line (containing no comment marke), and it tries to typeset a following line *verbatim* if it is indented.