The physics package

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December 18, 2020

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1 Before you start

1.1 The purpose of this package

The goal of this package is to make typesetting equations for physics simpler, faster, and more human-readable. To that end, the commands included in this package have names that make the purpose of each command immediately obvious and remove any ambiguity while reading and editing physics code. From a practical standpoint, it is handy to have a well-defined set of shortcuts for accessing the long-form of each of these commands. The commands listed below are therefore defined in terms of their long-form names and then shown explicitly in terms of the default shorthand command sequences. These shorthand commands are meant make it easy to remember both the shorthand names and what each one represents.

1.2 Other required packages

The physics package requires xparse and amsmath to work properly in your LaTeX document. The amsmath package comes standard with most LaTeX distributions and is loaded by physics for your convenience. You may also already have xparse installed on your system as it is a popular package for defining LaTeX macros, however, if you are unsure you can either install it again using your local package manager (comes with most distributions) or by visiting the CTAN online package database, or you could even just try to use physics without worrying about it. Many modern LaTeX compilers will locate and offer to download missing packages for you.

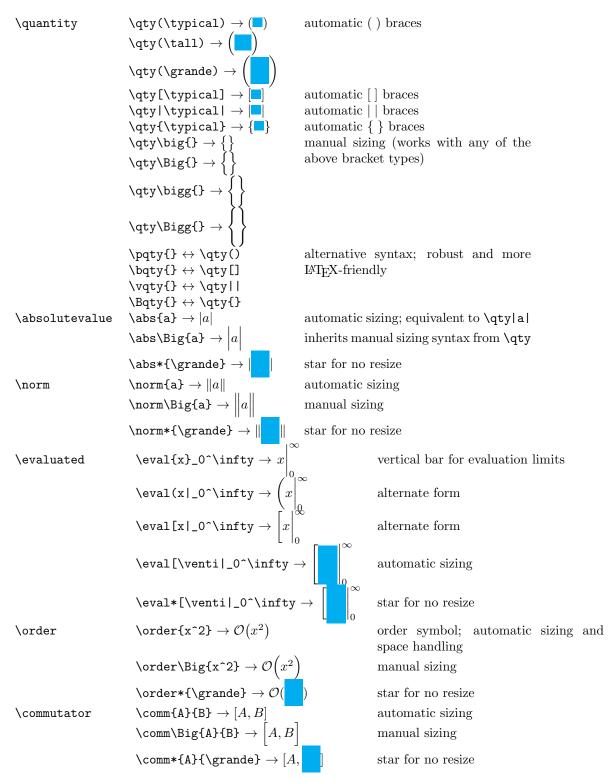
1.3 Using physics in your LATEX document

To use the physics package, simply insert \usepackage{physics} in the preamble of your document, before \begin{document} and after \documentclass{class}:

```
\documentclass{class}
...
\usepackage{physics}
...
\begin{document}
content...
\end{document}
```

2 List of commands

2.1 Automatic bracing



\anticommutator	$\texttt{\acomm{A}{B}} \to \{A,B\}$	same as \poissonbracket
\poissonbracket	ϕ A A A A A A A B	same as \anticommutator

2.2 Vector notation

The default del symbol ∇ used in physics vector notation can be switched to appear with an arrow $\vec{\nabla}$ by including the option arrowdel in the document preamble $\rightarrow \space{-1mu}$ the document preamble $\rightarrow \space$

\vectorbold	$\verb vb{a} \to a$	upright/no Greek
	\vb*{a}, \vb*{\theta} $ ightarrow oldsymbol{a}, oldsymbol{\theta}$	italic/Greek
\vectorarrow	$\forall a\{a\} ightarrow ec{a}$	upright/no Greek
	\va*{a}, \va*{\\theta} $ ightarrow ec{a}, ec{ heta}$	italic/Greek
\vectorunit	$\forall u\{a\} ightarrow \hat{a}$	upright/no Greek
	$\texttt{\vu*\{a\}},\texttt{\vu*\{\theta\}}\to \boldsymbol{\hat{a}},\boldsymbol{\hat{\theta}}$	italic/Greek
\dotproduct	$\forall dot \rightarrow \cdot as in a \cdot b$	note: \dp is a protected TEX primitive
\crossproduct	$\backslash \text{cross} \to \times \text{ as in } \mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b}$	alternate name
	$\c p \rightarrow \times \text{ as in } \mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b}$	shorthand name
\gradient	$\forall grad \to \nabla$	1.6.1.
	$\texttt{\grad}\{\texttt{\Psi}\} \to \boldsymbol{\nabla}\Psi$	default mode
	$\texttt{\grad(\Psi+\tall)} \to \boldsymbol{\nabla} \Big(\Psi + \boldsymbol{\square} \Big)$	long-form (like \qty but also handles spacing)
	$\texttt{\grad[\Psi+\tall]} \to \boldsymbol{\nabla} \Big[\Psi + \blacksquare \Big]$	
\divergence	\div $ ightarrow oldsymbol{ abla} \cdot$	note: $amsmath symbol \div renamed$
		\divisionsymbol
	$\texttt{\div}\{\texttt{\vb}\{\texttt{a}\}\} \to \boldsymbol{\nabla} \boldsymbol{\cdot} \mathbf{a}$	default mode
	$\begin{array}{l} \text{\div(\vb{a}+\tall)} \to oldsymbol{ a} \cdot ig(a + oldsymbol{ a} + $	long-form
\curl	$ackslash ag{curl} o oldsymbol{ abla} imes$	
	$\operatorname{\mathbb{Q}} \nabla \mathbf{a} \to \nabla \times \mathbf{a}$	default mode
	$\ \curl(\vb{a}+\tall) \to \nabla \times (a+\)$ $\curl[\vb{a}+\tall] \to \nabla \times [a+\]$	long-form
	$\operatorname{\operatorname{ vb}\{a\}+\operatorname{ tall} } o \mathbf{\nabla} imes \mathbf{a} +$	
\laplacian	$ackslash$ \laplacian $ o abla^2$	
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	\laplacian{\Psi} $ o abla^2 \Psi$	default mode
	_	long-form
	\laplacian(\Psi+\tall) $ ightarrow abla^2 \left(\Psi + \frac{1}{2}\right)$	10118-101111
	$\Gamma = \Gamma \cdot $	

2.3 Operators

The standard set of trig functions is redefined in physics to provide automatic braces that behave like \qty(). In addition, an optional power argument is provided. This behavior can be switched off by including the option notrig in the preamble \rightarrow \usepackage[notrig]{physics}.

Example trig redefinitions:

\sin \sin(\grande)
$$\rightarrow \sin$$
 automatic braces; old \sin renamed \sine \\sin[2](x) $\rightarrow \sin^2(x)$ optional power \\sin x $\rightarrow \sin x$ can still use without an argument

The full set of available trig functions in physics includes:

$\sin(x)$	$\sinh(x)$	$\arcsin(x)$	\arrowvert asin(x)		$\sin(x)$	$\sinh(x)$	$\arcsin(x)$	asin(x)
$\cos(x)$	$\c)$	\arccos(x)	$\acos(x)$		$\cos(x)$	$\cosh(x)$	$\arccos(x)$	acos(x)
$\tan(x)$	$\operatorname{tanh}(x)$	$\arctan(x)$	$\lambda(x)$	_	tan(x)	tanh(x)	$\arctan(x)$	atan(x)
$\csc(x)$	$\csch(x)$	$\arccsc(x)$	$\acsc(x)$	\rightarrow	$\csc(x)$	$\operatorname{csch}(x)$	$\operatorname{arccsc}(x)$	acsc(x)
$\sec(x)$	$\sch(x)$	$\arcsec(x)$	\ac{x}		sec(x)	$\operatorname{sech}(x)$	$\operatorname{arcsec}(x)$	$\operatorname{asec}(x)$
$\cot(x)$	$\c)$	\arccot(x)	$\acot(x)$		$\cot(x)$	$\coth(x)$	$\operatorname{arccot}(x)$	acot(x)

The standard trig functions (plus a few that are missing in amsmath) are available without any automatic bracing under a new set of longer names:

\sine	\hypsine	\arcsine	\asine
\cosine	\hypcosine	\arccosine	\acosine
\tangent	\hyptangent	\arctangent	\atangent
\cosecant	\hypcosecant	\arccosecant	\acosecant
\secant	\hypsecant	\arcsecant	\asecant
\cotangent	\hypcotangent	\arccotangent	\acotangent

Similar behavior has also been extended to the following functions:

```
\exp(\tall)
                                            \exponential
               exp(
\log(\tall)
               log(
                                            \logarithm
\ln(\tau)
               ln (
                         old definitions \Rightarrow
                                            \naturallogarithm
\det(\tall)
                                            \determinant
               det(
\Pr(\tall)
               Pr(
                                            \Probability
```

New operators:

```
\forall \operatorname{tr} \cap \to \operatorname{tr} \rho \text{ also } \operatorname{tr}(\forall \operatorname{tall}) \to \operatorname{tr}()
                                                                                                   trace; same bracing as trig functions
\trace or \tr
\Trace or \Tr
                               \Tr\rho \rightarrow Tr \rho
                                                                                                    alternate
\rank
                               matrix rank
\erf
                               \operatorname{\mathsf{Verf}}(x) \to \operatorname{\mathsf{erf}}(x)
                                                                                                   Gauss error function
                                                                                                   residue; same bracing as trig functions
                               \operatorname{Res}[f(z)] \to \operatorname{Res}[f(z)]
\Res
\principalvalue
                              \pv{\int f(z) \dd{z}} \rightarrow \mathcal{P} \int f(z) dz
                                                                                                   Cauchy principal value
                               \P \left( z \right) \ dd\{z\} \rightarrow P.V. \int f(z) dz
                                                                                                   alternate
\Re
                               \Re\{z\} \to \operatorname{Re}\{z\}
                                                                                                   old \Re renamed to \real \rightarrow \Re
\Im
                               \operatorname{Im}\{z\} \to \operatorname{Im}\{z\}
                                                                                                   old \Im renamed to \imaginary \rightarrow \Im
```

2.4 Quick quad text

This set of commands produces text in math-mode padded by \quad spacing on either side. This is meant to provide a quick way to insert simple words or phrases in a sequence of equations. Each of the following commands includes a starred version which pads the text only on the right side with \quad for use in aligned environments such as cases.

```
General text:

\qqtext \qq{} general quick quad text with argument \qq{word or phrase} \rightarrow word or phrase__ normal mode; left and right \quad \quad only

Special macros:

\qcomma or \qc \rightarrow, right \quad only
\qcc \rightarrow c.c._ complex conjugate; left and right \quad unless starred \qcc* \rightarrow c.c._ \qif \rightarrow if_ left and right \quad unless starred \qif* \rightarrow if_
```

Similar to \qif: \qthen, \qelse, \qunless, \qgiven, \qusing, \qassume, \qsince, \qlet, \qfor, \qall, \qeven, \qodd, \qinteger, \qand, \qor, \qas, \qin

2.5 Derivatives

The default differential symbol d which is used in \differential and \derivative can be switched to an italic form d by including the option italicdiff in the preamble $\rightarrow \usepackage[italicdiff]{physics}$.

\differential	\d dd $ ightarrow$ d	
	$\d x \to \mathrm{d} x$	no spacing (not recommended)
	$\d x \rightarrow \ dx$	automatic spacing based on neighbors
	$\operatorname{dd}[3]\{x\} \to \operatorname{d}^3 x$	optional power
	$\d(\cos\theta)$	long-form; automatic braces
\derivative	$\operatorname{dv}\{x\} \to \frac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{d}x}$	one argument
	$\operatorname{dv}\{f\}\{x\} \to \frac{\mathrm{d}f}{\mathrm{d}x}$	two arguments
	$\operatorname{dv[n]\{f\}\{x\}} \to \frac{\mathrm{d}^n f}{\mathrm{d} x^n}$	optional power
		long-form; automatic braces, spacing
	$dv*{f}{x} \rightarrow df/dx$	inline form using \flatfrac
\partialderivative	\pderivative{x} $ o \frac{\partial}{\partial x}$	alternate name
	$\pdv{x} o rac{\partial}{\partial x}$	shorthand name
	$\pdv{f}{x} o rac{\partial f}{\partial x}$	two arguments
	$\label{eq:def_def} $\operatorname{d} x \cdot \operatorname{d} x \cdot$	optional power
	$\pdv{x}(\pdramde) o \frac{\partial}{\partial x}$	long-form
	$\pdv{f}{x}{y} o rac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x \partial y}$	mixed partial
	$\pdv*{f}{x} o \partial f/\partial x$	inline form using \flatfrac
\variation	$\operatorname{Var}\{F[g(x)]\} \to \delta F[g(x)]$	functional variation (works like \dd)
	$\forall \text{var}(E-TS) \rightarrow \delta(E-TS)$	long-form
\functionalderivative	$\begin{array}{l} \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \$	functional derivative (works like \dv)
	$fdv\{F\}\{g\} o rac{\delta F}{\delta g}$	
	$\texttt{\fdv{V}(E-TS)} \to \frac{\delta}{\delta V}(E-TS)$	long-form
	δV \fdv*{F}{x} $\rightarrow \delta F/\delta x$	inline form using \flatfrac
	(===	

2.6 Dirac bra-ket notation

The following collection of macros for Dirac notation contains two fundamental commands, \bra and \ket, along with a set of more specialized macros which are essentially combinations of the fundamental pair. The specialized macros are both useful and descriptive from the perspective of generating physics code, however, the fundamental commands are designed to contract with one another algebraically when appropriate and

are thus suggested for general use. For instance, the following code renders correctly 1

$$\beta \rightarrow \langle \phi | \psi \rangle$$
 as opposed to $\langle \phi | \psi \rangle$

whereas a similar construction with higher-level macros will not contract in a robust manner

$$\mathbf{\phi} \to \langle \phi | \psi \rangle$$

On the other hand, the correct output can be generated by sticking to the fundamental commands,

$$\beta \simeq \{\pi \}$$

allowing the user to type out complicated quantum mechanical expressions without worrying about bra-ket contractions. That being said, the high-level macros do have a place in convenience and readability, as long as the user is aware of rendering issues that may arise due to an absence of automatic contractions.

\ket	$\left\{ \left\{ \right\} ight. ight. > \left[ight. ight] $	automatic sizing		
	$\text{ket*{\tall}} \rightarrow \rangle$	no resize		
\bra	$\hat{\lambda} \rightarrow \hat{\lambda}$	automatic sizing		
	$\bra*{\text{lall}} \rightarrow \bra*{\text{lall}}$	no resize		
	$\hat{\phi} \to \langle \phi \psi \rangle$	automatic contraction		
	$\hat{\phi}$	contraction inherits automatic sizing		
	$\bra{\phi}$	a star on either term in the contraction		
	$\bra*{\phi}\$	prohibits resizing		
	\bra*{\phi}\ket*{\tall} $ ightarrow$ $\langle \phi luellarrow$			
\innerproduct	\braket{a}{b} $\rightarrow \langle a b\rangle$	two-argument braket		
	$\operatorname{braket}\{a\} \to \langle a a\rangle$	one-argument (norm)		
	$\brightarrow \brightarrow \br$	automatic sizing		
	\braket*{a}{\tall} $\rightarrow \langle a $	no resize		
\outerproduct	$\label{eq:abases} $$ $	shorthand name two-argument dyad		
(outcipioduct	$\forall dydd(d) \Rightarrow a\rangle\langle a $	one-argument (projector)		
	$\dasharrow \dasharrow \align* \align$	automatic sizing		
	\dyad*{a}{\tall} $\rightarrow a\rangle$	no resize		
	\ketbra{a}{b} $\rightarrow a\rangle\langle b $	alternative name		
	$\operatorname{lack} b = a angle b $	shorthand name		
\expectationva	lue \expval{A} $ ightarrow \langle A angle$	implicit form		
	$\verb \expval{A}{\ensuremath{\mbox{\sc Psi}}} \to \langle \Psi A \Psi\rangle$	explicit form		
	$\texttt{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{VPsi}}} \rightarrow \langle \Psi A \Psi \rangle$	shorthand name		
	\ev{\grande}{\Psi} $ ightarrow \left\langle \Psi ight \Psi$	\rangle default sizing ignores middle argument		
	$\verb \ev*{\grande}{\tall} \to \langle $	single star does no resizing whatsoever		
	$\verb \ev**{\grande}{\Psi} \to \left<\Psi\right $	$ \Psi angle$ double star resizes based on all parts		
\matrixelement	(1)	requires all three arguments		
	$\mathbf{n}_{A}(\mathbf{n}) \rightarrow \langle n A m\rangle$	shorthand name		
	$\label{local_model} $$\operatorname{\mathbb{I}}_{n} \to \langle n = n$$$	$\langle n \rangle$ default sizing ignores middle argument		
137 ((1 1 1 0	1			

¹Note the lack of a space between the bra and ket commands. This is necessary is order for the bra to find the corresponding ket and form a contraction.

2.7 Matrix macros

The following matrix macros produce unformatted rows and columns of matrix elements for use as separate matrices as well as blocks within larger matrices. For example, the command $\operatorname{identitymatrix}\{2\}$ which has also has the shortcut $\operatorname{lmat}\{2\}$ produces the elements of a 2×2 identity matrix $0 \ 1 \ 1$ without braces or grouping. This allows the command to also be used within another matrix, as in:

$$\begin{array}{lll} \begin{array}{lll} \begin{array}{lll} & & & \\ & & \\ \end{array} \\ \begin{array}{lll} \begin{array}{lll} & & \\ \end{array} \\ \end{array} \\ \begin{array}{lll} & & \\ \end{array} \\ \end{array} \\ \begin{array}{lll} & & \\ \end{array} \\ \end{array} \\ \begin{array}{lll} & & \\ \end{array} \\ \end{array} \\ \begin{array}{lll} & & \\ \end{array} \\ \end{array} \\ \begin{array}{lll} & & \\ \end{array} \\ \end{array} \\ \begin{array}{lll} & & \\ \end{array} \\ \end{array} \\ \begin{array}{lll} & & \\ \end{array}$$

To specify elements on the right of left sides of our \imat{2} sub-matrix we use the grouping command \matrixquantity or \mqty to effectively convert \imat{2} into a single matrix element of a larger matrix:

The extra \mbox{mqty} groups were required in this case in order to get the a and b elements to behave as a single element, since $\mbox{mqty}{\mbox{mqty}{\mbox{mat}{2}}}$ also acts like a single matrix element (the same can be said of the grouped c and d elements). Finally, the outermost pmatrix environment could have also been replaced with the physics macro $\mbox{mqty}()$, allowing the above example to be written on one line:

$$\label{eq:localization} $$ \operatorname{mqty}\{a \ \& \ b \ \ c \ \& \ d\} \to \frac{a}{c} \quad b \\ \operatorname{mqty}(a \ \& \ b \ \ c \ \& \ d) \to \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} $$ parentheses $$ \operatorname{mqty}\{a \ \& \ b \ \ c \ \& \ d\} \to \begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix} $$ alternate parentheses $$ \operatorname{mqty}\{a \ \& \ b \ \ c \ \& \ d\} \to \begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix} $$ vertical bars $$ \operatorname{mqty}\{\} \leftrightarrow \operatorname{mqty}() $$ alternative syntax; robust and more $$ \operatorname{mqty}\{\} \leftrightarrow \operatorname{mqty}[] $$ \operatorname{mqty}\{\} \leftrightarrow \operatorname{mqty}[] $$ vmqty\{\} \leftrightarrow \operatorname{mqty}[] $$ vmqty\{\} \leftrightarrow \operatorname{mqty}[] $$ vmqty\{\} \leftrightarrow \operatorname{mqty}[] $$ small version of \operatorname{mqty}() $$ small version of \operatorname{mqty}[] $$$$

\identitymatrix	\imat{n}	elements of $n \times n$ identity matrix
	$\smooth{ t smqty(\imat{3})} ightarrow egin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$	formatted with \mqty or \smqty
\xmatrix	\xmat{x}{n}{m}	elements of $n \times m$ matrix filled with x
	$\smooth{1}{2}{3}) o \left(egin{smallmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \end{smallmatrix} \right)$	formatted with \mqty or \smqty
	\smqty(\xmat*{a}{3}{3}) \rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} \alpha_{11} & a_{12} & a_{21} & a_{22} & a_{31} & a_{32} & a_{32} & a_{31} & a_{32} & a_{32} & a_{31} & a_{32} &	star for element indices
	$\operatorname{smqty}(\operatorname{xmat}{st}{lpha}$	as a vector with indices
	$\mbox{\sc smqty(\xmat*{a}{1}{3})} \rightarrow (a_1 \ a_2 \ a_3)$	
\zeromatrix	$\sum_{n}{m}$	$n \times m$ matrix filled with zeros
	$\texttt{\smqty(\zmat{2}{2})} \rightarrow \left(\begin{smallmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{smallmatrix} \right)$	equivalent to $\mathbf{xmat}\{0\}\{n\}\{m\}$
\paulimatrix	\pmat{n}	$n^{\rm th}$ Pauli matrix
	$\smooth{smqty(\pmat{0})} ightarrow \left(egin{smatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{smallmatrix} ight)$	$n \in \{0, 1, 2, 3 \text{ or } x, y, z\}$
	$\smooth{ t Smqty(\pmat{1})} ightarrow \left(egin{smatrix} 0 & 1 \ 1 & 0 \end{smallmatrix} ight)$	
	$\sqty(\pmat{2}) o inom{1}{0} - i \ smqty(\pmat{3}) o inom{1}{0} - i \ smqty(\pmat{3}) o inom{1}{0} - 1 \ smqty(\pmat{3})$	
	$\smooth{ ext{smqty(\pmat{3})}} ightarrow \left(egin{smallmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 \end{smallmatrix}\right)$	
\diagonalmatrix	\dmat{a,b,c,}	specify up to eight diagonal or block di-
	(1)	agonal elements
	$\mbox{mqty(\dmat{1,2,3})} \rightarrow \left(\begin{array}{c} 2 \\ \end{array} \right)$	
	(1 3)	
	$\texttt{\normalfoot} \setminus \texttt{mqty}(\texttt{\normalfoot} \texttt{\normalfoot} \normal$	optional argument to fill spaces
	$\label{eq:mqty(dmat{1,2,3})} $\rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} 1 & & \\ & 2 & \\ & & 3 \end{pmatrix}$$ $\rightarrow $(1 & 0) \\ \mbox{mqty(\dmat{0]{1,2})}} $\rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$$ $\rightarrow $(1 & 0) \\ \mbox{mqty(\dmat{1,2&3}\4&5})} $\rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} 1 & & \\ & 2 & & \\ & 4 & & \end{pmatrix}$	a single diagonal element a single diagonal element
\antidiagonalmatrix	\admat{a,b,c,}	same as syntax as \dmat
	$\verb \operatorname{Mqty(\operatorname{Admat}\{1,2,3\})} \to \begin{pmatrix} & 1 \\ 2 & \\ 3 & \end{pmatrix}$	