

# Meta CS



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## Abstract

L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X commands for describing L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X commands and switches, providing  
(a) somewhat customisable argument delimiters, `{}`, `[]`; (b) different  
levels of emphasis, `\command`, `\command` and `\command`; and (c) the  
ability to print and run commands: `\textit {text}`  $\mapsto$  *text*.

\*ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: Macro names `\marg`, `\oarg` and `\meta` from ltxdoc, and  
`latexcode` environment from doctools package. All latex coding inspiration in this  
document derives ultimately from hundreds of contributions on [tex stackexchange](#),  
and from package authors and maintainers over the decades.

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## 1 Control Sequence Meta Commands

Meta command	Result
<code>\cs{&lt;macro-name&gt;}</code>	<code>\test</code>
<code>\marg{&lt;mandatory argument&gt;}</code>	<code>{&lt;test&gt;}</code>
<code>\margv{&lt;mandatory argument value&gt;}</code>	<code>{test}</code>
<code>\oarg{&lt;optional argument&gt;}</code>	<code>[&lt;test&gt;]</code>
<code>\oargv{&lt;optional argument value&gt;}</code>	<code>[test]</code>
<code>\meta{&lt;meta value&gt;}</code>	<code>&lt;test&gt;</code>

## 2 `\cc` – run a switch

Run #1 as the control sequence `\#1`

`\cc{<no-slash cs-name>}`: run the zero-argument command (switch): `\#1`  
The code

```
{ \cc{itshape}\cc{large} 123 }
```

produces

*123*

### 3 `\cd` – run a 1-argument command

Run as `\#1{#2}`  
`\cd{<cs-name>}{<argument>}`: run the one-argument command: `\#1{#2}`  
 Command `\cd{textit}{Sample}`  
 resolves to `\textit{Sample}`  
 which produces *Sample*

A command can be demonstrated inline (using `\cdr`), like so:

`\cd {textit}{Sample}`  $\mapsto$  *Sample*.

A command can also be demonstrated in display mode (using `\cdrq`), like so:

`\cd {textit}{Sample}`  $\mapsto$  *Sample*

For `\cdr`, see §8, and for `\cdrq`, see §9.

c SAMPLE<sup>squared</sup>  $\pi$

If `$_cc {pi}$`  $\mapsto \pi$   
 and `$_pi $`  $\mapsto \pi$   
 therefore `$_cc {pi}$`  $\equiv$  `$_pi $`

`\cd {textsc}{Sample}\cd {textsuperscript}{squared}`  $\mapsto$  SAMPLE<sup>squared</sup>  
 x x x x x x x x x x x x x x x x x x x `\cd {textsc}{Sample}\cd`  
`{textsuperscript}{squared}`  $\mapsto$  SAMPLE<sup>squared</sup> x x x x x x x x x x x x

`\cm`  
 $\uparrow$  formatted as a header  
`\cm ==`  $\leftarrow$  a custom format

### 4 `\cm` – inline maths

`\cm{<inline maths>}`:  $\frac{\pi^2}{2}$

### 5 `\cmd` – display maths

`\cmd{<display maths>}`:  

$$e = mc^2$$
  
 If `\cm {\frac {\pi ^2}{2}}`  $\mapsto \frac{\pi^2}{2}$   
 and `$_frac {\pi ^2}{2}$`  $\mapsto \frac{\pi^2}{2}$   
 therefore `\cm {\frac {\pi ^2}{2}}`  $\equiv$  `$_frac {\pi ^2}{2}$`

More generally, `\cm {...}` does `$_...$`, and `\cmd {...}` does `\[...]`.

## 6 \css – add a \

`\css`: adds a \: `\css {abc} \mapsto \abc`  
`\css{makebox}\oargcss{width}\margcss{text}`  
 produces  
`\makebox[\width]{\text}`  
`:: \makebox[\width]{\text}` :: same output using `\mcs{}{}{}{}{}{}`  
 e.g., `\makebox[4cm]{The cat sat on the mat.}`  
 Using `\mcsv {}{}{}{}{}{}`, where the second argument is the option:  
`\makebox[4cm]{The cat sat on the mat.}`

Unemphasised Meta command	Result
<code>\css{\langle cs-name \rangle}</code>	<code>\css {test} \mapsto \test</code>
<code>\margcss{\langle mandatory argument \rangle}</code>	<code>{\langle test \rangle}</code>
<code>\margvcss{\langle mandatory argument value \rangle}</code>	<code>{test}</code>
<code>\oargcss{\langle optional argument \rangle}</code>	<code>[\langle test \rangle]</code>
<code>\oargvcss{\langle optional argument value \rangle}</code>	<code>[test]</code>
<code>\meta{\langle meta value \rangle}</code>	<code>\langle test \rangle</code>

## 7 \cssom etc – show and run

`\cssom`: show and run command+opt+arg  
`\makebox[4cm]{The cat sat on the mat.} \mapsto The cat sat on the mat.`  
 Using `\cdr`:  
`\cssom {makebox}{4cm}{The cat sat on the mat.} \mapsto \makebox[4cm]{The cat sat on the mat.} \mapsto The cat sat on the mat.`

`\cssm`  
`\cssm`: show and run command+arg  
`\textit{Some text} \mapsto Some text`  
`\fbox{This is framed text.} \mapsto \boxed{This is framed text.}`

`\cssmm`  
`\cssmm`: show and run command+arg+arg  
`\textcolor{red}{This is red.} \mapsto This is red.`

`\cssmmm`  
`\cssmmm`: show and run command+arg+arg+arg  
`\fcolorbox{brown}{blue!20}{Some text in a framed box.} \mapsto \boxed{Some text in a framed box.}`

## 8 \cdr – generic print and run

Print `\#1` inline, and run `\#1`.

## 9 \cdrq – print in quotation and run

Print \#1 in display format, and run \#1.

## 10 \cdrd – print

Print \#1 inline.

This command takes options.

SPECIAL CASE: When option [format=section] is active, and a second option [*descriptive text*] is specified (this will become the underlying submacro’s argument #1), and the argument (will become #2) has no backslash (only #2, not \#2), the command prints \#2 -- #1 as the section heading (and therefore table of contents) and sets the label as \label{sec:#2}.

The heading for this section was produced with

```
\cdrd [format=section] [print]{cdrd}
```

List of format= options:

Option	Example
<i>(None)</i>	<code>\cdrd {\xyz } \mapsto \xyz</code>
head	<code>\cdrd [format=head]{\xyz } \mapsto \xyz</code>
custom	<code>\cdrd [format=custom][\bfseries \tiny \sffamily ]{\xyz } \mapsto \xyz</code>
section	See outside the table.
quote	<code>\cdrd [format=quote]{xyz demo This is a quote}:</code>
listing	See outside the table. <in development>
general	<code>\cdrd [format=general]{[format=xyz]} \mapsto [format=xyz]</code>
detok	<code>\cdrd [format=detok]{\xyz } \mapsto \xyz</code>

The [format=section] output does not fit in a table.

```
\cdrd [format=section]{xyz demo} \mapsto
```

## 11 \xyz demo –

Note that the label for §11 has been set as

```
\label {sec:xyz demo}
```

that is, with a space between xyz and demo.

```
xyz demo This is a quote
```

```
XXXX XXXX XXXX XXXX XXXX XXXX XXXX XXXX XXXX XXXX XXXX XXXX XXXX
XXXX XXXX XXXX XXXX XXXX XXXX
```

Calling the listing environment from inside a command doesn’t quite work:

```
atexcodex

qwerty: The listing environment never closes when used inside a command.

abc
```

[`\latexcode` env from DOCTOOLS<sup>2012</sup> package, adapted]

So for a listing, use the `\begin {latexcode} . . . \end {latexcode}` environment directly, with those commands on separate lines:

```
xxx
```

[`\latexcode` env from DOCTOOLS<sup>2012</sup> package, adapted]

The `\cdr` command can take arbitrary code.

**Example start »»**

```
\bigskip \begin {quotation} \begin {tabular}{ll} \rowcolor {\mytheadcolour}
} Option & Example \\ \hline None & \cdr {\cdrd {\xyz }} \\ Header &
\cdr {\cdrd [format=head]{\xyz }} \\ Custom & \cdr {\cdrd [format=custom][\bfseries
\tiny \sffamily ]{\xyz }} \\ Section & See outside the table. \\ \hline
\end {tabular} \end {quotation} \mapsto
```

Option	Example
None	<code>\cdrd {\xyz }</code> $\mapsto$ <code>\xyz</code>
Header	<code>\cdrd [format=head]{\xyz }</code> $\mapsto$ <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"><code>\xyz</code></span>
Custom	<code>\cdrd [format=custom][\bfseries \tiny \sffamily ]{\xyz }</code> $\mapsto$ <code>\xyz</code>
Section	See outside the table.

«« **Example end**

## 12 Empty arguments

```
{\langle}
[\langle]
{\}
[]
```

## 13 Formatting

Delimiters can be reformatted to some extent.

```

    {\delimiter test}
    \renewcommand \margdelimleftchar {+++}
    +++{\delimiter test}
    \renewcommand \margdelimrightformat {\itshape \Huge
}

+++{\delimiter test}
\margreset
{\delimiter test}

```

Alternatively, just type the new code in the command definition directly.

List of some customisable components.

#### **marg left**

Item	Default value
<code>\margdelimformat</code>	<code>\ttfamily \large \color {red}</code>
<code>\margdelimleftformat</code>	<code>\margdelimformat</code>
<code>\margdelimleftchar</code>	<code>\c _left_brace_str</code> {
<code>\margdelimleft</code>	<code>\margdelimleftformat</code> <code>\margdelimleftchar</code> }

#### **marg right**

Item	Default value
<code>\margdelimformat</code>	<code>\ttfamily \large \color {red}</code>
<code>\margdelimrightformat</code>	<code>\margdelimformat</code>
<code>\margdelimrightchar</code>	<code>\c _right_brace_str</code> {
<code>\margdelimright</code>	<code>\margdelimrightformat</code> <code>\margdelimrightchar</code> }

#### **oarg left**

Item	Default value
<code>\oargdelimformat</code>	<code>\ttfamily \large</code>
<code>\oargdelimleftformat</code>	<code>\oargdelimformat</code>
<code>\oargdelimleftchar</code>	[ {
<code>\oargdelimleft</code>	<code>\oargdelimleftformat</code> <code>\oargdelimleftchar</code> }

#### **oarg right**

Item	Default value
<code>\oargdelimformat</code>	<code>\ttfamily \large</code>
<code>\oargdelimrightformat</code>	<code>\oargdelimformat</code>
<code>\oargdelimrightchar</code>	<code>]</code>
	<code>{</code>
<code>\oargdelimright</code>	<code>\oargdelimrightformat</code>
	<code>\oargdelimrightchar</code>
	<code>}</code>

---

group

Current font text

`\setmainfont {Noto Serif}`

Current font text xxx

`\addfontfeature {Colour=brown,Scale=2}`

**XXX**

endgroup xxx

## 14 Listing using latexcode environment

```

\documentclass{article}
\usepackage{doctools}
\begin{document}
\begin{latexcode}
(code)    % comment
\cdr{
\bigskip
\begin{quotation}
\begin{tabular}{ll}
\rowcolor{\mytheadcolour}
Option & Example \\
\hline
None & \cdr{\cdrd{\xyz}}\\
Header & \cdr{\cdrd[format=head]{\xyz}}\\
Custom & \cdr{\cdrd[format=custom][\bfseries\tiny\sffamily]{\xyz}}\\
Section & See outside the table. \\
\hline
\end{tabular}
\end{quotation}
}

\end{latexcode}%<--- note the space
\end{document}

```

[latexcode env from DOCTOOLS<sup>2012</sup> package, adapted]