The abbrev package*

Thai Son Hoang
ECS, University of Southampton
<T dot S dot Hoang at ecs dot soton dot ac dot uk>

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Abstract

This package provides macros for typesetting abbreviations. It was developed initially at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH-Zurich) and subsequently at the University of Southampton.

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1 Introduction

This package was developed in order to ease the typesetting of abbreviations in LaTeX. Each abbreviation is associated with a set of macros for typesetting. Abbreviations are collected and can be displayed in list of abbreviations by making use of package `nomencl`.

2 Usage

Just like any other package, you need to request this package with a `\usepackage` command in the preamble.

So in the simpler case, one just types

`\usepackage{abbrev}`

to load the package

The rest of this section is to give descriptions of the main (meta-)macro for creating abbreviation macros and their expected behaviour.

*This document corresponds to abbrev v1.1, dated 2017/05/16.

2.1 Creating Abbreviations

`\newabbrev` Macro `\newabbrev` is a meta-macro that creating several abbreviation macros. The signature of `\newabbrev` is as follows.

`\newabbrev[`⟨*csname*⟩`]{`⟨*abbreviation*⟩`}{`⟨*expansion string*⟩`}`
`{`⟨*plural-csname*⟩`} {`⟨*plural-abbreviation*⟩`}{`⟨*plural-expansion-string*⟩`}`

The first optional argument `csname` is the *control sequence* name that will be use to create the abbreviation macro, i.e., the marco will be `\csname`. If the first optional argument is omitted, the second argument representing the `abbreviation` will be used as the control sequence. The third argument is the *full expansion string* of for the abbreviation. A plural macro for the abbreviation is also created. By default, the plural control sequence name, the plural abbreviation and the plural expansion string correspond to singular version with an additional `s`. In the case where it should be defined differently, it can be declared as the additional argument `plural-csname`, `plural-abbreviation`, `plural-expansion-string`.

An invocation of the above `\newabbrev` with control sequence `csname` will create the following macros:

- `\csname`: Singular version of the abbreviation macro.
- `\csnames`: Plural version of the abbreviation macro (with an additional `s`).

First time usage of `\csname` will be replaced by "full string (abbreviation)". Subsequent uses of `\csname` will be replaced by "abbreviation". Macro `\csnames` is the plural version macro.

2.2 Resetting Abbreviations

`\resetabbrev` The above expansion behaviour can be reset by calling `\resetallabbrev`. Afterwards, `\csname` and `\csnames` will be expanded the first time that they are used. Individual abbreviation `\csname` can be reset by `\resetabbrev{csname}` (Here `csname` is the control sequence corresponding to the singular version of the macro.

More information can be found in the accompanying sample document.

2.3 Creating a List of Abbreviations

The list of abbreviations can be created by making use of package `nomencl`. Typically, one includes the following in the document preamble.

```
\usepackage{nomencl}
\renewcommand{\nomname}{List of Abbreviations}
\makenomenclature
```

The following command from `nomencl` is used print the list of abbreviations.

```
\printnomenclature
```

Finally, use `makeindex` to compile and generate the list of abbreviations appropriately.

```
makeindex filename.nlo  -s nomencl.ist -o filename.nls
```

where `filename` is the name of the main .tex file.

3 Implementation

The implementation is quite straightforward. We first request the `etoolbox` package for implementation purpose, `xspace` for utilising the spacing, and `nomencl` for creating list of abbreviations.

```
\RequirePackage{etoolbox}
\RequirePackage{xspace}
\RequirePackage{nomencl}
```

`\newabbrev` The `newabbrev` makes use of the worker macro `newfullabbrev` for creating abbreviations macros.

```
\newcommand{\newabbrev}[3][]{%
  \newfullabbrev[#1]{#2}{#3}{}{}{}
}
```

`\newfullabbrev` The `newfullabbrev` makes use of the worker macro `abbrev@create` for creating abbreviations macros.

```
\newcommand{\newfullabbrev}[6][]{%
  \expandafter\ifstrequal\expandafter{#1}{}{
    \def\abbrev@sgcsname{#2}
  }{
    \def\abbrev@sgcsname{#1}
  }
  \def\abbrev@sgabbrev{#2}
  \def\abbrev@sgexpn{#3}

  \expandafter\ifstrequal\expandafter{#4}{}{
    \edef\abbrev@plcsname{\abbrev@sgcsname s}
  }{
    \def\abbrev@plcsname{#4}
  }

  \expandafter\ifstrequal\expandafter{#5}{}{
    \edef\abbrev@plabbrev{\abbrev@sgabbrev s}
  }{
    \def\abbrev@plabbrev{#5}
  }

  \expandafter\ifstrequal\expandafter{#6}{}{
    \edef\abbrev@plexpn{\abbrev@sgexpn s}
  }{
    \def\abbrev@plexpn{#6}
  }

  % This code ensure that the arguments are expanded properly
  \begingroup\edef\z{\endgroup\noexpand\abbrev@create
  {\abbrev@sgcsname}{\abbrev@sgabbrev}{\abbrev@sgexpn}
  {\abbrev@plcsname}{\abbrev@plabbrev}{\abbrev@plexpn}}\z
}
```

`\abbrev@create` The main worker meta-macro for creating the abbreviation macros is implemented as follows. It create a private toggle variable to be used to distinguish the first time usage of the abbreviation. The abbreviation is add to `abbrev@list` (for reseting abbreviation macros later). It then call `abbrev@init` to create the initialisation macro, then call the initialisation macro afterward.

```
\newcommand{\abbrev@create}[6]{%
  \newtoggle{#1@toggle}
  \listadd{\abbrev@list}{#1}
  \abbrev@init{#1}{#2}{#3}{#4}{#5}{#6}
  \csuse{#1@init}
}
```

`\abbrev@init` This macro create the initialisation meta-macro for creating the abbreviation macros.

```
\newcommand{\abbrev@init}[6]{%
  \expandafter\def\csname#1@init\endcsname{%
    \togglefalse{#1@toggle}
    \expandafter\def\csname#1\endcsname{%
      \iftoggle{#1@toggle}{%
        #2%
      }{%
        \nomenclature{#2}{#3}%
        \toggletrue{#1@toggle}%
        #3 (#2)%
      }%
      \expandafter\def\csname#1\endcsname{#2\xspace}%
      \xspace%
    }

    \expandafter\def\csname#4\endcsname{%
      \iftoggle{#1@toggle}{%
        #5%
      }{%
        \nomenclature{#2}{#3}%
        \toggletrue{#1@toggle}%
        #6 (#5)%
      }%
      \expandafter\def\csname#4\endcsname{#5\xspace}%
      \xspace%
    }%
  }%
}
```

`\resetabbrev` Reset the all abbreviation macros to full expansion mode by going through `abbrev@list` and call the initialisation macro for each abbreviation. In the case where the optional argument is non-empty only the corresponding abbreviation is reset.

```
\newcommand{\resetabbrev}[1][]{
  \expandafter\ifstrequal\expandafter{#1}{}{
    \renewcommand*{\do}[1]{
      \csuse{##1@init}
    }
```

```
    \dolistloop{\abbrev@list}
  }{
    \csuse{#1@init}
  }
}
```

Change History

v1.0
  \newabbrev: Macro created 3
  General: Initial version 1
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