

The l3keys2e package

L^AT_EX 2_ε option processing using L^AT_EX 3 keys

The L^AT_EX Project*

Released 2021-05-27

The key–value method for optional arguments is very popular, as it allows the class or package author to define a large number of options with a simple interface. The `expl3` bundle of L^AT_EX 3 base code includes the module `l3keys` for defining keys, but to use these when loading L^AT_EX 2_ε packages and classes requires extra support. That support is provided by this small package, which is intended to enable L^AT_EX 2_ε packages to benefit from the power of the L^AT_EX 3 key–value system.

0.1 Creating and using keyval options

As with any key–value input, using key–value pairs as package or class options has two parts. The first stage is to define one or more keys, using the `\keys_define:nn` function. For example, an option which simply stores a value would be created using:

```
\keys_define:nn { module }  
  { option .tl_set:N = \l_module_variable_tl }
```

On its own, this will not make the key an option for the package or class containing the definition. The second stage is therefore to process the current options, searching for applicable keys.

`\ProcessKeysOptions`

`\ProcessKeysOptions {<module>}`

The `\ProcessKeysOptions` function is used to check the current option list against the keys defined for `{<module>}`. Global (class) options and local (package) options are checked when this function is called in a package. Each option which does match a key name is then used to attempt to set the appropriate key using `\keys_set:nn`. For example, the option defined earlier would be processed by the line

```
\ProcessKeysOptions { module }
```

`\ProcessKeysPackageOptions`

`\ProcessKeysPackageOptions {<module>}`

This function works in a similar manner to `\ProcessKeysOptions`. When used in a L^AT_EX 2_ε package, `\ProcessKeysPackageOptions` will not examine any class options available. In contrast, `\ProcessKeysOptions` does parse class options (in common with the L^AT_EX 2_ε kernel function `\ProcessOptions`).

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When passing unknown keys to other packages, the standard L^AT_EX `\CurrentOption` command is available and should be used. In contrast to `\l_keys_key_str`, `\CurrentOption` is a token list and thus retains category code information. Depending on how options are used by third-party packages, this may be essential for the option to be recognised.

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