

easyformat

the manual for the 2017/05/28 version (v1.3.0)

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Abstract

`easyformat` is a package that allows the use of `_` to begin/end *italic* or **bold** and `^` to begin/end SMALLCAPS. As an alternative to the standard L^AT_EX `\textit{italic}`, `\textbf{bold}` and `\textsc{smallcaps}`.

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1 Introduction

Usually when you want to make something *italic* or **bold** in L^AT_EX you insert `\textit{italic}` or `\textbf{bold}` respectively.

However when writing a book or another text where this formatting is common, this quickly becomes annoying to type.

Quick disclaimer:

I'm not saying that the L^AT_EX way is bad. I just want to explain that it's not ideal under all circumstances.

Simple markuplanguages (eg. Markdown) have a more elegant solution. If you, for example, wanted to write:

Stop!, you *have* to wait!

In Markdown, you'd type:

****Stop!****, you **have** to wait!

As you can see it's a matter of *wanting* italic or bold formatting, adding ***'s where needed and done; no (long) macros to type.

With the help of `easyformat` we can do something similar, here we get the same result with:

Stop!, you have to wait!

(Why underscores? See: 5.1)

And since it is good practice to add abbreviations using SMALLCAPS, `easyformat` gives you `^smallcaps^`.

So:

`^nasa^` and `^esa^` are probably the best known space agencies.

Results in:

NASA and ESA are probably the best known space agencies.

2 Usage, syntax and examples

Like usual you import the package with: `\usepackage{easyformat}`

`easyformat` makes `_` an active character, however it was already 'special' before so you still have to type `_` if you want to insert an underscore.

The same can be said of `^`, however since this one is difficult to add in ordinary L^AT_EX, the `easyformat` package gives you `\cir` to get `^`.

As already said, `easyformat` uses a Markdown-like syntax, so:

```
_italic,_ __bold,___, ___bolditalic___ and ^smallcaps!^
```

Gives:

italic, **bold**, ***bolditalic*** and SMALLCAPS!

However we can also do more complex stuff, eg.:

```
_Lorem __ipsum_ totalem__ ^da^ __givea _zin_ doram__ _zet_tim, liefkan.
```

Becomes:

Lorem ipsum totalem DA **givea zin doram** *zettim*, liefkan.

Those with a good eye might have noticed that `easyformat` adds italics correction when needed. Just like `\textit{zet}tim` would have.

3 Troubleshooting

`easyformat` tends to conflict with the loading of other packages, therefore you should probably load `easyformat` last.

“For some or other reason I get some weird formatting...”

It could be a bug—in which case I’d love to hear from you (see 6)—however, you probably forgot to close your formatting somewhere and because of how `easyformat` works you can get weird results.

4 Macros

4.1 Special characters

`\cir` Insert a circumflex (^) character.

4.2 Fonts

`\nrfamily` Reverts the fontfamily to the default.

`\nrshape` Reverts the fontshape to the default.

`\nrseries` Reverts the fontseries to the default.

`\setffamily{fontfamily}` Quickly change the fontfamily.

`\setfshape{fontshape}` Quickly change the fontshape.

`\setfseries{fontseries}` Quickly change the fontseries.

4.3 easyformat syntax

<code>\enableeasyformat</code>	Enables the <code>easyformat</code> syntax.
<code>\disableeasyformat</code>	Disables the <code>easyformat</code> syntax.
<code>\setciract</code>	Sets the catcode of <code>^</code> to 13 (active).
<code>\setcirsup</code>	Sets the catcode of <code>^</code> to 7 (superscript).
<code>\setundact</code>	Sets the catcode of <code>_</code> to 13 (active).
<code>\setundsub</code>	Sets the catcode of <code>_</code> to 8 (subscript).

5 Technical details

5.1 Why `_` and not `*`?

To make `*` work we would have to make it an active character, however this would break things like `\section*{Art}`. The `_` is already protected by `TEX` because of its meaning in mathmode. However, it has little to no use in textmode. This is why we can use `_` for this purpose and not `*`.

5.2 Does this break mathmode?

No it doesn't. It keeps behaving like before in mathmode, its meaning only changes in textmode. (We first check whether we are in mathmode or not and behave accordingly.)

6 Contact

If you want to make suggestions or have any questions whose answer could be included in a future version of this document, you can email to this address: <mailto:evert.provoost@gmail.com>

7 Changelog

We only include important changes from v1.0.0 onwards, since earlier versions barely worked.

2017/05/28 v1.3.0

Removed forced re-enabling of the `easyformat`-syntax at the start of the document. Rewritten to use `expl3`, this makes the code shorter and a future move to $\text{\LaTeX}3$ easier. Fixed an error that could occur with `\cir`. `easyformat` now also behaves correctly when a fontpackage is loaded.

2017/04/17 v1.2.0

Improved handling of mixed styles. Added `^smallcaps^` for SMALLCAPS.

2017/04/09 v1.1.0

Made usage of syntax in `\section{}`, and similar macros, possible. Changed the behaviour so it works more like `\emph{}` (this also simplifies the code).

2017/04/07 v1.0.0

First stable version.

Made with ♡ in Berlaar, Belgium.