

The `alphalph` package

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Abstract

The package provides methods to represent numbers with a limited set of symbols. Both \LaTeX and plain \TeX are supported.

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1 Documentation

1.1 Introduction

L^AT_EX counter can be represented in different ways by using presentation commands:

```
\arabic, \roman, \Roman,
\alph, \Alph, \fnsymbol
```

The ranges of supported counter values are more or less restricted. Only `\arabic` can be used with any counter value T_EX supports.

Presentation command	Supported domain	Ignored values	Error message "Counter too large"
<code>\arabic</code>	<code>-MAX..MAX</code>		
<code>\roman, \Roman</code>	<code>1..MAX</code>	<code>-MAX..0</code>	
<code>\alph, \Alph</code>	<code>1..26</code>	<code>0</code>	<code>-MAX..-1, 27..MAX</code>
<code>\fnsymbol</code>	<code>1..9</code>	<code>0</code>	<code>-MAX..-1, 10..MAX</code>

MAX = 2147483647

Ordinal numbers are often used in documents: numbering of chapters, sections, figures, footnotes and so on. The layouter chooses `\Alph` for chapter numbers and `\fnsymbol` for footnotes. But what can be done if there are more than 26 chapters or more than 10 footnotes? This package `alphalph` allows to define new presentation commands. They rely on a existing command and define presentations for values greater the limits. Three different methods are provided by the package. In the following use cases they are presentated.

1.2 Use cases

1.2.1 Number system based on symbols

Asume you are writing a book and your lecturer demands that chapter numbers must be letters. But you have already 30 chapters and you have only 26 letters?

In the decimal system the situation would be clear. If you run out of digits, you are using more digits to represent a number. This method can be also be used

for letters. After chapter 26 with Z we use AA, AB, AC, and AD for the remaining chapters.

Happily this package already defines this presentation command:

```
\usepackage{alphalph}
\renewcommand*{\thechapter}{%
  \AlphAlph{\value{chapter}}}%
}
```

`\AlphAlph` generates: A, B, C, ..., Z, AA, AB, ...

The other presentation command is `\alphalph` for lowercase letters.

1.2.2 Wrap symbols around

Nine footnote symbols are quite a few. Too soon the symbols are consumed and L^AT_EX complains with the error “Counter too large”. However, it could be acceptable to start again with the symbols from the beginning, especially if there are less than nine symbols on a page. This could be achieved by a counter reset. But finding the right place can be difficult or needs manual actions. Also a unique counter value can be desirable (e.g. for generating unique anchor/link names). Package `alphalph` allows you to define a macro that implements a “wrap around”, but letting the value of the counter untouched:

```
\usepackage{alphalph}
\makeatletter
\newalphalph{\fnsymbolwrap}[wrap]{\@fnsymbol}{}
\makeatother
\renewcommand*{\thefootnote}{%
  \fnsymbolwrap{\value{footnote}}}%
}
```

`\fnsymbolwrap` generates: * (1), † (2), ‡ (3), ..., ‡‡ (9), * (10), † 11, ...

1.2.3 Multiple symbols

L^AT_EX’s standard set of footnote symbols contains doubled symbols at the higher positions. Could this principle be generalized? Yes, but first we need a clean footnote symbol list without doubled entries, example:

```
\usepackage{alphalph}
\makeatletter
\newcommand*{\fnsymbolsingle}[1]{%
  \ensuremath{%
    \ifcase#1%
    \or *%
    \or \dagger
    \or \ddagger
    \or \mathsection
    \or \mathparagraph
    \else
    \@ctrerr
    \fi
  }%
}
\makeatother
\newalphalph{\fnsymbolmult}[mult]{\fnsymbolsingle}{}
\renewcommand*{\thefootnote}{%
  \fnsymbolmult{\value{footnote}}}%
}
```

The own definition of `\fnsymbolsingle` has the advantage that this list can easily be modified. Otherwise you can use `\@fnsymbol` directly, because it uses the same first five symbols.

```

\usepackage{alphalph}
\makeatletter
\newalphalph{\fnsymbolmult}[mult]{\@fnsymbol}{5}
\makeatother
\renewcommand*{\thefootnote}{%
  \fnsymbolmult{\value{footnote}}}%
}

\fnsymbolmult generates: * (1), † (2), ‡ (3), § (4), ¶ (5), ** (6), ..., **** 16,
†††† 17, ...

```

The same method can also be used for the chapter problem in the first discussed use case:

```

\usepackage{alphalph}
\makeatletter
\newalphalph{\AlphMult}[mult]{\@Alph}{26}
\makeatother
\renewcommand*{\chapter}{%
  \AlphMult{\value{chapter}}}%
}

```

`\AlphMult` then generates AA, BB, CC, and DD for chapters 27–30.

1.3 Glossary

Counter presentation command is a macro that expects a L^AT_EX counter name as argument. Numbers cannot be used. Examples: `\arabic`, `\alph`, `\fnsymbol`.

Number presentation command is a macro that expects a number as argument. A number is anything that T_EX accepts as number including `\value`. Examples: `\alphalph`, `\AlphAlph`, `\alphalph@alph`

However, `\alph` or `\fnsymbol` are not number presentation commands because they expect a counter name as argument. Happily L^AT_EX counter presentation commands internally uses number presentation commands with the same name, but prefixed by ‘@’. Thus `\@alph`, `\@fnsymbol` are number presentation commands.

Symbols provider is a command that can be used to get a list of symbols. For example, `\@Alph` provides the 26 uppercase letters from ‘A’ to ‘Z’. Basically a symbol provider is a number presentation command, usually with a limited range.

Number of symbols is the number of the last symbol slot of a symbol provider. Thus `\@Alph` generates 26 symbols, `\@fnsymbol` provides 9 symbols.

1.4 Package usage

The package `alphalph` can be used with both plain T_EX and L^AT_EX:

plain T_EX: `\input alphalph.sty`

L^AT_EX 2_ε: `\usepackage{alphalph}`
There aren’t any options.

1.5 User commands

```

\AlphAlph {⟨number⟩}
\alphalph {⟨number⟩}

```

Both macros are number presentation commands that expects a number as argument. L^AT_EX counters are used with `\value`.

The macros represents a number by letters. First single letters A..Z are used, then two letters AA..ZZ, three letters AAA...ZZZ, ... follow.

Macro `\AlphAlph` uses uppercase letters, `\alphalph` generates the lowercase variant.

$\langle number \rangle$	<code>\AlphAlph{$\langle number \rangle$}</code>	<code>\alphalph{$\langle number \rangle$}</code>
1	A	a
2	B	b
26	Z	z
27	AA	aa
30	AD	ad
2000	BXX	bxX
3752127	HELLO	hello
10786572	WORLD	world
2147483647	FXSHRXW	fxshrXw

<code>\newalphalph {$\langle cmd \rangle$} [$\langle method \rangle$] {$\langle symbols provider \rangle$} {$\langle number of symbols \rangle$}</code>

Macro `\newalphalph` defines $\langle cmd \rangle$ as new number presentation command. Like `\newcommand` an error is thrown, if macro $\langle cmd \rangle$ already exists.

The $\langle method \rangle$ is one of `alph`, `wrap`, or `mult`. The default is `alph`.

As symbol provider a number presentation command can be used, e.g. `\fnsymbol`, `\@Alph`, or `\alphalph@alph`.

The last argument is the number of symbols. If the argument is empty, then `\newalphalph` tries to find this number itself. L^AT_EX's number presentation commands throw an error message, if the number is too large. This error message is put in a macro `\@ctrerr`. Thus `\newalphalph` calls the symbol provider and tests a number by typesetting it in a temporary box. The error macro `\@ctrerr` is caught, it proofs that the number is not supported. Also if the width of the result is zero the number is considered as unavailable.

The empty argument is useful for potentially variable lists. However if the end cannot be detected, then the number of symbols must be given. This is also a lot faster. Therefore don't let the argument empty without reason.

1.6 Programmer commands

<code>\alphalph@Alph {$\langle number \rangle$}</code> <code>\alphalph@alph {$\langle number \rangle$}</code>
--

They are basically the same as `\@Alph` and `\@alph`. Some languages of package `babel` redefine L^AT_EX's macros to include some font setup that breaks expandibility. Therefore `\AlphAlph` and `\alphalph` are based on `\alphalph@Alph` and `\alphalph@alph` to get the letters. The behaviour of these symbol providers for numbers outside the range 1..26 is undefined.

1.7 Design principles

1.7.1 Number presentation commands

All number presentation commands that this package defines (including `\alphalph` and `\AlphAlph`) have the following properties:

- They are fully expandable. This means that they can safely
 - be written to a file,
 - used in moving arguments (L^AT_EX: they are *robust*),
 - used in a `\csname- \endcsname` pair.

- If the argument is zero or negative, the commands expand to nothing like `\romannumeral`.
- The argument is a \TeX number. Anything that would be accepted by `\number` is a valid argument:
 - explicite constants,
 - macros that expand to a number,
 - count registers, \LaTeX counter can used via `\value`, e.g.: `\alphalph{\value{page}}`
 - ...
- $\varepsilon\text{-TeX}$'s numeric expressions are supported, if $\varepsilon\text{-TeX}$ is available. Then `\numexpr` is applied to the argument. Package `\calc`'s expressions are not supported. That would violate the expandibility.

1.7.2 General usability

\TeX format: The package does not depend on \LaTeX , it can also be used by plain \TeX , for example.

$\varepsilon\text{-TeX}$: $\varepsilon\text{-TeX}$ is supported, the macros are shorter and faster. But $\varepsilon\text{-TeX}$'s extensions are not requirements. Without $\varepsilon\text{-TeX}$, just the implementation changes. The properties remain unchanged.

2 Implementation

2.1 Begin of package

```

1 (*package)

Reload check, especially if the package is not used with  $\text{\LaTeX}$ .
2 \begingroup\catcode61\catcode48\catcode32=10\relax%
3 \catcode13=5 % ^~M
4 \endlinechar=13 %
5 \catcode35=6 % #
6 \catcode39=12 % '
7 \catcode44=12 % ,
8 \catcode45=12 % -
9 \catcode46=12 % .
10 \catcode58=12 % :
11 \catcode64=11 % @
12 \catcode123=1 % {
13 \catcode125=2 % }
14 \expandafter\let\expandafter\x\csname ver@alphalph.sty\endcsname
15 \ifx\x\relax % plain-TeX, first loading
16 \else
17 \def\empty{}%
18 \ifx\x\empty % LaTeX, first loading,
19 % variable is initialized, but \ProvidesPackage not yet seen
20 \else
21 \expandafter\ifx\csname PackageInfo\endcsname\relax
22 \def\x#1#2{%
23 \immediate\write-1{Package #1 Info: #2.}%
24 }%
25 \else
26 \def\x#1#2{\PackageInfo{#1}{#2, stopped}}%
27 \fi
28 \x{alphalph}{The package is already loaded}%
29 \aftergroup\endinput
30 \fi

```

```

31 \fi
32 \endgroup%
Package identification:
33 \begingroup\catcode61\catcode48\catcode32=10\relax%
34 \catcode13=5 % ^^M
35 \endlinechar=13 %
36 \catcode35=6 % #
37 \catcode39=12 % '
38 \catcode40=12 % (
39 \catcode41=12 % )
40 \catcode44=12 % ,
41 \catcode45=12 % -
42 \catcode46=12 % .
43 \catcode47=12 % /
44 \catcode58=12 % :
45 \catcode64=11 % @
46 \catcode91=12 % [
47 \catcode93=12 % ]
48 \catcode123=1 % {
49 \catcode125=2 % }
50 \expandafter\ifx\csname ProvidesPackage\endcsname\relax
51 \def\x#1#2#3[#4]{\endgroup
52 \immediate\write-1{Package: #3 #4}%
53 \xdef#1{#4}%
54 }%
55 \else
56 \def\x#1#2[#3]{\endgroup
57 #2[#3]}%
58 \ifx#1\@undefined
59 \xdef#1{#3}%
60 \fi
61 \ifx#1\relax
62 \xdef#1{#3}%
63 \fi
64 }%
65 \fi
66 \expandafter\x\csname ver@alphalph.sty\endcsname
67 \ProvidesPackage{alphalph}%
68 [2010/04/18 v2.3 Converting numbers to letters (HO)]%

```

2.2 Catcodes

```

69 \begingroup\catcode61\catcode48\catcode32=10\relax%
70 \catcode13=5 % ^^M
71 \endlinechar=13 %
72 \catcode123=1 % {
73 \catcode125=2 % }
74 \catcode64=11 % @
75 \def\x{\endgroup
76 \expandafter\edef\csname AlPh@AtEnd\endcsname{%
77 \endlinechar=\the\endlinechar\relax
78 \catcode13=\the\catcode13\relax
79 \catcode32=\the\catcode32\relax
80 \catcode35=\the\catcode35\relax
81 \catcode61=\the\catcode61\relax
82 \catcode64=\the\catcode64\relax
83 \catcode123=\the\catcode123\relax
84 \catcode125=\the\catcode125\relax
85 }%
86 }%
87 \x\catcode61\catcode48\catcode32=10\relax%
88 \catcode13=5 % ^^M
89 \endlinechar=13 %

```

```

90 \catcode35=6 % #
91 \catcode64=11 % @
92 \catcode123=1 % {
93 \catcode125=2 % }
94 \def\TMP@EnsureCode#1#2{%
95   \edef\AlPh@AtEnd{%
96     \AlPh@AtEnd
97     \catcode#1=\the\catcode#1\relax
98   }%
99   \catcode#1=#2\relax
100 }
101 \TMP@EnsureCode{33}{12}% !
102 \TMP@EnsureCode{39}{12}% '
103 \TMP@EnsureCode{40}{12}% (
104 \TMP@EnsureCode{41}{12}% )
105 \TMP@EnsureCode{43}{12}% +
106 \TMP@EnsureCode{44}{12}% ,
107 \TMP@EnsureCode{46}{12}% .
108 \TMP@EnsureCode{47}{12}% /
109 \TMP@EnsureCode{59}{12}% ;
110 \TMP@EnsureCode{60}{12}% <
111 \TMP@EnsureCode{62}{12}% >
112 \TMP@EnsureCode{91}{12}% [
113 \TMP@EnsureCode{93}{12}% ]
114 \TMP@EnsureCode{96}{12}% '
115 \TMP@EnsureCode{124}{12}% |
116 \edef\AlPh@AtEnd{\AlPh@AtEnd\noexpand\endinput}

```

2.3 Package loading

```

117 \begingroup\expandafter\expandafter\expandafter\endgroup
118 \expandafter\ifx\csname RequirePackage\endcsname\relax
119   \input infwarerr.sty\relax
120   \input intcalc.sty\relax
121 \else
122   \RequirePackage{infwarerr}[2007/09/09]%
123   \RequirePackage{intcalc}[2007/09/09]%
124 \fi

```

2.4 ϵ -TeX detection

```

125 \begingroup\expandafter\expandafter\expandafter\endgroup
126 \expandafter\ifx\csname numexpr\endcsname\relax
127   \catcode124=9 % '': ignore
128   \catcode43=14 % '+': comment
129 \else
130   \catcode124=14 % '': comment
131   \catcode43=9 % '+': ignore
132 \fi

```

2.5 Help macros

\AlPh@Error

```

133 \def\AlPh@Error#1{%
134   \begingroup
135     \escapechar=92 % backslash
136     \@PackageError{alphalph}{#1}\@ehc
137   \endgroup
138 }

```

\AlPh@IfDefinable

```

139 \begingroup\expandafter\expandafter\expandafter\endgroup
140 \expandafter\ifx\csname @ifdefinable\endcsname\relax
141   \def\AlPh@IfDefinable#1#2{%

```



```

142     \ifcase\ifx#1\@undefined\else\ifx#1\relax\else1\fi\fi0 %
143     #2%
144     \else
145         \AlPh@Error{%
146             Command \string#1 already defined%
147         }%
148     \fi
149 }%

150 \else

\AlPh@ifDefinable

151     \let\AlPh@ifDefinable\@ifdefinable

152 \fi

\@ReturnAfterElseFi The following commands moves the ‘then’ and ‘else’ part respectively behind the
\@ReturnAfterFi \if-construct. This prevents a too deep \if-nesting and so a TEX capacity error
because of a limited input stack size. I use this trick in several packages, so I
don’t prefix these internal commands in order not to have the same macros with
different names. (It saves memory.)
153 \long\def\@ReturnAfterElseFi#1\else#2\fi{\fi#1}
154 \long\def\@ReturnAfterFi#1\fi{\fi#1}

\@gobblefour LATEX defines commands for eating arguments. Define \@gobblefour if it is not
defined (plain TEX).
155 \expandafter\ifx\csname @gobblefour\endcsname\relax
156     \long\def\@gobblefour#1#2#3#4{}%
157 \fi

AlPh@ifOptArg

158 \begingroup\expandafter\expandafter\expandafter\endgroup
159 \expandafter\ifx\csname kernel@ifnextchar\endcsname\relax
160     \begingroup\expandafter\expandafter\expandafter\endgroup
161     \expandafter\ifx\csname @ifnextchar\endcsname\relax
162         \def\AlPh@ifOptArg#1#2{%
163             \def\AlPh@TempA{#1}%
164             \def\AlPh@TempB{#2}%
165             \futurelet\AlPh@Token\AlPh@ifOptArgNext
166         }%
167         \let\AlPh@BracketLeft=[%]
168         \def\AlPh@ifOptArgNext{%
169             \ifx\AlPh@Token\AlPh@BracketLeft
170                 \expandafter\AlPh@TempA
171             \else
172                 \expandafter\AlPh@TempB
173             \fi
174         }%
175     \else
176         \def\AlPh@ifOptArg{\@ifnextchar[%]}
177     \fi
178 \else
179     \def\AlPh@ifOptArg{\kernel@ifnextchar[%]}
180 \fi

```

2.6 Symbol provider

2.6.1 Alphabet

The output of `\alphalph` and `\AlphaAlpha` should be usable as part of command names (see `\@namedef`, `\csname`, ...). Unhappily some languages of package `babel` redefine L^AT_EX’s `\@alph` and `\@Alpha` in a manner that they cannot be used

in expandable context any more. Therefore package `alphalph` provides its own commands.

`\alphalph@Alph` The two commands `\AlPh@Alph` and `\AlPh@alph` convert a number into a letter (uppercase and lowercase respectively). The character `@` is used as an error symbol, if the number isn't in the range of 1 until 26. Here we need no space after the number `#1`, because the error symbol `@` for the zero case stops scanning the number. This error symbol should not appear anywhere (except for bugs).

```

181 \def\alphalph@Alph#1{%
182   \ifcase#1%
183     @%
184     \or A\or B\or C\or D\or E\or F\or G\or H\or I\or J\or K\or L\or M%
185     \or N\or O\or P\or Q\or R\or S\or T\or U\or V\or W\or X\or Y\or Z%
186   \else
187     \AlPh@ctrerrr
188     @%
189   \fi
190 }
191 \def\alphalph@alph#1{%
192   \ifcase#1%
193     @%
194     \or a\or b\or c\or d\or e\or f\or g\or h\or i\or j\or k\or l\or m%
195     \or n\or o\or p\or q\or r\or s\or t\or u\or v\or w\or x\or y\or z%
196   \else
197     \AlPh@ctrerrr
198     @%
199   \fi
200 }
```

`\AlPh@ctrerrr` Macro `\AlPh@ctrerrr` is used as hook for the algorithm to get the available number of symbols.

```
201 \def\AlPh@ctrerrr{}
```

2.7 Finding number of symbols

`\AlPh@GetNumberOfSymbols` #1: symbols provider

```

202 \def\AlPh@GetNumberOfSymbols#1{%
203   \AlPh@TestNumber1!{#1}%
204   \ifAlPh@Unavailable
205     \def\AlPh@Number{0}%
206     \AlPh@Error{No symbols found}%
207   \else
208     \def\AlPh@Number{1}%
209     \AlPh@ExpSearch2!{#1}%
210   \fi
211 }
```

`\ifAlPh@Unavailable`

```

212 \let\ifAlPh@Unavailable\iffalse
213 \def\AlPh@Unavailabletrue{%
214   \global\let\ifAlPh@Unavailable\iftrue
215 }
216 \def\AlPh@Unavailablefalse{%
217   \global\let\ifAlPh@Unavailable\iffalse
218 }
```

`\AlPh@TestNumber` #1: number to be tested

#2: symbols provider

```

219 \def\AlPh@TestNumber#1!#2{%
220   \AlPh@Unavailablefalse
221   \begingroup
```

```

222 \setbox0=\hbox{%
223 \begingroup % color
224 \let\@ctrerr\AlPh@Unavailabletrue
225 \let\AlPh@ctrerr\AlPh@Unavailabletrue
226 #2{#1}%
227 \endgroup
228 }%
229 \ifdim\wd0=0pt %
230 \AlPh@Unavailabletrue
231 \fi
232 \endgroup
233 }

\AlPh@ExpSearch #1: number to be tested
#2: symbols provider
234 \def\AlPh@ExpSearch#1!#2{%
235 \let\AlPh@Next\relax
236 \AlPh@TestNumber#1!{#2}%
237 \ifAlPh@Unavailable
238 \expandafter\AlPh@BinSearch\AlPh@Number!#1!{#2}%
239 \else
240 \def\AlPh@Number{#1}%
241 \ifnum#1>1073741823 %
242 \AlPh@TestNumber2147483647!{#2}%
243 \ifAlPh@Unavailable
244 \AlPh@BinSearch#1!2147483647!{#2}%
245 \else
246 \def\AlPh@Number{0}%
247 \AlPh@Error{%
248 Maximal symbol number not found%
249 }%
250 \fi
251 \else
252 \def\AlPh@Next{%
253 \expandafter\AlPh@ExpSearch\number\intcalcShl{#1}!{#2}%
254 }%
255 \fi
256 \fi
257 \AlPh@Next
258 }

\AlPh@BinSearch #1: available number
#2: unavailable number, #2 > #1
#3: symbols provider
259 \def\AlPh@BinSearch#1!#2!#3{%
260 \expandafter\AlPh@ProcessBinSearch
261 \number\intcalcShr{\intcalcAdd{#1}{#2}}!%
262 #1!#2!{#3}%
263 }

\AlPh@ProcessBinSearch #1: number to be tested, #2 ≤ #1 ≤ #3
#2: available number
#3: unavailable number
#4: symbols provider
264 \def\AlPh@ProcessBinSearch#1!#2!#3!#4{%
265 \let\AlPh@Next\relax
266 \ifnum#1>#2 %
267 \ifnum#1<#3 %
268 \AlPh@TestNumber#1!{#4}%
269 \ifAlPh@Unavailable
270 \def\AlPh@Next{%
271 \AlPh@BinSearch#2!#1!{#4}%

```

```

272     }%
273     \else
274         \def\AlPh@Next{%
275             \AlPh@BinSearch#1!#3!{#4}%
276         }%
277     \fi
278     \else
279         \def\AlPh@Number{#2}%
280     \fi
281 \else
282     \def\AlPh@Number{#2}%
283 \fi
284 \AlPh@Next
285 }

```

2.8 Methods

The names of method macros start with `\AlPh@Method`. These macros do the main job in converting a number to its representation. A method command is called with three arguments. The first argument is the number of symbols. The second argument is the basic macro for converting a number with limited number range. The last parameter is the number that needs converting.

2.8.1 Common methods

```

\AlPh@CheckPositive #1: number to be checked #2: continuation macro
#3: number of symbols (hidden here)
#4: symbol provider (hidden here)
286 \def\AlPh@CheckPositive#1!#2{%
287     \ifnum#1<1 %
288         \expandafter\@gobblefour
289     \fi
290     #2{#1}%
291 }

```

2.8.2 Method ‘alph’

```

\AlPh@Method@alph #1: number of symbols
#2: symbols provider
#3: number to be converted
292 \def\AlPh@Method@alph#1#2#3{%
293     \expandafter\AlPh@CheckPositive
294 |     \number#3!%
295 +     \the\numexpr#3!%
296     \AlPh@ProcessAlph
297     {#1}{#2}%
298 }

\AlPh@ProcessAlph #1: current number
#2: number of symbols
#3: symbols provider
299 \def\AlPh@ProcessAlph#1#2#3{%
300     \ifnum#1>#2 %
301         \@ReturnAfterElseFi{%
302             \expandafter\AlPh@StepAlph\number
303             \intcalcInc{%
304                 \intcalcMod{\intcalcDec{#1}}{#2}%
305             }%
306             \expandafter!\number
307             \intcalcDiv{\intcalcDec{#1}}{#2}%
308             !{#2}{#3}%

```

```

309     }%
310   \else
311     \@ReturnAfterFi{%
312       #3{#1}%
313     }%
314   \fi
315 }

```

```

\AlPh@StepAlph #1: current last digit
                #2: new current number
                #3: number of symbols
                #4: symbols provider
316 \def\AlPh@StepAlph#1!#2!#3#4{%
317   \AlPh@ProcessAlph{#2}{#3}{#4}%
318   #4{#1}%
319 }

```

2.8.3 Method ‘wrap’

```

\AlPh@Method@wrap #1: number of symbols
                  #2: symbols provider
                  #3: number to be converted
320 \def\AlPh@Method@wrap#1#2#3{%
321   \expandafter\AlPh@CheckPositive
322 |   \number#3!%
323 +   \the\numexpr#3!%
324   \AlPh@ProcessWrap
325   {#1}{#2}%
326 }

\AlPh@ProcessWrap #1: number to be converted
                  #2: number of symbols
                  #3: symbols provider
327 \def\AlPh@ProcessWrap#1#2#3{%
328   \ifnum#1>#2 %
329     \@ReturnAfterElseFi{%
330       \expandafter\AlPh@StepWrap\number
331       \intcalcInc{\intcalcMod{\intcalcDec{#1}}{#2}}%
332       !{#3}%
333     }%
334   \else
335     \@ReturnAfterFi{%
336       #3{#1}%
337     }%
338   \fi
339 }

\AlPh@StepWrap #1: final number
               #2: symbols provider
340 \def\AlPh@StepWrap#1!#2{%
341   #2{#1}%
342 }

```

2.8.4 Method ‘mult’

After the number of symbols is exhausted, repetitions of the symbol are used.

$$\begin{aligned} x &:= \text{number to be converted} \\ n &:= \text{number of symbols} \\ r &:= \text{repetition length} \\ s &:= \text{symbol slot} \\ r &= ((x - 1) \div n) + 1 \\ s &= ((x - 1) \bmod n) + 1 \end{aligned}$$

```
\AlPh@Method@mult #1: number of symbols
#2: symbols provider
#3: number to be converted
343 \def\AlPh@Method@mult#1#2#3{%
344   \expandafter\AlPh@CheckPositive
345 |   \number#3!%
346 +   \the\numexpr#3!%
347   \AlPh@ProcessMult
348   {#1}{#2}%
349 }

\AlPh@ProcessMult #1: number to be converted
#2: number of symbols
#3: symbols provider
350 \def\AlPh@ProcessMult#1#2#3{%
351   \ifnum#1>#2 %
352     \@ReturnAfterElseFi{%
353       \expandafter\AlPh@StepMult\romannumeral
354       \intcalcInc{\intcalcDiv{\intcalcDec{#1}}{#2}}%
355       000%
356       \expandafter!\number
357       \intcalcInc{\intcalcMod{\intcalcDec{#1}}{#2}}%
358       !{#3}%
359     }%
360   \else
361     \@ReturnAfterFi{%
362       #3{#1}%
363     }%
364   \fi
365 }

\AlPh@StepMult #1#2: repetitions coded as list of character ‘m’
#3: symbol slot
#4: symbols provider
366 \def\AlPh@StepMult#1#2!#3!#4{%
367   \ifx\#2\%
368     \else
369       \@ReturnAfterFi{%
370         \AlPh@StepMult#2!#3!{#4}%
371       }%
372     \fi
373   #4{#3}%
374 }
```

2.9 User interface

`\newalphalph` Macro `\newalphalph` had three arguments in versions below 2.0. For the new method argument we use an optional argument in first position.
#1: cmd

[#2]: method name: alph (default), wrap, mult
hash-ok #3: symbols provider
#4: number of symbols

```

375 \AlPh@ifDefinable\newalphalph{%
376   \def\newalphalph#1{%
377     \AlPh@ifOptArg{%
378       \AlPh@newalphalph{#1}%
379     }{%
380       \AlPh@newalphalph{#1}[alph]%
381     }%
382   }%
383 }

```

\AlPh@newalphalph #1: cmd #2: method name
#3: symbols provider
#4: number of symbols

```

384 \def\AlPh@newalphalph#1[#2]#3#4{%
385   \begingroup\expandafter\expandafter\expandafter\endgroup
386   \expandafter\ifx\csname AlPh@Method@#2\endcsname\relax
387     \AlPh@Error{%
388       Unknown method %
389 |     '#2'%
390 +     '\detokenize{#2}'%
391   }%
392   \else
393     \ifx\\#4\\%
394       \AlPh@GetNumberOfSymbols{#3}%
395       \ifcase\AlPh@Number
396       \else
397         \begingroup
398         \escapechar=92 % backslash
399         \@PackageInfo{alphalph}{%
400           Number of symbols for \string#1 is \AlPh@Number
401         }%
402         \endgroup
403         \expandafter\AlPh@NewAlphaAlph
404         \csname AlPh@Method@#2\expandafter\endcsname
405         \AlPh@Number!{#1}{#3}%
406       \fi
407     \else
408       \expandafter\AlPh@NewAlphaAlph
409       \csname AlPh@Method@#2\expandafter\endcsname
410 |       \number#4!%
411 +       \the\numexpr#4!%
412       {#1}{#3}%
413     \fi
414   \fi
415 }%

```

\AlPh@NewAlphaAlph #1: method macro
#2: number of symbols
#3: cmd
#4: symbols provider

```

416 \def\AlPh@NewAlphaAlph#1#2!#3#4{%
417   \AlPh@ifDefinable#3{%
418     \ifnum#2>0 %
419     \def#3{#1{#2}{#4}}%
420   \else
421     \AlPh@Error{%
422       Definition of \string#3 failed,\MessageBreak
423       because number of symbols (#2) is not positive%
424     }%

```

```

425     \fi
426   }%
427 }

\AlphAlph
428 \newalphalph\AlphAlph\alphalph@Alph{26}

\alphalph
429 \newalphalph\alphalph\alphalph@alph{26}

430 \AlPh@AtEnd%
431 \</package>

```

3 Test

3.1 Catcode checks for loading

```

432 (*test1)

433 \catcode'\{=1 %
434 \catcode'\}=2 %
435 \catcode'\#=6 %
436 \catcode'\@=11 %
437 \expandafter\ifx\csname count@\endcsname\relax
438   \countdef\count@=255 %
439 \fi
440 \expandafter\ifx\csname @gobble\endcsname\relax
441   \long\def\@gobble#1{}%
442 \fi
443 \expandafter\ifx\csname @firstofone\endcsname\relax
444   \long\def\@firstofone#1{#1}%
445 \fi
446 \expandafter\ifx\csname loop\endcsname\relax
447   \expandafter\@firstofone
448 \else
449   \expandafter\@gobble
450 \fi
451 {%
452   \def\loop#1\repeat{%
453     \def\body{#1}%
454     \iterate
455   }%
456   \def\iterate{%
457     \body
458     \let\next\iterate
459   \else
460     \let\next\relax
461   \fi
462   \next
463 }%
464 \let\repeat=\fi
465 }%
466 \def\RestoreCatcodes{}
467 \count@=0 %
468 \loop
469   \edef\RestoreCatcodes{%
470     \RestoreCatcodes
471     \catcode\the\count@=\the\catcode\count@\relax
472   }%
473 \ifnum\count@<255 %
474   \advance\count@ 1 %
475 \repeat

```



```

476
477 \def\RangeCatcodeInvalid#1#2{%
478   \count@=#1\relax
479   \loop
480     \catcode\count@=15 %
481     \ifnum\count@<#2\relax
482       \advance\count@ 1 %
483     \repeat
484 }
485 \def\RangeCatcodeCheck#1#2#3{%
486   \count@=#1\relax
487   \loop
488     \ifnum#3=\catcode\count@
489     \else
490       \errmessage{%
491         Character \the\count@\space
492         with wrong catcode \the\catcode\count@\space
493         instead of \number#3%
494       }%
495     \fi
496     \ifnum\count@<#2\relax
497       \advance\count@ 1 %
498     \repeat
499 }
500 \def\space{ }
501 \expandafter\ifx\csname LoadCommand\endcsname\relax
502   \def\LoadCommand{\input alphalph.sty\relax}%
503 \fi
504 \def\Test{%
505   \RangeCatcodeInvalid{0}{47}%
506   \RangeCatcodeInvalid{58}{64}%
507   \RangeCatcodeInvalid{91}{96}%
508   \RangeCatcodeInvalid{123}{255}%
509   \catcode'\@=12 %
510   \catcode'\=0 %
511   \catcode'\%=14 %
512   \LoadCommand
513   \RangeCatcodeCheck{0}{36}{15}%
514   \RangeCatcodeCheck{37}{37}{14}%
515   \RangeCatcodeCheck{38}{47}{15}%
516   \RangeCatcodeCheck{48}{57}{12}%
517   \RangeCatcodeCheck{58}{63}{15}%
518   \RangeCatcodeCheck{64}{64}{12}%
519   \RangeCatcodeCheck{65}{90}{11}%
520   \RangeCatcodeCheck{91}{91}{15}%
521   \RangeCatcodeCheck{92}{92}{0}%
522   \RangeCatcodeCheck{93}{96}{15}%
523   \RangeCatcodeCheck{97}{122}{11}%
524   \RangeCatcodeCheck{123}{255}{15}%
525   \RestoreCatcodes
526 }
527 \Test
528 \csname @@end\endcsname
529 \end
530 </test1>

```

4 Macro tests

```

531 (*test2)
532 \NeedsTeXFormat{LaTeX2e}
533 \nofiles
534 \documentclass{article}

```

```

535 (*noetex)
536 \makeatletter
537 \let\saved@numexpr\numexpr
538 \newcommand*\DisableNumexpr{%
539   \let\numexpr\undefined
540 }
541 \newcommand*\RestoreNumexpr{%
542   \let\numexpr\saved@numexpr
543 }
544 \DisableNumexpr
545 (/noetex)
546 \usepackage{alphalph}[2010/04/18]
547 (noetex)\RestoreNumexpr
548 \usepackage{qstest}
549 \IncludeTests{*}
550 \LogTests{log}{*}{*}
551
552 \newcommand*\TestCmd}[3]{%
553   \setbox0=\hbox{%
554     (noetex) \DisableNumexpr
555     \edef\TestString{#1{#2}}%
556     \expandafter\Expect\expandafter{\TestString}{#3}%
557     \edef\TestString{#1{#2} }%
558     \expandafter\Expect\expandafter{\TestString}{#3 }%
559   }%
560   \Expect*{\the\wd0}{0.0pt}%
561 }
562
563 \makeatletter
564 \newalphalph\LaTeXAlphAlph\@Alph{26}
565 \newalphalph\LaTeXalphalph\@alph{26}
566 \newalphalph\AlphWrap[wrap]\alphalph@Alph{26}
567 \newalphalph\alphwrap[wrap]\alphalph@alph{26}
568 \newalphalph\LaTeXAlphWrap[wrap]\@Alph{26}
569 \newalphalph\LaTeXalphwrap[wrap]\@alph{26}
570 \def\LastSymbol#1{%
571   \ifx\#1\%
572   \else
573     \@LastSymbol#1\@nil
574   \fi
575 }
576 \def\@LastSymbol#1#2\@nil{%
577   \ifx\#2\%
578     #1%
579   \else
580     \@LastSymbol#2\@nil
581   \fi
582 }
583 \makeatother
584 \newcommand*\TestAlph}[2]{%
585   \uppercase{\TestCallCmd\AlphAlph{#2}}{#1}%
586   \lowercase{\TestCallCmd\alphalph{#2}}{#1}%
587   \uppercase{\TestCallCmd\LaTeXAlphAlph{#2}}{#1}%
588   \lowercase{\TestCallCmd\LaTeXalphalph{#2}}{#1}%
589   \edef\WrapString{\LastSymbol{#2}}%
590   \expandafter\TestAlphWrap\expandafter{\WrapString}{#1}%
591 }
592 \newcommand*\TestAlphWrap}[2]{%
593   \uppercase{\TestCallCmd\AlphWrap{#1}}{#2}%
594   \lowercase{\TestCallCmd\alphwrap{#1}}{#2}%
595   \uppercase{\TestCallCmd\LaTeXAlphWrap{#1}}{#2}%
596   \lowercase{\TestCallCmd\LaTeXalphwrap{#1}}{#2}%

```

```

597 }
598 \newcommand*{\TestCallCmd}[3]{%
599   \TestCmd#1{#3}{#2}%
600 }
601 \begin{qstest}{AlphSymbols}{alphalph, AlphAlph, symbols}
602   \TestAlph{1}{a}%
603   \TestAlph{2}{b}%
604   \TestAlph{3}{c}%
605   \TestAlph{4}{d}%
606   \TestAlph{5}{e}%
607   \TestAlph{6}{f}%
608   \TestAlph{7}{g}%
609   \TestAlph{8}{h}%
610   \TestAlph{9}{i}%
611   \TestAlph{10}{j}%
612   \TestAlph{11}{k}%
613   \TestAlph{12}{l}%
614   \TestAlph{13}{m}%
615   \TestAlph{14}{n}%
616   \TestAlph{15}{o}%
617   \TestAlph{16}{p}%
618   \TestAlph{17}{q}%
619   \TestAlph{18}{r}%
620   \TestAlph{19}{s}%
621   \TestAlph{20}{t}%
622   \TestAlph{21}{u}%
623   \TestAlph{22}{v}%
624   \TestAlph{23}{w}%
625   \TestAlph{24}{x}%
626   \TestAlph{25}{y}%
627   \TestAlph{26}{z}%
628 \end{qstest}
629 \begin{qstest}{AlphRange}{alphalph, range}
630   \TestAlph{0}{}%
631   \TestAlph{-1}{}%
632   \TestAlph{-2147483647}{}%
633   \TestAlph{27}{aa}%
634   \TestAlph{28}{ab}%
635   \TestAlph{52}{az}%
636   \TestAlph{53}{ba}%
637   \TestAlph{78}{bz}%
638   \TestAlph{79}{ca}%
639   \TestAlph{702}{zz}%
640   \TestAlph{703}{aaa}%
641   \TestAlph{2147483647}{fxshrxw}%
642 \end{qstest}
643
644 \makeatletter
645 \newcommand*{\myvocal}[1]{%
646   \ifcase#1X\or A\or E\or I\or O\or U\else Y\fi
647 }
648 \makeatother
649 \newalphalph\vocalsvocal\myvocal{5}
650 \newcommand*{\TestVocal}{%
651   \TestCmd\vocalsvocal
652 }
653 \begin{qstest}{vocal}{vocal}
654   \TestVocal{0}{}%
655   \TestVocal{1}{A}%
656   \TestVocal{2}{E}%
657   \TestVocal{3}{I}%
658   \TestVocal{4}{O}%

```

```

659 \TestVocals{5}{U}%
660 \TestVocals{6}{AA}%
661 \TestVocals{7}{AE}%
662 \TestVocals{8}{AI}%
663 \TestVocals{9}{AO}%
664 \TestVocals{10}{AU}%
665 \TestVocals{11}{EA}%
666 \TestVocals{24}{OO}%
667 \TestVocals{25}{OU}%
668 \TestVocals{26}{UA}%
669 \TestVocals{29}{UO}%
670 \TestVocals{30}{UU}%
671 \TestVocals{31}{AAA}%
672 \TestVocals{155}{UUU}%
673 \TestVocals{156}{AAAA}%
674 \TestVocals{2147483647}{AIIIOOEEIOIIOUE}%
675 \end{qstest}
676
677 \makeatletter
678 \newalphalph\AlphMult[mult]{\alphalph@Alph}{26}
679 \newalphalph\alphmult[mult]{\alphalph@alph}{26}
680 \newalphalph\LaTeXAlphMult[mult]{\@Alph}{26}
681 \newalphalph\LaTeXalphmult[mult]{\@alph}{26}
682 \makeatother
683 \newcommand*\TestMult}[2]{%
684   \uppercase{\TestCallCmd\AlphMult{#2}}{#1}%
685   \lowercase{\TestCallCmd\alphmult{#2}}{#1}%
686   \uppercase{\TestCallCmd\LaTeXAlphMult{#2}}{#1}%
687   \lowercase{\TestCallCmd\LaTeXalphmult{#2}}{#1}%
688 }
689 \begin{qstest}{mult}{mult}
690   \TestMult{0}{}%
691   \TestMult{-1}{}%
692   \TestMult{-2147483647}{}%
693   \TestMult{1}{a}%
694   \TestMult{2}{b}%
695   \TestMult{26}{z}%
696   \TestMult{27}{aa}%
697   \TestMult{28}{bb}%
698   \TestMult{52}{zz}%
699   \TestMult{53}{aaa}%
700   \TestMult{54}{bbb}%
701   \TestMult{259}{yyyyyyyyyy}%
702   \TestMult{260}{zzzzzzzzzz}%
703   \TestMult{261}{aaaaaaaaaa}%
704   \TestMult{262}{bbbbbbbbbb}%
705 \end{qstest}
706
707 \def\myvocalsB#1{%
708   \ifcase#1\or A\or E\or I\or O\or U\fi
709 }
710 \begin{qstest}{symbolnum}{symbolnum}
711   \makeatletter
712   \def\Test#1#2{%
713     \let\TestCmd\relax
714     \newalphalph\TestCmd{#1}{}%
715     \Expect*{\AlPh@Number}{#2}%
716   }%
717   \Test\@alph{26}%
718   \Test\@Alph{26}%
719   \Test\@fnsymbol{9}%
720   \Test\myvocalsB{5}%

```

```

721 \Test\alphalph@alph{26}%
722 \Test\alphalph@Alph{26}%
723 \end{qstest}
724
725 \begin{qstest}{list}{list}
726 \makeatletter
727 \def\catch#1\relax{%
728 \def\FoundList{\catch#1}%
729 }%
730 \def\Test[#1]#2#3#4{%
731 \let\testcmd\relax
732 \newalphalph\testcmd[{#1}]{\catch}{#2}%
733 \testcmd{#3}|\relax
734 \expandafter\Expect\expandafter{\FoundList}{#4}|}%
735 %
736 \let\SavedCatch\catch
737 \def\catch{\noexpand\catch\noexpand\foo}%
738 \edef\Result{#4}|}%
739 \@onelevel@sanitize\Result
740 \let\catch\SavedCatch
741 \let\testcmd\relax
742 \newalphalph\testcmd[{#1}]{\catch\foo}{#2}%
743 \testcmd{#3}|\relax
744 \@onelevel@sanitize\FoundList
745 \Expect*{\FoundList}*{\Result}%
746 }%
747 \Test[alph]{26}{3}{\catch{3}}%
748 \Test[alph]{26}{12}{\catch{12}}%
749 \Test[alph]{26}{27}{\catch{1}\catch{1}}%
750 \Test[alph]{26}{78}{\catch{2}\catch{26}}%
751 \Test[wrap]{26}{7}{\catch{7}}%
752 \Test[wrap]{26}{14}{\catch{14}}%
753 \Test[wrap]{26}{80}{\catch{2}}%
754 \Test[wrap]{26}{700}{\catch{24}}%
755 \Test[mult]{26}{4}{\catch{4}}%
756 \Test[mult]{26}{17}{\catch{17}}%
757 \Test[mult]{26}{54}{\catch{2}\catch{2}\catch{2}}%
758 \end{qstest}
759
760 \begin{document}
761 \end{document}
762 </test2>

```

5 Installation

5.1 Download

Package. This package is available on CTAN¹:

[CTAN:macros/latex/contrib/oberdiek/alphalph.dtx](#) The source file.

[CTAN:macros/latex/contrib/oberdiek/alphalph.pdf](#) Documentation.

Bundle. All the packages of the bundle ‘oberdiek’ are also available in a TDS compliant ZIP archive. There the packages are already unpacked and the documentation files are generated. The files and directories obey the TDS standard.

[CTAN:install/macros/latex/contrib/oberdiek.tds.zip](#)

TDS refers to the standard “A Directory Structure for \TeX Files” ([CTAN:tds/tds.pdf](#)). Directories with `texmf` in their name are usually organized this way.

¹<http://ftp.ctan.org/tex-archive/>

5.2 Bundle installation

Unpacking. Unpack the `oberdiek.tds.zip` in the TDS tree (also known as `texmf` tree) of your choice. Example (linux):

```
unzip oberdiek.tds.zip -d ~/texmf
```

Script installation. Check the directory `TDS:scripts/oberdiek/` for scripts that need further installation steps. Package `attachfile2` comes with the Perl script `pdfatfi.pl` that should be installed in such a way that it can be called as `pdfatfi`. Example (linux):

```
chmod +x scripts/oberdiek/pdfatfi.pl
cp scripts/oberdiek/pdfatfi.pl /usr/local/bin/
```

5.3 Package installation

Unpacking. The `.dtx` file is a self-extracting `docstrip` archive. The files are extracted by running the `.dtx` through plain `TEX`:

```
tex alphalph.dtx
```

TDS. Now the different files must be moved into the different directories in your installation TDS tree (also known as `texmf` tree):

<code>alphalph.sty</code>	→ <code>tex/generic/oberdiek/alphalph.sty</code>
<code>alphalph.pdf</code>	→ <code>doc/latex/oberdiek/alphalph.pdf</code>
<code>test/alphalph-test1.tex</code>	→ <code>doc/latex/oberdiek/test/alphalph-test1.tex</code>
<code>test/alphalph-test2.tex</code>	→ <code>doc/latex/oberdiek/test/alphalph-test2.tex</code>
<code>test/alphalph-test3.tex</code>	→ <code>doc/latex/oberdiek/test/alphalph-test3.tex</code>
<code>alphalph.dtx</code>	→ <code>source/latex/oberdiek/alphalph.dtx</code>

If you have a `docstrip.cfg` that configures and enables `docstrip`'s TDS installing feature, then some files can already be in the right place, see the documentation of `docstrip`.

5.4 Refresh file name databases

If your `TEX` distribution (te`TEX`, mi`TEX`, ...) relies on file name databases, you must refresh these. For example, te`TEX` users run `texhash` or `mktextlsr`.

5.5 Some details for the interested

Attached source. The PDF documentation on CTAN also includes the `.dtx` source file. It can be extracted by AcrobatReader 6 or higher. Another option is `pdftk`, e.g. unpack the file into the current directory:

```
pdftk alphalph.pdf unpack_files output .
```

Unpacking with L^AT_EX. The `.dtx` chooses its action depending on the format:

plain T_EX: Run `docstrip` and extract the files.

L^AT_EX: Generate the documentation.

If you insist on using L^AT_EX for `docstrip` (really, `docstrip` does not need L^AT_EX), then inform the autodetect routine about your intention:

```
latex \let\install=y\input{alphalph.dtx}
```

Do not forget to quote the argument according to the demands of your shell.

Generating the documentation. You can use both the `.dtx` or the `.drv` to generate the documentation. The process can be configured by the configuration file `ltxdoc.cfg`. For instance, put this line into this file, if you want to have A4 as paper format:

```
\PassOptionsToClass{a4paper}{article}
```

An example follows how to generate the documentation with pdfL^AT_EX:

```
pdflatex alphalph.dtx
makeindex -s gind.ist alphalph.idx
pdflatex alphalph.dtx
makeindex -s gind.ist alphalph.idx
pdflatex alphalph.dtx
```

6 History

[1999/03/19 v0.1]

- The first version was built as a response to a [question](#)² of Will Douglas³ and the [request](#)⁴ of Donald Arsenau⁵, published in the newsgroup [comp.text.tex](#): “Re: alph counters > 26”⁶
- Copyright: LPPL ([CTAN:macros/latex/base/lppl.txt](#))

[1999/04/12 v1.0]

- Documentation added in dtx format.
- ε -T_EX support added.

[1999/04/13 v1.1]

- Minor documentation change.
- First CTAN release.

[1999/06/26 v1.2]

- First generic code about `\ProvidesPackage` improved.
- Documentation: Installation part revised.

[2006/02/20 v1.3]

- Reload check (for plain T_EX)
- New DTX framework.
- LPPL 1.3

[2006/05/30 v1.4]

- `\newalphalph` added.

[2007/04/11 v1.5]

- Line ends sanitized.

²Url: <http://groups.google.com/group/comp.text.tex/msg/17a74cd721641038>

³Will Douglas’s email address: william.douglas@wolfson.ox.ac.uk

⁴Url: <http://groups.google.com/group/comp.text.tex/msg/8f9768825640315f>

⁵Donald Arsenau’s email address: asnd@reg.triumf.ca

⁶Url: <http://groups.google.com/group/comp.text.tex/msg/cec563eef8bf65d0>

[2007/09/09 v2.0]

- New implementation that uses package `\intcalc`. This removes the dependency on ϵ -TeX.
- `\newalphalph` is extended to support new methods ‘wrap’ and ‘multi’.
- Documentation rewritten.

[2008/08/11 v2.1]

- Code is not changed.
- URLs updated from `www.dejanews.com` to `groups.google.com`.

[2010/03/01 v2.2]

- Compatibility with ini-TeX.

[2010/04/18 v2.3]

- Documentation fixes (Martin Münch).

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Numbers written in *italic* refer to the page where the corresponding entry is described; numbers underlined refer to the code line of the definition; plain numbers refer to the code lines where the entry is used.

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