

The `mleftright` package

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Abstract

\TeX sets subformulas by `\left` and `\right` as inner formulas with additional surrounding spaces in some situations. This package provides `\mleft` and `\mright` that call `\left` and `\right`, but the delimiters will act as normal `\mathopen` and `\mathclose` delimiters without the additional space of an inner formula.

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1 Documentation

The package is a result of a thread in the newsgroup `comp.text.tex` with the subject *spacing after \right) and before \left)* [1]. The problem: `\left` and `\right` adjust the size of the delimiters automatically. However, \TeX treats the whole expression as inner formula. In some circumstances \TeX adds extra space before or after an inner formula. Example:

```
$\sin(x^2), x$          ⇒ sin( $x^2$ ), x
$\sin\left(x^2\right), x$  ⇒ sin ( $x^2$ ), x
$\sin\mleft(x^2\mright), x$ ⇒ sin( $x^2$ ), x
(\mleft and \mright are provided by this package.)
```

In the newsgroup Donald Arseneau answered with clever macros [2]:

```
\newcommand{\lft}{\mathopen{}\left}
\newcommand{\rgt}{\aftergroup\mathclose\aftergroup\right}
```

However one problem remains, a following subscript or superscript is not applied to the right delimiter but the empty `\mathclose`. Thus Philipp Stephani provided an improvement [3]:

```
\mathopen{} \mathclose{\left\| A^2 \right\|_2}
```

Heiko Oberdiek converted this into macro form [4]:

```
\newcommand{\lft}{\mathopen{}\mathclose\bgroup\left}
\newcommand{\rgt}{\aftergroup\egroup\right}
```

The package uses longer macro names `\mleft` and `\mright` to avoid name clashes. Also it adds some checks for error conditions.

1.1 Use

```
\mleft<delimL> ... \mright<delimR>
```

Macros `\mleft` and `\mright` are used in the same way as `\left` and `\right`. Also `\middle` can be used inbetween if ε - TEX is present.

```
\mleftright
```

Macro `\mleftright` redefines `\left` as `\mleft` and `\right` as `\mright`. The redefinition is local to the group.

```
\mleftrightrestore
```

Macro `\mleftright` restores `\left` and `\right` with the original meaning if they were previously redefined by `\mleftright` (also locally).

2 Implementation

```
1 (*package)
```

Reload check, especially if the package is not used with 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@mleftright.sty\endcsname
15  \ifx\x\relax % plain- $\text{TeX}$ , first loading
16  \else
17    \def\empty{}%
18    \ifx\x\empty %  $\text{LaTeX}$ , 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{\mleftright}{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@mleftright.sty\endcsname
67 \ProvidesPackage{mleftright}%
68 [2010/09/25 v1.0 Usual delimiter spacing with left and right (HO)]%
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 mleftright@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\mleftright@AtEnd{%
96     \mleftright@AtEnd
97     \catcode#1=\the\catcode#1\relax
98   }%
99   \catcode#1=#2\relax
100 }%
101 \TMP@EnsureCode{38}{4} &
102 \TMP@EnsureCode{39}{12} ,
103 \TMP@EnsureCode{40}{12} ( 
104 \TMP@EnsureCode{41}{12} )
105 \TMP@EnsureCode{42}{12} *
106 \TMP@EnsureCode{43}{12} +
107 \TMP@EnsureCode{44}{12} ,
108 \TMP@EnsureCode{45}{12} -
109 \TMP@EnsureCode{46}{12} .
110 \TMP@EnsureCode{47}{12} /
111 \TMP@EnsureCode{60}{12} <
112 \TMP@EnsureCode{91}{12} [
113 \TMP@EnsureCode{93}{12} ]
114 \edef\mleftright@AtEnd{%
115   \mleftright@AtEnd
116   \escapechar\the\escapechar\relax
117   \noexpand\endinput
118 }%
119 \escapechar=92 %

120 \begingroup\expandafter\expandafter\expandafter\endgroup
121 \expandafter\ifx\csname RequirePackage\endcsname\relax
122   \input infwarerr.sty\relax
123   \input ltxcmds.sty\relax
124 \else
125   \RequirePackage{infwarerr}[2010/04/08]%
126   \RequirePackage{ltxcmds}[2010/04/26]%
127 \fi

The original commands \left and \right are saved and later used in \mleft
and \mright in order to deal with:
\let\left\mleft
\let\right\mright

\mleftright@OrgLeft
128 \let\mleftright@OrgLeft\left

\mleftright@OrgRight
129 \let\mleftright@OrgRight\right

\mleftright@Def Macro \mleftright@Def defines a macro as robust macro if  $\varepsilon$ - $\text{\TeX}$  or  $\text{\LaTeX}$  is
available.
130 \ltx@ifundefined{protected}{%
131   \ltx@ifundefined{DeclareRobustCommand}{%

```

```

132      \def\mleftright@Def{\def}%
133  }{%
134      \def\mleftright@Def{\ DeclareRobustCommand*}%
135  }%
136 }{%
137      \def\mleftright@Def{\protected\def}%
138 }
139 \edef\mleftright@Def#1{%
140     \noexpand\ltx@ifundefined{%
141         \noexpand\expandafter\noexpand\ltx@gobble\noexpand\string#1}%
142 }{%
143     \expandafter\noexpand\mleftright@Def#1%
144 }{%
145     \noexpand\@PackageError{mleftright}{%
146         Command \noexpand\string#1 already defined%
147     }\noexpand\@ehd%
148     \noexpand\ltx@gobble
149 }%
150 }

```

In case of ε -TeX the group status after the left symbol is saved and later checked at the beginning of \mrigh .

```

151 \ltx@ifundefined{currentgrouplevel}{%
152     \catcode38=14 % & = comment
153 }{%
154     \catcode38=9 % & = ignore_
155 }

```

$\mleftright@GroupLevel$

```
156 & \def\mleftright@GroupLevel{-1}{%
```

$\mleftright@WrongGroup$

```

157 & \def\mleftright@WrongGroup#1(#2){%
158 &     \ifnum\mleftright@GroupLevel<\ltx@zero
159 &         \@PackageError{mleftright}{%
160 &             Missing previous \string\mleft
161 &         }\@ehc
162 &     \else
163 &         \@PackageError{mleftright}{%
164 &             Unexpected group status for \string\mrigh%
165 &             \ifnum\mleftright@GroupLevel=#1 %
166 &             \else
167 &                 .\MessageBreak
168 &                 Group level is #1, %
169 &                 expected is \mleftright@GroupLevel
170 &             \fi
171 &             \ifnum16=#2 %
172 &             \else
173 &                 .\MessageBreak
174 &                 Group type is #2 (%
175 &                 \ifcase#2 %
176 &                     bottom level%
177 &                     \expandafter\expandafter\expandafter\ltx@gobblefour
178 &                     \expandafter\ltx@gobbletwo
179 &                     \or simple%
180 &                     \or hbox%
181 &                     \or adjusted hbox%
182 &                     \or vbox%
183 &                     \or vtop%
184 &                     \or align%
185 &                     \or no align%
186 &                     \or output%

```

```

187 &      \or math%
188 &      \or disc%
189 &      \or insert%
190 &      \or vcenter%
191 &      \or math choice%
192 &      \or semi simple%
193 &      \or math shift%
194 &      \or math left%
195 &      \else
196 &          unknown%
197 &      \fi
198 &      \space group),\MessageBreak
199 &      expected is 16 (math left group)%
200 &      \fi
201 &  }@\ehd
202 &  \fi
203 & }%

```

\mleft

```

204 \mleftright@Def\mleft{%
205   \mathopen{}\mathclose{}\bgroup
206 & \edef\mleftright@GroupLevel{\the\numexpr\the\currentgrouplevel+1}%
207   \mleftright@OrgLeft
208 }

```

\mright

```

209 \mleftright@Def\mright{%
210 & \ifnum\mleftright@GroupLevel=\currentgrouplevel
211 &   \ifnum16=\currentgrouptype
212     \aftergroup\egroup
213 &   \else
214     \expandafter\mleftright@WrongGroup
215     \the\expandafter\currentgrouplevel
216     \expandafter(\the\currentgrouptype)%
217 &   \fi
218 & \else
219 &   \expandafter\mleftright@WrongGroup
220 &   \the\expandafter\currentgrouplevel
221 &   \expandafter(\the\currentgrouptype)%
222 & \fi
223   \mleftright@OrgRight
224 }

```

\mleftright

```

225 \mleftright@Def\mleftright{%
226   \let\left\mleft
227   \let\right\mright
228 }

```

\mleftrightrestore

```

229 \mleftright@Def\mleftrightrestore{%
230   \ifx\left\mleft
231     \let\left\mleftright@OrgLeft
232   \fi
233   \ifx\right\mright
234     \let\right\mleftright@OrgRight
235   \fi
236 }

237 \mleftright@AtEnd%
238 
```

3 Test

3.1 Catcode checks for loading

```
239 {*test1}
240 \catcode`\f=1 %
241 \catcode`\}=2 %
242 \catcode`\#=6 %
243 \catcode`\@=11 %
244 \expandafter\ifx\csname count@\endcsname\relax
245   \countdef\count@=255 %
246 \fi
247 \expandafter\ifx\csname @gobble\endcsname\relax
248   \long\def\@gobble#1{}%
249 \fi
250 \expandafter\ifx\csname @firstofone\endcsname\relax
251   \long\def\@firstofone#1{#1}%
252 \fi
253 \expandafter\ifx\csname loop\endcsname\relax
254   \expandafter\@firstofone
255 \else
256   \expandafter\@gobble
257 \fi
258 {%
259   \def\loop#1\repeat{%
260     \def\body{#1}%
261     \iterate
262   }%
263   \def\iterate{%
264     \body
265     \let\next\iterate
266   \else
267     \let\next\relax
268   \fi
269   \next
270 }%
271   \let\repeat=\fi
272 }%
273 \def\RestoreCatcodes{}
274 \count@=0 %
275 \loop
276   \edef\RestoreCatcodes{%
277     \RestoreCatcodes
278     \catcode\the\count@=\the\catcode\count@\relax
279   }%
280 \ifnum\count@<255 %
281   \advance\count@ 1 %
282 \repeat
283
284 \def\RangeCatcodeInvalid#1#2{%
285   \count@=#1\relax
286   \loop
287     \catcode\count@=15 %
288   \ifnum\count@<#2\relax
289     \advance\count@ 1 %
290   \repeat
291 }
292 \def\RangeCatcodeCheck#1#2#3{%
293   \count@=#1\relax
294   \loop
295     \ifnum#3=\catcode\count@
296   \else
```

```

297      \errmessage{%
298      Character \the\count@space
299      with wrong catcode \the\catcode\count@space
300      instead of \number#3%
301      }%
302      \fi
303  \ifnum\count@<#2\relax
304      \advance\count@ 1 %
305  \repeat
306 }
307 \def\space{ }
308 \expandafter\ifx\csname LoadCommand\endcsname\relax
309   \def\LoadCommand{\input mleftright.sty\relax}%
310 \fi
311 \def\Test{%
312   \RangeCatcodeInvalid{0}{47}%
313   \RangeCatcodeInvalid{58}{64}%
314   \RangeCatcodeInvalid{91}{96}%
315   \RangeCatcodeInvalid{123}{255}%
316   \catcode`\@=12 %
317   \catcode`\|=0 %
318   \catcode`\%=14 %
319   \LoadCommand
320   \RangeCatcodeCheck{0}{36}{15}%
321   \RangeCatcodeCheck{37}{37}{14}%
322   \RangeCatcodeCheck{38}{47}{15}%
323   \RangeCatcodeCheck{48}{57}{12}%
324   \RangeCatcodeCheck{58}{63}{15}%
325   \RangeCatcodeCheck{64}{64}{12}%
326   \RangeCatcodeCheck{65}{90}{11}%
327   \RangeCatcodeCheck{91}{91}{15}%
328   \RangeCatcodeCheck{92}{92}{0}%
329   \RangeCatcodeCheck{93}{96}{15}%
330   \RangeCatcodeCheck{97}{122}{11}%
331   \RangeCatcodeCheck{123}{255}{15}%
332   \RestoreCatcodes
333 }
334 \Test
335 \csname @@end\endcsname
336 \end
337 </test1>

```

4 Installation

4.1 Download

Package. This package is available on CTAN¹:

CTAN:macros/latex/contrib/oberdiek/mleftright.dtx The source file.

CTAN:macros/latex/contrib/oberdiek/mleftright.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[ftp://ftp.ctan.org/tex-archive/](http://ftp.ctan.org/tex-archive/)

4.2 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 `TDSScripts/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/
```

4.3 Package installation

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

```
tex mletright.dtx
```

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

<code>mletright.sty</code>	→ <code>tex/generic/oberdiek/mletright.sty</code>
<code>mletright.pdf</code>	→ <code>doc/latex/oberdiek/mletright.pdf</code>
<code>test/mletright-test1.tex</code>	→ <code>doc/latex/oberdiek/test/mletright-test1.tex</code>
<code>mletright.dtx</code>	→ <code>source/latex/oberdiek/mletright.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`.

4.4 Refresh file name databases

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

4.5 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 mletright.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{mletright.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 mletright.dtx
makeindex -s gind.ist mletright.idx
pdflatex mletright.dtx
makeindex -s gind.ist mletright.idx
pdflatex mletright.dtx
```

5 Acknowledgement

Donald Arseneau: He provided the main trick and the first macros.

Philipp Stephani: He solved the subscript problem.

6 References

- [1] Dave94705, *spacing after \right) and before \left)*, newsgroup comp.text.tex, Message-ID:
5d264909-7c3d-4c9d-9b22-434178b2bf90@g21g2000prn.googlegroups.com, 2010-08-12.
<http://groups.google.com/group/comp.text.tex/msg/e5b6833da7dc29bf>
- [2] Donald Arseneau, *Re: spacing after \right) and before \left)*, newsgroup comp.text.tex, Message-ID: yfivd6svl8y.fsf@mutant.triumf.ca, 2010-08-30.
<http://groups.google.com/group/comp.text.tex/msg/e0b2e4386e5d04e4>
- [3] Philipp Stephani, *Re: spacing after \right) and before \left)*, newsgroup comp.text.tex, Message-ID:
4c8c8c1e\$0\$6981\$9b4e6d93@newspool4.arcor-online.net, 2010-09-12.
<http://groups.google.com/group/comp.text.tex/msg/87ac1f61321de3ef>
- [4] Heiko Oberdiek, *Re: spacing after \right) and before \left)*, newsgroup comp.text.tex, Message-ID: i6jcc2\$8of\$1@news. eternal-september.org, 2010-09-12.
<http://groups.google.com/group/comp.text.tex/msg/257aa6119bef878b>

7 History

[2010/09/25 v1.0]

- The first version.

8 Index

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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