The \texttt{ifthen} package∗

David Carlisle

1999/01/07

Abstract

This file implements an \texttt{ifthenelse} command for \LaTeX. The algorithm used is compatible with that used in the \LaTeX\ 2.09 \texttt{ifthen} style option. It has been recoded, making the resulting definitions somewhat more compact and efficient.

1 Introduction

\texttt{\ifthenelse\{⟨test⟩\}\{⟨then clause⟩\}\{⟨else clause⟩\}}

Evaluates \texttt{⟨test⟩} as a boolean function, and then executes either \texttt{⟨then clause⟩} or \texttt{⟨else clause⟩}.

\texttt{⟨test⟩} is a boolean expression using the infix connectives, \texttt{\&}, \texttt{\lor}, the unary \texttt{\neg} and parentheses \texttt{⟨⟩}.

The atomic propositions are:
\begin{itemize}
  \item \texttt{⟨number⟩} < \texttt{⟨number⟩}
  \item \texttt{⟨number⟩} = \texttt{⟨number⟩}
  \item \texttt{⟨number⟩} > \texttt{⟨number⟩}
  \item \texttt{isodd}\{⟨number⟩\}
  \item \texttt{isundefined}\{⟨command name⟩\}
  \item \texttt{equal}\{⟨string⟩\}\{⟨string⟩\}
  \item \texttt{lengthtest}\{⟨dimen⟩\}<\{⟨dimen⟩\}
  \item \texttt{lengthtest}\{⟨dimen⟩\}=\{⟨dimen⟩\}
  \item \texttt{lengthtest}\{⟨dimen⟩\}>\{⟨dimen⟩\}
  \item \texttt{boolean}\{⟨name⟩\}
\end{itemize}

The \texttt{⟨string⟩}s tested by \texttt{\equal} may be any sequence of commands that expand to a list of tokens. If these expansions are equal, then the proposition is true.

\texttt{\isodd} is true if the \texttt{⟨number⟩} is odd, and false otherwise (even if the argument is not a number).

\texttt{\isundefined\{⟨cmd⟩\}} is true if \texttt{⟨cmd⟩} is not defined.

\texttt{\boolean\{xyz\}} returns the truth value contained in the primitive \TeX\ \texttt{\if}, \texttt{\ifxyz}. This is usually used with boolean flags created with \texttt{\newboolean} and \texttt{\provideboolean} described below. It can also be used with the names of \texttt{\newif} created tokens, and primitive \TeX\ \texttt{\if} constructs, for example \texttt{\boolean\{true\}} (\texttt{\iftrue}), \texttt{\boolean\{mmod\}} (\texttt{\ifmmod}) etc.

The commands:
\texttt{\newboolean\{⟨name⟩\}} and \texttt{\provideboolean\{⟨name⟩\}} are provided so the user

∗This file has version number v1.1a, last revised 1999/01/07.
can easily create new boolean flags. As for \newcommand, \newboolean generates an error if the command name is not new. \provideboolean silently does nothing in that case.

The boolean flags may be set with:

\setboolean\setboolean{⟨name⟩}{⟨value⟩}
⟨value⟩ may be either true or false (any CaSe).

Note that there is no precedence between \and and \or. The proposition is evaluated in a left right manner. \not only applies to the immediately following proposition. (This is consistent with Lamport’s ifthen.sty.) In this style, though the test is ‘lazily’ evaluated, so for instance if the first proposition in an \or is true, the second one is skipped. (On the second pass—the first pass in an \edef expands clauses in all propositions.)

Apart from the addition of the extra atomic propositions \isodd, \boolean, \lengthtest and \isundefined, the only known incompatibility is that in this package the expression \not\not⟨P⟩ is equivalent to ⟨P⟩. However in the original style it was equivalent to \not⟨P⟩. This is intentional (bug fix:-).

The command \whiledo is also defined (copied directly from the \LaTeX2.09 definition).

\whiledo{⟨test⟩}{⟨while clause⟩}

With ⟨test⟩ as above, repeatedly executes ⟨while clause⟩ while the test remains true.

2 The Implementation

\TE@throw In order to support the syntax of ifthen.sty, which allows access to the primitive \TeX syntax for a numeric test, rather than a { } delimited argument form, it is most convenient to work ‘within’ an \ifnum. \ift@throw ‘throws’ you out of the current \ifnum so that you can (eg) start an \ifdim for the length tests.

\def\TE@throw{\@ne=\@ne\noexpand\fi}

\boolean A non-standard extension to ifthen, supporting boolean was previously available, this is a simpler implementation.

\def\boolean#1#2{\TE@throw\expandafter\noexpand\csname if#1\endcsname#2}

\TE@length Testing lengths. #1 is the test. The extra argument gobbles spaces.

\def\TE@length#1#2{\TE@throw\expandafter\noexpand\csname if#1\endcsname ifdim#1#2}

\TE@odd Testing odd/even. This is true if #1 is an odd number, and false otherwise (even if #1 is not a number at all).

It is hard to make this completely reliable. Here I have errored on the side of safety. This should not generate a \TeX error if given any robust commands as its argument. However it returns true on any argument that starts with an odd number 11xx which is bad, and it can not deal with \TeX’s count registers, although \LaTeX counters work (via \value).

\def\TE@odd#1{\TE@throw\noexpand\TE@odd\noexpand\TE@odd\@nil\noexpand\ifodd\noexpand\count#2}
\TE@odd is not expanded on the first pass.
8 \def\TE@odd#1#2\@nil{\@defaultunits
9  \count0\if-#1-0\else0\expandafter#1\fi#2\relax\@nnil}
\TE@repl \TE@repl replaces the single token #1 by #2. (Not within { } groups.) It is used to replace \texttt{or} by \TE@or without the need to redefine \texttt{or}. Earlier versions just \texttt{\textbackslash let\textbackslash TE\textbackslash or} but this has a bad effect on the expansion of commands which use the primitive \texttt{or} internally, eg \texttt{\textbackslash alph}, and so caused surprising results if these commands were used inside \texttt{\textbackslash equal}.
11 \def\TE@repl#1#2{\long\def\@tempc##1#1##2{\def\@tempa{##2}\def\@tempb{\@tempc}\
12  \ifx\@tempa\@tempb
13    \toks@\expandafter{\the\toks@##1}\
14    \expandafter\@gobble
15  \else
16    \toks@\expandafter{\the\toks@##1#2}\
17    \expandafter\@tempc
18  \fi
19  ##2}\
20  \expandafter\toks@\expandafter{\expandafter}\
21  \expandafter\@tempc\the\toks@#1\@tempc}\
\ifthenelse The remaining macros in this file are derived from the ones in \texttt{ifthen.sty} but recoded and simplified. The main simplification is that the original style (and the \texttt{\textbackslash boolean} extensions) expressed logical values always in terms of \texttt{\textbackslash ifnum}. As \texttt{\textbackslash fi} is ‘untyped’ this is not necessary, so for example the length tests can return values via \texttt{\textbackslash ifdim}, the trailing \texttt{\textbackslash fi} will not complain, even though it was ‘expecting’ an \texttt{\textbackslash ifnum}. Also the system of passing information via macros expanding to \texttt{T} or \texttt{F} has been completely replaced by a simpler system using \texttt{\textbackslash iftrue}, which furthermore allows lazy evaluation on the second pass.
24 \long\def\ifthenelse#1{\toks@{#1}\
25  \TE@repl\or\TE@or
26  \TE@repl\and\TE@and
27  \TE@repl\not\TE@neg
28  \TE@repl\not\TE@neg
\begin{group}
\let\protect\@unexpandable@protect
\def\@setref##1##2##3{\ifx##1\relax\z@\else\expandafter##2##1\fi}
\def\value##1{\the\csname c@##1\endcsname}
\let\equal\TE@equal \let\(\TE@lparen \let\)\TE@rparen
\let\isodd\TE@odd \let\lengthtest\TE@length
\let\isundefined\TE@undef
For the first pass, in a group, make various tokens non-expandable.
3
It is unfortunate that in order to remain compatible with *ifthen* syntax, it is necessary to have a two pass system. The first pass inside an `\edef` ‘exposes’ the `\if... \fi` tokens, so the correct clauses may be skipped on the second pass. This means that the whole `\ifthenelse` command does not work by expansion, and so possibly has only limited usefulness for macro code writers. The main problem with the *ifthen* syntax is that (unique for LaTeX) it does not use a brace delimited argument form, and exposes the primitive `\ifnum` for ⟨number⟩. Pretty much the only way of parsing `1 > 2 \or 2 < 1` is to actually evaluate the primitive `\ifnum`. A syntax such as:

```
\or{\numtest{1<2}}{\lengthtest{1pt<1in}}
```

could easily be evaluated in a one pass way, operating directly via expansion, and leaving no extra tokens in the token stream.

Still, on with the code... make `\@tempa` and `\@tempb` tokens non-expandable on the first pass.

```latex
\begingroup
\let\@tempa\relax\let\@tempb\relax
\xdef\@gtempa{\expandafter\TE@eval\the\toks@\TE@endeval}%
\endgroup
```

Now outside the group, execute `\@gtempa` which causes all the `\if`s etc., to be evaluated, the final truth value is contained in the `\newif` token `\ifTE@val`. Finally this is tested and either the first or second following argument is chosen accordingly.

```latex
\@gtempa
\expandafter\endgroup\ifTE@val
\expandafter\@firstoftwo
\else
\expandafter\@secondoftwo
\fi}
```

\TE@eval Initialise a term. (Expanded on the first pass).
\ifTE@negate Two `\newif`s the first holds the current truth value of the expression. The second is a temporary flag which is true if we need to negate the current proposition.
\ifTE@val
\newif\ifTE@val
\newif\ifTE@negate
\TE@endeval Finalise a term. (Expanded on the first pass).
\TE@setvaltrue Set the `\ifTE@val` to true or false depending on the value of the current proposition, and the negate flag. (Not expanded on the first pass.)
\TE@setvalfalse

```
```

47 \def\TE@eval{\noexpand\TE@negatetrue\noexpand\iftrue\noexpand\ifnum}
The internal version of \texttt{or}. Ends the current term. If true skip the remaining terms.
\begin{verbatim}
\def\TE@or{\TE@andeval\noexpand\ifTE@val
\noexpand\else
\noexpand\ifnum}
\end{verbatim}

The internal version of \texttt{and}. If false skip the remaining terms.
\begin{verbatim}
\def\TE@and{\TE@andeval\noexpand\ifTE@val\noexpand\ifnum}
\end{verbatim}

\texttt{not}. Throw the current context, set a negate flag, then restart the \texttt{ifnum}.
\begin{verbatim}
\def\TE@neg{\TE@throw\noexpand\TE@negswitch\noexpand\ifnum}
\end{verbatim}

is not expanded on the first pass.
\begin{verbatim}
\def\TE@negswitch{\ifTE@negate\TE@negatefalse\else\TE@negatetrue\fi}
\end{verbatim}

\texttt{.} Throw the current context, then restart a term inside a group.
\begin{verbatim}
\def\TE@lparen#1{\TE@throw\begingroup\TE@eval#1}
\end{verbatim}

end the current term, and the local group started by \texttt{.}, but pass on the boolean value in \texttt{if\@val T}. The \texttt{noexpand} stops the \texttt{expandafter} from expanding on the first pass.
\begin{verbatim}
\def\TE@rparen#1{\TE@endeval
\noexpand\expandafter\endgroup
\noexpand\ifTE@val#1}
\end{verbatim}

greatly simplified from the original. \texttt{def} may be used rather than \texttt{edef}
as the whole thing is expanded anyway in the first pass. The boolean can be directly encoded with the \texttt{ifx}, there is no need to start an equivalent \texttt{ifnum}.
\begin{verbatim}
\long\def\TE@equal#1#2#3{\TE@throw
\def\@tempa{#1}\def\@tempb{#2}\
\noexpand\ifx\@tempa\@tempb#3}
\end{verbatim}

\texttt{true} or \texttt{false}, as \#2, and sets \#1 accordingly.
\begin{verbatim}
\def\setboolean#1#2{\
\lowercase{\def\@tempa{#2}}\
\@ifundefined{@tempswa\@tempa}\
{\PackageError{ifthen}{You can only set a boolean to 'true' or 'false'}\@ehc}
{\ifundefined{#1\@tempa}\
{\PackageError{ifthen}{Boolean #1 undefined}\@ehc}
{\csname#1\@tempa\endcsname}}}
\end{verbatim}

Define a new ‘boolean’.
\begin{verbatim}
\def\newboolean#1{\
\expandafter\@ifdefinable\csname if#1\endcsname{\
\expandafter\newif\csname if#1\endcsname}}
\end{verbatim}

Define a new ‘boolean’ if it is not already defined.
\begin{verbatim}
\def\provideboolean#1{\
\expandafter\@ifdefinable\csname if#1\endcsname if#1\endcsname{\
\expandafter\newif\csname if#1\endcsname\relax}}
\end{verbatim}

\texttt{\whiledo \whiledo copied directly from the original.}
\begin{verbatim}
\whiledo{\texttt{(test)}}{\texttt{(body)}}
\end{verbatim}
repeatedly evaluates \texttt{(body)} until \texttt{(test)} is true.
\long\def\whiledo#1#2{\%\ifthenelse{#1}{\@whiledotrue\@whilesw\if@whiledo\fi\{#2\\ifthenelse{#1}{\@whiledotrue\@whiledofalse}}{{}\}\if@whiledo\fi\TE@undef test if csname is defined. \ifx test.\def\TE@undef#1#2{\TE@throw\noexpand\ifx\noexpand\@undefined\noexpand#1#2}\if@whiledo Internal switch for \whiledo.\newif\if@whiledo\newif\if@whiledo\if@whiledo\newif\if@whiledo\-package