niceverb.sty

Minimizing Markup for Documenting LATEX packages*

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Abstract

niceverb.sty provides very decent syntax (through active characters) for describing \LaTeX packages and the syntax of macros conforming to \LaTeX syntax conventions.

 $\mathbf{Keywords:}\;\;$ literate programming, syntactic sugar, .txt to .tex enhancement, macro programming

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Presenting niceverb 1

1.1 Purpose

The niceverb package provides "minimal" markup for documenting LATEX packages, reducing the number of keystrokes/visible characters needed (kind of poor man's WYSIWYG). It conveniently handles command names in arguments of macros such as \footnote or even of sectioning commands. If you use makedoc.sty additionally, commands for typesetting a package's code are inserted automatically (just using T_EX). As opposed to tools that are rather common on UNIX/Linux, this operation should work at any T_FX installation, irrespective of platform.

Both packages may at least be useful while working at a very new package and may suffice with small, simple packages. After having edited your package's code (typically in a .sty file—\(\langle jobname \rangle .sty \rangle), you just "latex" the manual file (maybe some .tex file— $\langle jobname \rangle$.tex) and get instantly the corresponding updated documentation.

niceverb and makedoc may also help to generate without much effort documentations of nowadays commonly expected typographical quality for packages that so far only had plain text documentations.

1.2Acknowledgement/Basic Ideas

Four ideas of Stephan I. Böttcher's in documenting his lineno inspired the present work:

- 1. The markup and its definitions are short and simple, markup commands are placed at the right "margin" of the ASCII file, so you hardly see them in reading the source file, you rather just read the text that will be printed.
- 2. An awk script removes the %s starting documentation lines and inserts the commands for typesetting the package's code (you don't see these commands in the source).²

^{1 &}quot;What you see is what you get." Novices are always warned that WYSIWYG is essentially

- 3. An active character ('1') issues a \string and switches to typewriter typeface for typesetting a command verbatim—so this works without changing category codes (which is the usual idea of typesetting code), therefore it works even in macro arguments.
- 4. '<meta-variable>' produces '(meta-variable)'. ('\lessthan' stores the original '<'.)

1.3 The Commands and Features of niceverb

Actually, it is the main purpose of niceverb to save you from "commands" ... Single quotes ', ', "less than" < (accompanied with >), the "vertical" |, the hash mark #, ampersand &, and in an extended "auto mode" even backslash \ become \active characters with "special effects."

The package mainly aims at typesetting commands and descriptions of their syntax if the latter is "standard \LaTeX TEX-like", using "meta-variables." A string to be typeset "verbatim" thus is assumed to start with a single command like \foo, maybe followed by stars ('*') and pairs of square brackets (' $\lceil \langle opt-arg \rangle \rceil$ ') or curly braces (' $\lceil \langle mand-arg \rangle \rceil$ '), where those pairs contain strings indicating the typical kinds of contents for the respective arguments of that command. A typical example is this:

$$\lceil (opt-arg) \rceil \{\langle mand-arg \rangle \}$$

This was achieved by typing

In "auto mode" of the package, even typing

would have sufficed—WYSIWYG! I call such mixtures of verbatim and "meta-variables" 'meta-code'.

Outside macro arguments, you obtain the same by typing

Details:

"Meta-variables:" The package supports the "angle brackets" style of "meta-variables" (as with $\langle meta-variable \rangle$). You just type ' $\langle bar \rangle$ ' to get ' $\langle bar \rangle$ '.

This works due to a sloppy variant \NVerb of \verb which doesn't care about possible ligatures and definitions of active characters. Instead, it assumes that the "verbatim" font doesn't contain ligatures anyway. \'\verb+<foo>+', by contrast, just yields '<foo>'.

Almost the same feature is offered by ltxguide.cls which formats the basic guides from the LATEX Project Team. The present feature, however, also works in plain text outside verbatim mode.

 $^{^3}$ On the other hand, \NVerb is more careful with niceverb's special characters.

Problems with this feature will typically arise when you try to typeset commands (and their syntax) in *macro arguments*—e.g.,

\footnote{'\bar' is a celebrated fake example!}

will try to execute \bar instead of typesetting it, giving an "undefined" error or so. \verb fails in the same situation, for the same reason. '&' (\footnote{&\bar\remaining\}}) or "auto mode" (see below) may then work better.⁴ More generally, the quoting feature still works in macro arguments in the sense that you then have to mark difficult characters with & (simply as short for \string). However, it still won't work with curly braces that don't follow a command name (such pairs of braces will simply get lost, single braces will give errors or so).

Double quotes and apostrophes should still work the usual way. For difficult cases, you can still use the standard \verb command from IATEX. To get usual single quotes, you can use their standard substitutes \lq and \rq, or for pairs of them, $\boxed{\qtat{\langle text\rangle}}$ in place of $\qtat{\langle text\rangle}$ vrq—or even $\qtat{\langle text\rangle}$. To get single quotes around some verbatim $\qtat{\langle verb\rangle}$, often $\qtat{\langle verb\rangle}$ works. It is for this reason that I have refrained from different solutions as in newverbs (so far).

v0.44 provides \addQuotes after which single quotes both turn their content into metacode and print single quotes around them automatically. This can be turned off again by \DontAddQuotes.

Single right quotes for \textsf: Package names are (by some convention I often yet not always see working) typeset with \textsf; it was natural to use a remaining case of using single quotes for abbreviating

$\text{textsf}\{\langle text \rangle\}$

by $\lceil \langle text \rangle \rceil$. This idea of switching fonts continues font switching of wiki.sty which uses the syntax for editing *Wikipedia* pages (font switching by sequences of right single quotes).

Verticals for setting-off command descriptions: $\lceil \langle code \rangle \rceil$ works like " $\langle code \rangle$ " except putting the result into a framed box (just as all around here)—or something else that you can achieve using some hooks described with the implementation. There are variants like $\lceil code \rceil \rceil$.

 $^{^4}$ \bar indeed!

Ampersand shows command syntax &c. even in arguments: E.g., type '&\foo{\arg\}' to get '\foo{\arg\}'. This may be even more convenient for typing than the single quotes method, although looking somewhat strange. However, in macro arguments this does not work with private letters (@ and _ here), for this case, use \c or \c or \c or \c or \c or \c

This choice of & rests on the assumption that there won't be many tables in the documenation. You can restore the usual meaning of & by \MakeNormal\& and turn the present special meaning on again by

\MakeActive\& or \MakeActiveLet\&\CmdSyntaxVerb

You could also redefine (\renewcommand) \descriptionlabel using \CmdSyntaxVerb (the "normal command" that is equivalent to &, its "permanent alias") so \item[\foo] works as wanted.

Another feature of niceverb's & is getting (some of the) special characters (as listed in the standard macro \dospecials) verbatim in arguments (where \verb and the like fail). It just acts similarly as TEX's primitive \string (which it actually invokes—cf. discussion on the left quote feature above).

"Auto mode" typesets commands verbatim unless ... In "auto mode," the backslash '\' is an active character that builds a command name from the ensuing letters and typesets the command (and its syntax, allowing meta-variables) verbatim. However, there are some exceptions, which are collected in a macro \niceverbNoVerbList. \begin, \end, and \item belong to this list, you can redefine (\renewcommand) it, or add \langle macros \rangle to it by \AddToNoVerbList}{\macros} There is also a command \NormalCommand{\letters\} instead of typesetting it. Since auto mode is somewhat dangerous, you have to start it explicitly by \AutoCmdSyntaxVerb. You can end it by \EndAutoCmdSyntaxVerb. \AutoCmdInput{\leftfile\}} is probably most important.

Auto mode is motivated by the observation that there are package files containing their documentation as pure (well-readable) ASCII text—containing the names of the new commands without any kind of quotation marks or verbatim commands. Auto mode should typeset such documentation just from the same ASCII text.

Hash mark '#' comes verbatim. No macro definitions are expected in the document environment.⁶ Rather, '#' is an active character for taking the next character (assuming it is a digit) to form a reference to a macro parameter—'#1' becomes '#1'-WYSIWYG indeed! (So the general syntax is $|\#\langle digit \rangle|$.)

⁵Moreover, & currently has a limited xspace functionality only.

 $^{^6\}mathrm{This}$ idea appeared 2009 on the LATEX-L mailing list. It may be wrong, as I have sometimes experienced . . .

Escaping from niceverb (generally). To get rid of the functionality of some active character $\langle char \rangle$ ('&', single quote, ampersand, hash mark—not "auto mode," see above) here, use \[\MakeNormal\\ \langle char \rangle \]—may be within a group. To revive it again, use \[\MakeActive\\ \langle char \rangle \] This may fail when a different package overtook the active $\langle char \rangle$ (but I expect more failures then), in this case \[\MakeActiveLet\\ \langle char \rangle \langle cperm-alias \rangle \] revives the niceverb meaning of $\langle char \rangle$ where $\langle char \rangle$ is the "permanent alias" for that active $\langle char \rangle$ according to the documentation below. E.g., \LQverb is the "permanent alias" for active single left quote, niceverb activates it by \MakeActiveLet\'\LQverb.—You can turn off niceverb syntax alltogether by \[\noNiceVerb \] and revive it by \[\noNiceVerb \] (without "auto mode").

Right Quotes: Disabling/reviving replacement of \textsf by single right quotes requires

\nvRightQuoteNormal or \nvRightQuoteSansSerif

respectively.

1.4 Examples

The file mdoccorr.cfg providing some .txt—ETEX functionality—i.e., typographical corrections—documents itself using niceverb syntax. Its code and the documentation that is typeset from it are in the 'examples' section of makedoc.pdf.—Moreover, the documentation niceverb.pdf of niceverb.sty was typeset from niceverb.tex and niceverb.sty using niceverb syntax, likewise fifinddo.pdf and makedoc.pdf. The example of niceverb shows the most frequent use of the & feature.

nicetext bundle release v0.4 contains a file substr.tex that should typeset the documentation of the version of Harald Harders' substr.sty⁷ that your TEX finds first, as well as arseneau.tex typesetting a few packages by Donald Arseneau. The outcomes (with me) are substr.pdf and arseneau.pdf. These are the first applications of niceverb's "auto mode" to (unmodified) third-party package files. (I also made a more ambitious documentation of Donald Arseneau's import.sty v3.0 before I found that CTAN already has a nicely typeset documentation of import.sty v5.2.)

1.5 What is Wrong with the Present Version

1. niceverb.sty should be an extension of wiki.sty; yet their font selection mechanisms are currently not compatible. Especially, the feature of

replacing $\text{textit}\{\langle text \rangle\}$ or $\text{emph}\{\langle text \rangle\}$ may be considered missing.

⁷http://ctan.org/pkg/substr

- 2. Font switching or horizontal spacing may fail in certain situations. You can correct spacing by '\□'.
- 3. The "vertical" character '|' produces inline boxes only at present. It might as well provide a version of the decl tabular environment of ltxguide.cls. The inline boxes badly deal with long command names and many arguments. Doubled verticals could ensure the decl mode. Moreover, such a box might issue an *index* entry.
- 4. One may have *opposite* ideas about using quotes—maybe rather " $\langle code \rangle$ " should typeset $\langle code \rangle$ verbatim. There might be a package option for this. If ordinary ''' $\langle text \rangle$ "' still should work, awful tricks as now with the right quote feature would be needed.
- 5. "auto mode" seems not to work in section titles. (2011/01/26)
- 6. Certain difficulties with type setting code in macro arguments may be overcome easily using ε -T_FX features, I need to find out . . .

2 Implementation of the Markup Syntax

```
\NeedsTeXFormat{LaTeX2e}[1994/12/01]
    \ProvidesPackage{niceverb}[2012/11/27 v0.51
3
                                minimize doc markup (UL)]
 4
    %% Copyright (C) 2009-2012 Uwe Lueck,
5
    %% http://www.contact-ednotes.sty.de.vu
    %% -- author-maintained in the sense of LPPL below --
    %%
    \% This file can be redistributed and/or modified under
9
    %% the terms of the LaTeX Project Public License; either
    %% version 1.3a of the License, or any later version.
    %% The latest version of this license is in
12
    %%
           http://www.latex-project.org/lppl.txt
13
    %% We did our best to help you, but there is NO WARRANTY.
14
    %%
15
    %% Please report bugs, problems, and suggestions via
16
17
    %%
    %%
         http://www.contact-ednotes.sty.de.vu
18
19
    %%
```

2.1 Switching Category Codes

Underscore as a "private letter," using stacklet with v0.5:

v0.3 introduced \AssignCatCodeTo and \MakeNormal. v0.5 abolishes the former again and uses actcodes for some part of \catcode switching:

21 \RequirePackage{actcodes}

- 22 \providecommand*{\CatCode}{\catcode'} %% \provi... 2012/08/27
- 23 % \newcommand*{\CatCode}[1]{\catcode'#1 } %% no better 2010/02/27

\CatCode is near to be moved into the catcodes bundle, and basic commands from stacklet and actcodes may be reimplemented using it (manycats; allcats for loading entire catcodes in good order).

 $\Lambda ssignCatCodeTo{\langle number \rangle} \{ \langle char \rangle \}$ no longer is considered useful (counted tokens in memory.tex) and replaced by $\Lambda catCode$.

% \newcommand*{\AssignCatCodeTo}[2]{\catcode'#2=#1\relax}

 $\$ is replaced by the stacklet package—I thought, but here it is also needed to declare the "private letters" of the package that is documented. This should be "variable." OK, the new (v0.5) \private_letters is a step towards this:

25 \newcommand*{\private_letters}{\CatCode\@11\CatCode_11\relax}

[\MakeOther\ $\langle char \rangle$] and [\MakeActive\ $\langle char \rangle$] were implemented here before v0.5, now they are in actcodes ...

26 % \def \MakeOther {\AssignCatCodeTo{12}}

[\MakeActiveLet\\\\char\\\\\\macromame\\]] likewise is in actcodes. niceverb takes a copy [\MakeActiveLetHere] of it for dealing with hyperref (see Section 2.11.3). hyperref-compatibility of mere \MakeActive is not provided any longer:

- 27 \@ifdefinable\MakeActiveLetHere{%
- 28 \let\MakeActiveLetHere\MakeActiveLet}

For restoring the usual category codes of TEX's special characters later, we store them now. (I.e., these characters are listed in the macro \dospecials that expands to

```
\do\\do\\do\\do\\do\\\do\\\
```

their category codes are 10, 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 14, 13 respectively; "end of line", "ignored", "letter", "other", and "invalid" are missing—cf. *T_EXbook* Chap. 7.)

- 29 \def\do#1{\expandafter
- 30 \chardef \csname normal_catcode_\string#1\expandafter \endcsname
- 31 \CatCode#1\relax}
- 32 \dospecials

Tests: "normal category code" of $\$ is 0, "normal category code" of $\$ is 3; "normal category code" of $\$ is 4.

⁸ MTEX's \nfss@catcodes is similar, but it makes space-like characters ignored. Also cf. ltfinal.dtx. TODO: \RestoreNormalCatcodes.

```
%% <- replaced 2009/04/05
34
  \label{lambda} \ saves you from remembering ...
    \newcommand*{\MakeNormal}[1]{%
      \@ifundefined{\norm_catc_str#1}%
36
                 {\MakeOther#1}%
37
                 {\CatCode#1\csname\norm_catc_str#1\endcsname\relax}}
38
    \newcommand*{\norm_catc_str}{normal_catcode_\string}
39
      \%\% TODO add ^{^{}}I and ^{^{}}M
40
      %% TODO save char tokens %% 2012/08/27
 We take a copy \MakeNormalHere of \MakeNormal as with \MakeActive.
    \@ifdefinable\MakeNormalHere{\let\MakeNormalHere\MakeNormal}
       Robustness by \IfTypesetting
 It seems we need some own ways to achieve various compatibilities—using
 \IfTypesetting\{\langle if \rangle\}\{\langle unless \rangle\}\. It also saves some \expandafters.
```

This \relax suppressed ligatures of single right quotes!

```
45 \ifx \protect\@typeset@protect
46 \expandafter \@firstoftwo
47 \else \expandafter \@secondoftwo \fi}
```

\providecommand*{\IfTypesetting}{%

\relax

2.3 \NVerb

\begin_min_verb is a beginning shared by some macros here. It begins like IATEX's \verb, apart from the final \tt.

```
48
    \newcommand*{\begin_min_verb}{%
      \relax \ifmmode \hbox \else \leavevmode\null \fi
49
      \bgroup \tt}
50
  \NVerb\langle char \rangle \langle code \rangle \langle char \rangle
    \newcommand*{\NVerb}{%
51
52
        \_no_nice_meta_verb_false \nice_maybe_meta_verb}
  \newcommand*{\HardNVerb}{%
53
        \_no_nice_meta_verb_true \nice_maybe_meta_verb}
54
    \newif\if_no_nice_meta_verb_
55
    \newcommand*{\nice_maybe_meta_verb}[1]{%
```

Mainly avoid \verb's noligs list which overrides definitions of some active characters, while cmtt doesn't have any ligatures anyway.

```
\IfTypesetting{%
57
58
         \begin_min_verb
           \let\do\MakeOther \dospecials
59
 Turn off niceverb specials:
           \MakeOther\|\MakeOther\'\MakeOther\',%
60
           \if_no_nice_meta_verb_ \MakeOther\<%
61
                                                       %% 2010/12/31
           %%% \else
                        \MakeActiveLet\<\MetaVar
62
           \else
                        \MakeActiveLetHere\<\MetaVar %% 2011/06/20
63
64
           \fi
           \MakeActiveLetHere #1\niceverb_egroup
66
           \verb@eol@error \% TODO change message 2009/04/09
67
       }{\string\NVerb \string#1}}
 2009/04/11: about etc. [preceding a box!? 2010/03/14]
    \newcommand*{\niceverb_normal_egroup}{%
68
69
         \egroup
 2011/09/09 adding \niceverb_maybe_rq for \AddQuotes:
70
         \niceverb_maybe_rq
71
         \ifmmode\else\@\fi}
    \@ifdefinable\niceverb_egroup
72
         {\let\niceverb_egroup\niceverb_normal_egroup}
73
```

2.4 Single Quotes Typeset Meta-Code

\LQverb will be a "permanent alias" for the active left single quote.

The verbatim feature must not act when another single left quote is ahead—we assume a double quote is intended then (thus the left quote feature does not allow to typeset something verbatim that starts with a single left quote). Rather, double quotes should be typeset then. In page headers, a \protect may be in the way. (A hook for \relaxing certain things in \markboth and \markright would have been an alternative.)

```
74 \MakeActive\'
75 \newcommand*{\LQverb}{%}
76 \IfTypesetting{\lq_double_test}{\protect'}}
77 \MakeOther\'
78 \newcommand*{\lq_double_test}{%}
```

This test settles the next catcode, so better switch to "other" in advance (won't harm if left quote isn't next):

```
79 \begingroup
80 \let\do\MakeOther \dospecials
81 \MakeOther\\% 2010/03/09!
```

Corresponding right quotes will become "other" due to having no space at the left. TODO to be changed with wiki.sty.

```
\else
87
        \ifx\let_token\protect
88
          \expandafter\expandafter\expandafter \lq_double_decide_ii
89
91
          \endgroup
                                                        %% 2011/09/09
          \niceverb_maybe_qs
92
          \expandafter\expandafter \NVerb
93
            \expandafter\expandafter\rangle \','%
94
        \fi
95
      fi
96
```

\lq_double_decide_ii continues test behind \protect.

```
97 \newcommand*{\lq_double_decide_ii}[1]{%
98 \futurelet\let_token \lq_double_decide}
```

2.5 Ampersand (or \cstx) Typesets Meta-Code

\CmdSyntaxVerb will be a permanent alias for the active &.

```
99 \MakeActive\&
100 \newcommand*{\CmdSyntaxVerb}{%}
101 \IfTypesetting{%}
102 \begin_min_verb
```

v0.3 moves the previous line from \cmd_syntax_verb where it is too late to establish private letters according to next line which was in \begin_min_verb earlier—an important bug fix!

```
103 \private_letters %% v0.5
104 \cmd_syntax_verb
105 \{\protect&\string}\}
106 \MakeNormal\&
107 \newcommand*{\cmd_syntax_verb}[1]{%
108 \string#1\futurelet\let_token \after_cs}
```

However, & (or \CmdSyntaxVerb) may fail with private letters (there should be a hook for them), especially in *macro arguments* and with hyperref in titles of *sections bearing* \labels, so we provide something like $\frac{\langle characters \rangle}{}$ from tugboat.sty.

```
109 \DeclareRobustCommand*{\cs}[1]{%
110 \begin_min_verb \backslash_verb #1\egroup}
111 \newcommand*{\backslash_verb}{\char'\}
```

Moreover, typing &\par in "short" macro arguments fails, you better type \cs{par} then. Likewise, \cs{if}\(letters\)\} and \cs{fi}\) is safer in case you want to skip some part of the documentation (e.g., a package option skips commented code) by \if\(letters\)\fi. Finally, there will be PDF bookmarks support for \cs rather than for a real & or \CmdSyntaxVerb analogue like \\cstx{\charcters}*[\opth]{\mathre{mand}}\] as follows.

```
\DeclareRobustCommand*{\cstx}[1]{%
                                                       %% corr. 2010/03/17
112
       \begin_min_verb \backslash_verb #1\futurelet\let_token \after_cs}
113
     \newcommand*{\after_cs}{%
114
       \ifcat\noexpand\let_token a\egroup \space
115
       \else \expandafter \decide_verb \fi}
116
     \newcommand*{\test_more_verb}{\futurelet\let_token \decide_verb}
117
     \newcommand*{\decide_verb}{%
118
119
         \jumpteg_on_with\bgroup\braces_verb
         \jumpteg_on_with[\brackets_verb
120
121
         \jumpteg_on_with*\star_verb
       \egroup}
122
         \ensuremath{\text{\%}}\xspace CAUTION/TODO wrong before (... if cmd without arg
123
         %%
                    use \ then or choose usual verb...
124
125
                    or \MakeLetter\( etc. ... or \xspace
     \newcommand*{\jumpteg_on_with}[2]{%
126
127
       \ifx\let_token#1\do_jumpteg_with#2\fi}
  TODO cf. xfor, xspace (\break@loop); \DoOrBranch#1...#1 or so.
     128
     \def\braces_verb#1{\string{#1\string}\test_more_verb}
129
     \def\brackets_verb[#1]{[#1]\test_more_verb}
130
     \def\star_verb*{*\test_more_verb}
131
132
       %% not needed with \Auto... OTHERWISE useful in args!
```

As latex.ltx has \endgraf as a permanent alias for the primitive version of \par and \endline for \cr, we offer \endcell as a replacement for the original &:

133 \let\endcell&

2.6 Escape Character Typesets Meta-Code

\BuildCsSyntax will be a permanent alias for the active escape character.

```
\DeclareRobustCommand*{\BuildCsSyntax}{%
134
       \futurelet\let_token \build_cs_syntax_sp}
135
     \newcommand*{\build_cs_syntax_sp}{%
136
137
       \ifx\let_token\@sptoken
                                                %% 2010/12/30
          \@%
138
       \else %% TODO ^^M!?
139
         \expandafter \start_build_cs_syntax
140
141
      \newcommand*{\start_build_cs_syntax}[1]{%
142
143
       \edef\string_built{\string#1}%
```

#1 may be active.—With Donald Arseneau's import.sty (e.g.), '_' may be needed to be \active with the meaning of \textunderscore, therefore restoring its category code needs some more care than with v0.32 and earlier:

```
\edef\before_build_cs_sub{\the\CatCode\_}%
144
                                                            %% v0.5
        \private_letters
145
        \test_more_cs}
146
      \newcommand*{\test more cs}{%
147
        \futurelet\let_token \decide_more_cs}
148
     \newcommand*{\decide_more_cs}{%
149
        \ifcat\noexpand\let_token a\expandafter \add_to_cs
150
151
        \else
152
     %
            \MakeNormalHere\_
  Restoring '_' more carefully with v0.4 (\begingroup ... \endgroup!?):
          \CatCode\_\before_build_cs_sub
153
          \MakeOther\@%
154
          \expandafter \in@ \expandafter
155
            {\csname \string_built \expandafter \endcsname
156
              \expandafter\\expandafter{\niceverbNoVerbList}%
157
          \ifin@
158
            \csname \string_built
159
              \expandafter\expandafter\expandafter \endcsname
160
161
          \else
            \begin_min_verb \backslash_verb\string_built
162
              \expandafter\expandafter\expandafter \test_more_verb
163
164
        \fi}
165
        %% TODO such \if nestings with ifthen!?
166
167
      %% cf.:
     % \let\let_token,\typeout{\meaning\let_token}
168
        %% TEST TODO fuer xspace!? (\ifin@)
169
170
     \newcommand*{\add_to_cs}[1]{%
171
        \edef\string_built{\string_built#1}\test_more_cs}
   \AutoCmdSyntaxVerb starts, \EndAutoCmdSyntaxVerb ends "auto mode."
     172
          \MakeActiveLetHere\\BuildCsSyntax}
173
      \newcommand*{\EndAutoCmdSyntaxVerb}{\CatCode\\\z0}
174
   \NormalCommand\{\langle characters \rangle\}\ executes \\langle characters \rangle in "auto mode."
     \newcommand*{\NormalCommand}{} \let\NormalCommand\@nameuse
175
  Once I may want to use this feature in Wikipedia-like section titles as supported
  by makedoc, yet I cannot really apply the present feature soon, so this must
  wait ... (There is a special problem with \newlabel and hyperref ...)
     Former tests:
```

 \\niceverbNoVerbList\] is the list of macros that will be executed instead of being typeset.

```
178 \newcommand*{\niceverbNoVerbList}{%
```

- 179 \begin\end\item\verb\EndAutoCmdSyntaxVerb\NormalCommand
- 180 \section\subsection\subsubsection} %% TODO!?

 $\AddToMacro{\niceverbNoVerbList}{\langle macros \rangle}$ can be used to add $\langle macros \rangle$ to that list.

```
181 \providecommand*{\AddToMacro}[2]{% %% TODO move to ... 2010/03/05
182 \expandafter \def \expandafter #1\expandafter {#1#2}}
183 %% <- was very wrong 2010/03/18
```

Hey, or just $\Lambda ddToNoVerbList{\langle macros \rangle}$:

184 \newcommand*{\AddToNoVerbList}{\AddToMacro\niceverbNoVerbList}

"Auto mode" probably ain't mean a thing if it ain't invoked using

$\AutoCmdInput{\langle file \rangle}$

for typesetting $\langle file \rangle$ in "auto mode:"

```
\newcommand*{\AutoCmdInput}[1]{%
185
186
          \begingroup
            \AddToMacro\niceverbNoVerbList{\ProvidesFile}%
187
            %\% <- removed '\endinput', will be code! 2010/04/05
188
            \AutoCmdSyntaxVerb
189
            \input{#1}%
190
191
            \EndAutoCmdSyntaxVerb
192
          \endgroup
193
     }
```

2.7 Meta-Variables

 $\MetaVar\langle var-id \rangle >$ will be a permanent alias for the active '<'.

```
194 \def\MetaVar#1>{%
195 \mbox{\normalfont\itshape $\langle$#1\/$\rangle$}}
196 %% TODO offer without angles as well
```

As opposed to Itxguide.cls, this works outside verbatim as well.

2.8 Hash Mark is Code

```
\newcommand*{\HashVerb}[1]{{\tt\##1}}
```

2.9 Single Right Quotes for \textsf

\RQsansserif will be a permanent alias for the active single right quote.

The basic problem with the "single right quote feature" is that a single right quote may be meant to be an apostrophe. This is certainly the case at the right of a letter. On the other hand, we assume that it is *not* an apostrophe (i) in vertical mode (opening a new paragraph), (ii) after a horizontal skip.

For page headers, in expanding without typesetting, the expansion of \RQsansserif must contain another active single right quote.

Another macro just to avoid more sequences of \expandafter:

```
\newcommand*{\niceverb_rq_sf_test}{%
202
203
       \ifhmode
         \ifdim\lastskip>\z@
204
205
           \expandafter\expandafter \DoRQsansserif
206
           \ifnum\niceverb_spacefactor
207
             \expandafter\expandafter\expandafter
208
               \expandafter\expandafter\expandafter
209
                 \DoRQsansserif
210
           \else '\fi
211
212
         \fi
       \else \ifvmode
213
         \expandafter\expandafter \DoRQsansserif
214
         \else '\fi
215
       \fi}
216
```

 $\label{local_local_local} \begin{tabular}{ll} \begin{tabular}{ll$

```
217 \MakeActive\'
218 \@ifdefinable\DoRQsansserif
219 {\def\DoRQsansserif#1'{\textsf{#1}}}
220 \MakeOther\'
```

The following cases are typical and cannot be decided by the previous criteria: (i) parenthesis, (ii) footnotes and after "horizontal" environments like \[\langle math\\], (iii) section titles, (iv) \noindent. We introduce some dangerous tricks—redefinitions of LATEX's internal \@sect and of TEX's primitives \noindent and \ignorespaces as well as by a signal \spacefactor value of 1001. In page headers, LATEX equips the single right quote with the meaning of \active@math@prime which must be overridden.

```
221 \newcommand*{\nvAllowRQSS}{%
222 \MakeActiveLetHere\'\RQsansserif
223 \niceverb_ignore} %% 2010/03/16
```

These and the entire right quote functionality are activated by

```
\nvRightQuoteSansSerif and disabled by \nvRightQuoteNormal
```

—at \begin{document}—where we collect previous settings—or later:

```
224 \AtBeginDocument{%
225 \edef\before_niceverb_parenthesis{\the\sfcode'\(\)}%
226 \let \before_niceverb_ignore \ignorespaces %% 2010/03/16
227 \let \before_niceverb_sect \@sect
228 \let \before_niceverb_noindent \noindent} %% 2010/03/08
```

We assume that \@sect has the same parameters there as in IATEX (even if redefined by another package, like hyperref).

```
229 \def\niceverb_sect#1#2#3#4#5#6[#7]#8{%

230 \before_niceverb_sect{#1}{#2}{#3}{#4}{#5}{#6}%

231 [{\protect\nvAllowRQSS #7}]%

232 {\protect\nvAllowRQSS #8}}
```

2010/03/20:

```
\text{\niceverb_spacefactor}{\spacefactor=1001\relax} \\
\text{\niceverb_noindent}{\%} \\
\text{\niceverb_noindent \niceverb_spacefactor} \\
\text{\niceverb_ignore}{\%} \\
\text{\niceverb_ignore}{\%} \\
\text{\niceverb_spacefactor \fi \before_niceverb_ignore}} \\
\text{\niceverb_spacefactor}} \\
```

Here are the main switches:

```
238 \newcommand*{\nvRightQuoteSansSerif}{%
239 \MakeActiveLet\'\RQsansserif
240 \sfcode'\(=1001 %% enable in parentheses 2009/04/10
```

I also added \sfcode'/=1001 in the preamble of makedoc.tex.

```
241
            \let\@footnotetext\niceverb_footnotetext
                                                   %% 2010/03/16
242
          \let\ignorespaces\niceverb_ignore
243
          \let\@sect\niceverb sect
          \let\noindent\niceverb_noindent}
                                                   %% 2010/03/08
244
     \newcommand*{\nvRightQuoteNormal}{%
245
246
          \MakeNormal\'%
                                                               %% 2010/03/21
247
          \sfcode'\(=\before_niceverb_parenthesis\relax
          \let\ignorespaces\before_niceverb_ignore
                                                               %% 2010/03/16
248
249
          \let\@sect\before_niceverb_sect
250
         \let\noindent\before_niceverb_noindent}
                                                               %% 2010/03/08
```

\nvAllRightQuotesSansSerif \(\) (after \begin{document}!) forces the \textsf feature without testing for apostrophes. You then must be sure—DANGER! CARE!—to use '\rq' only for obtaining an apostrophe and the double quote character '"' for closing double quotes, or our \\dqtd{\langle text}\rangle \rangle for the entire quoting.

```
251 \newcommand*{\nvAllRightQuotesSansSerif}{%
252 \nvRightQuoteNormal
253 \MakeActiveLet\'\DoRQsansserif}
```

I started v0.31 (signal \sfcode=1000, lowercase letters get \sfcode=1001) because \href{http://ctan.org/pkg/ $\langle pkg \rangle$ } failed. However, what I actually needed was \ctanpkgref{ $\langle pack-name \rangle$ }:

 \dots moves to texlinks.sty 2011/01/24.

2.10 Command-Highlighting Boxes

With v0.3, we include one kind of command syntax boxes whose $\langle content \rangle$ is (in niceverb syntax) delimited as $\lceil |\langle content \rangle \rceil \rceil$.

256 \newsavebox\niceverb_savebox

```
\label{lem:content} $$ \operatorname{GenCmdBox}\langle char\rangle\langle content\rangle\langle char\rangle$$ works like <math>\operatorname{NVerb}\langle char\rangle\langle content\rangle\langle char\rangle$$ except putting the latter's result into a framed (or coloured or ...) box.
```

```
257 \newcommand*{\GenCmdBox} {\_no_nice_meta_verb_false \gen_cmd_box}
```

\[
\text{HardVerbBox}\] is a variant of \GenCmdBox with the meta-variable feature disabled (for the documentation of the present package).

```
258
     \newcommand*{\HardVerbBox}{\_no_nice_meta_verb_true \gen_cmd_box}
259
     \newcommand*{\gen_cmd_box}{%
260
         \ifvmode\let\niceverb_boxtype\VerticalCmdBox
                                                              %% 2011/11/05
             \else\let\niceverb_boxtype\InlineCmdBox
261
262
       \let\niceverb_egroup\nice_collect_verb_egroup
       \setbox\niceverb_savebox \hbox\bgroup
263
         \if_no_nice_meta_verb_
264
                \expandafter \HardNVerb
265
266
          \else \expandafter \NVerb
                                         fi
     \newcommand*{\nice_collect_verb_egroup}{%
267
          \egroup \egroup
268
       \ifvmode \expandafter \VerticalCmdBox
269
                 \ifmmode \hbox \fi
270
       \else
                 \expandafter \InlineCmdBox \fi
271
272
         \ifmmode\hbox\fi \niceverb_boxtype
                                                             %% 2011/11/05
273
        {\box\niceverb_savebox}%
```

Modifying invocation of \necept normal_egroup 2011/11/05 according to remark of 2010/03/15 for saving nesting level:

```
274 \ifmmode\else\@\fi
275 \let\niceverb_egroup\niceverb_normal_egroup
276 }
```

\nvCmdBox will be the permanent alias for '|'.

```
277 \newcommand*{\nvCmdBox}{\GenCmdBox\|}
```

```
\if@nobreak\else_\pagebreak[2]\fi
```

etc. and then invoke \InlineCmdBox. The user can choose later by some \renewcommand. We do the perhaps most essential thing here (again cf. \begin_min_verb):

```
278 \newcommand*{\VerticalCmdBox}{\leavevmode\InlineCmdBox}
```

(2011/11/05 removing \null.) The command declaration boxes in the documentation of Nicola Talbot's datatool would be an especially nice realization of \VerticalCmdBox.

 $\[\]$ according to our idea, should not change baseline skip, even with some \f baseline skip, even with some \f baseline skip.) We therefore replace actual height and depth of the content by the height and depth of math parentheses.

```
279 \newcommand*{\InlineCmdBox}[1]{%
280 \bgroup
```

... needed in math mode with \begin_min_verb.

```
281
          \fboxsep 1pt
282
          \kern\SetOffInlineCmdBoxOuter
283
          \smash{\SetOffInlineCmdBox{\kern\SetOffInlineCmdBoxInner
284
                                       \InlineCmdBoxArea{#1}%
                                       \kern\SetOffInlineCmdBoxInner}}%
285
286
          \mathstrut
287
          \kern\SetOffInlineCmdBoxOuter
288
        \egroup
289
```

The default choice for \SetOffInlineCmdBox is \fbox:

```
290 \@ifdefinable\SetOffInlineCmdBox{\let\SetOffInlineCmdBox\fbox}
```

You can \renewcommand it to change \fboxsep, \fboxrule etc. or to use a \colorbox with the color package, e.g., I used the following setting so far:

\SetOffInlineCmdBoxInner enables controlling the inner horizontal space to the box margin independently of \fboxsep.

${\tt 191} \qquad \verb|\newcommand*{\SetOffInlineCmdBoxInner}{-\fboxsep\thinspace}|$

This choice is inspired by \cstok for "boxed" things in Knuth's manmac.tex which formats $The\ T_FXbook$.

\SetOffInlineCmdBoxOuter allows that the box hangs out into the margin horizontally. We set it to 0 pt as default (it is a macro only, for a while).

292 \newcommand*{\SetOffInlineCmdBoxOuter}{\z0}

The height and depth of the frame should be the same for all inline boxes, we think. The present choice \[\InnerCmdBoxArea\] for the spacing respects code characters rather than the height and depth of the angle brackets that surround meta-variable names.

```
293 \newcommand*{\InlineCmdBoxArea}[1]{%
294 \smash{#1}\vphantom{gjpq\backslash_verb}}
```

\cmdboxitem|\(\circ content \rangle \)| is another variant of \GenCmdBox. It should replace \item[\(\circ content \rangle \)] in the description environment.

```
\newcommand*{\cmdboxitem}{%
295
        \bgroup
296
          \let\niceverb_egroup\cmd_item_egroup
297
          \global %% TODO!? 2010/03/15
298
          \setbox\niceverb_savebox \hbox\bgroup
299
            \NVerb}
300
      \newcommand*{\cmd_item_egroup}{%
301
302
            \egroup \egroup \egroup
303
        \item[\InlineCmdBox{\box\niceverb_savebox}]}
```

2.11 When niceverb Gets Nasty

These things are new with v0.3.

2.11.1 Meta-Variables

This is even newer than v0.3.

In case you actually need < and > in math mode, $\boxed{\t lt}$ and $\boxed{\t lt}$ are "provided" as aliases:

```
304 \providecommand*{\gt}{>} 305 \providecommand*{\lt}{<}
```

2.11.2 Quotes

In order to get real single quotes, you could use $\lq_{\sqcup}\langle text\rangle \ q$, maybe appending a \lq_{\sqcup} , but the code $\boxed{\qtd\{\langle text\rangle\}}$ may look better and be easier to type.

```
306 \providecommand*{\qtd}[1]{'#1'}
```

%% provide 2012/11/27

However, here we get the problem that the left quote in $\d(code)$ '} will be unable to switch into verbatim mode entirely—then use &, e.g., ' $\d(\&\&)$ ' typesets "&", i.e., the ampersand in single (non-verbatim) quotes.

```
307 % TODO \qtdverb!? alternative meaning for \LQverb!? 2010/03/06 308 % rather rare, & takes less space 2010/03/09
```

\AddQuotes automatically surrounds code with single quotes. I have so often felt that it was a design mistake to drop them (2011/09/09):

```
309 \newcommand*{\AddQuotes}{%
310 \let\niceverb_maybe_qs\niceverb_add_qs}
311 \newcommand*{\niceverb_add_qs}{%
```

In a math display, quotes are suppressed even with \AddQuotes:

You can undo this by \DontAddQuotes:

317 \newcommand*{\DontAddQuotes}{\let\niceverb_maybe_qs\relax}

The default will be the behaviour that we had before:

```
318 \DontAddQuotes
```

 $\del{detd{\langle text \rangle}}$ can be used for enclosing in *double* quotes with the dangerous $\nvAllRightQuotesSansSerif$ (see above).

```
319 \providecommand*{\dqtd}[1]{''#1"}
```

%% 2012/11/27

2.11.3 hyperref

This is for/about compatibility with the hyperref package. (One preliminary thing: in doubt, don't load niceverb earlier than hyperref.)

We need some substitutions for PDF bookmarks with hyperref. We issue them at \begin{document} when we know if hyperref is at work.⁹

```
\AtBeginDocument{%
320
        \@ifpackageloaded{hyperref}{%
321
                                                 %% moved here 2010/03/09
          \newcommand*{\PDFcstring}{%
322
            \134\expandafter\@gobble\string}% %% ASCII octal encoding
323
          \pdfstringdefDisableCommands{%
324
            \let\nvAllowRQSS\empty
                                                 %% not \relax 2010/03/12
325
            %% 2010/03/12
326
            \MakeActiveLetHere\'\lq \MakeActiveLetHere\'\rq
327
328
            \MakeActiveLetHere\&\PDFcstring
329
            \left( \frac{134}{\%} \right)
                                                 %% 2010/03/17, 2011/06/27
          }%
330
```

 $^{^9\}mathrm{An}$ alternative approach would be using after package by Alex Rozhenko.

Moreover, in order to avoid spurious Label(s) may have changed with hyperref, a single right quote must be read as active by a \newlabel if and only if it has been active when \@currentlabelname was formed. \alpha as \active. We use \protected@write as this cares for \nofiles. \@auxout may be \@partaux for \include.

```
331
          \newcommand*{\niceverb_aux_cat}[2]{%
                                                                %% 2010/03/14
332
              \protected@write\@auxout{}{\string#1\string#2}}%
  v0.5 restricts "activating" to \MakeActiveLet:
333
            \renewcommand*{\MakeActive}[1]{%
     %
334
                \MakeActiveHere#1%
                \niceverb_aux_cat\MakeActiveHere#1}%
335
     %
          \renewcommand*{\MakeActiveLet}[2]{%
336
337
              \MakeActiveLetHere#1#2%
     %
                \niceverb_aux_cat\MakeActiveHere#1}%
338
              \protected@write\@auxout{}{%
339
                  \string\MakeActiveLetHere\string#1\string#2}}%
340
341
          \renewcommand*{\MakeNormal}[1]{%
              \MakeNormalHere#1%
342
              \niceverb_aux_cat\MakeNormalHere#1}%
343
344
        }{}%
345
     }
```

TODO doesn't babel have the same problem? 2010/03/12

2.11.4 hyper-xr

With the hyper-xr package creating links into external documents, preceding $\text{\ensuremath{\sc Verb}}$ with $\text{\ensuremath{\sc MakeActiveLet}\ensuremath{\sc Verb}}$ may be needed. I do not want to redefine something here right now as I have too little experience with this situation.

2.11.5 Turning off and on altogether

These commands are new with v0.3.

\noNiceVerb | disables all niceverb features.

```
346 \newcommand*{\noNiceVerb} {\MakeNormal\'\%
347 \MakeNormal\&\%
348 \MakeNormal\<\%
349 \MakeNormal\#\%
350 \nvRightQuoteNormal
351 \MakeNormal\|}
```

\useNiceVerb | activates all the niceverb features (apart from "auto mode").

```
352 \newcommand*{\useNiceVerb}{\MakeActiveLet\'\LQverb
```

 $^{^{10}\}mathrm{This}$ uses \@onelevelsanitize, therefore \protect doesn't change the behaviour of "active" characters.

TODO to be changed with wiki.sty v0.2

353	\MakeActiveLet\&\CmdSyntaxVerb
354	\MakeActiveLet\<\MetaVar
355	\MakeActiveLet\#\HashVerb
356	\nvRightQuoteSansSerif
357	\MakeActiveLet\ \nvCmdBox}

2.12 Activating the niceverb Syntax

niceverb features are activated at \begin{document} so (some) other packages can be loaded *after* niceverb. For v0.3, we do this after possible settings for compatibility with hyperref.

358 \AtBeginDocument{\useNiceVerb}

2.13 Leave Package Mode

359	\PopLetterCat_	%% 2012/08/27
360	\endinput	

2.14 VERSION HISTORY

361	v0.1	2009/02/21	very first, sent to CTAN
362	v0.2	2009/04/04	NoVerbList: \subsubsection, \AddToMacro,
363		2009/04/05	\SimpleVerb makes more other than iii
364		2009/04/06	just uses \dospecials
365		2009/04/08	debugging code for rq/sf, +\relax
366		2009/04/09	+\verb@eol@error, prepared for new doc method,
367			removed spurious \makeat, -\relax (ligature),
368		2009/04/10	('-trick
369		2009/04/11	<pre>\@ after \SimpleVerb</pre>
370		2009/04/14	noted TODO below
371		2009/04/15	change v0.1 to 2009/02/21
372	v0.30	2010/02/27	<pre>short, more explained, \AssignCatCodeTo,</pre>
373			use \MakeActive for re-activating, \MakeNormal
374		2010/02/28	<pre>fixed @ and _ with & by moving \begin_min_verb;</pre>
375			replaced \lq by '; Capitals in Titles
376		2010/03/05	\SimpleVerb -> \NVerb;
377			<pre>use \MakeActive + \MakeNormal; \rq -> ';</pre>
378			renamed some sections; \lq_verb -> \LQverb,
379			<pre>\niceverb_meta -> \MetaVar,</pre>
380			\param_verb -> \HashVerb
381		2010/03/06	<pre>removed \MakeAlign; removed @ and _ todo below;</pre>
382			\NVerb makes ' and ' other;
383			\nvAllowRQSF allows ' in column titles,
384		2010/03/08	\LQverb and & work in column titles,
385			\RQverb works with \noindent;
386			bookmark substitutions
387		2010/03/09	extended notes on 'hyperref' (in)compatibility;

```
\MakeLetter\@ in \CmdSyntaxVerb only;
388
389
                          |...| implemented as \prepareCmdBox etc.!
             2010/03/10
                          \colorbox example, \thinspace; ltxguide!;
390
                          removed todo; ..._exec -> \DoRQsansserif;
391
                          minor doc changes in "Nasty"
392
                          doc changes in ''Escape Character \dots " and
393
            2010/03/11
394
                          "Ampersand"
            2010/03/12
395
                          \niceverb_aux_cat, \MakeActiveHere etc.,
                          \IfTypesetting, \noNiceVerb, \useNiceVerb,
396
                          corr. bracing mistake in \MakeNormal!
397
            2010/03/14
                          0.31 -> 0.3; \HardNVerb, \GenCmdBox,
398
                          \prepareCmdBox -> \nvCmdBox
399
            2010/03/15
                          \endcell; \cmdboxitem; remark on \sfcode'/
400
            2010/03/16
                          corr. -> \endline;
401
                          advice on \cs{par}, \cs{if...}, \cs{fi};
402
                          redefined \ignorespaces for RQ feature
403
            2010/03/17
                          corr. '\fututelet', corr. \cs PDF substitution
404
            2010/03/18
                          |\niceverbNoVerbList|, |\AddToMacro| etc.;
405
406
                          corr. \AddToMacro;
407
                          \lastskip-fix of \niceverb_ignore,
                          another fix of \niceverb_noindent
408
             2010/03/19
                          another fix of \niceverb_ignore: \spacefactor
409
            2010/03/20
                          ... again: \niceverb_spacefactor
410
411
412
     NOT DISTRIBUTED, just stored saved as separate version
413
     v0.31 2010/03/20
                          right quote feauture: letters get \sfcode=1001
414
                          'column title' -> 'page headers', \ctanpkgref
415
416
     NOT DISTRIBUTED, just stored as separate version
417
418
419
     v0.32 2010/03/21
                          taking best things from v0.30 and v0.31
420
            2010/03/23
                          removed \relax from \IfTypesetting
     SENT TO CTAN
421
422
423
     v0.4
            2010/03/27
                          restoring '_' with "auto mode" safer
            2010/03/28
                          \AddToNoVerbList
424
                          note above, renamed v0.4
425
            2010/03/29
426
     SENT TO CTAN
427
428
     v0.41 2010/04/03
                          v0.33 -> v0.4
429
            2010/04/05
                          corrected \AutoCmdInput list
     SENT TO CTAN as part of NICETEXT release r0.41
430
431
432
     v0.41a 2010/11/09 typo corrected
433
     v0.42 2010/12/30 corr. '\ ' emulation in auto mode
434
            2010/12/31 \MetaVar in ...maybe_meta...
435
            2011/01/19
                         '...' fix
            2011/01/24 \ctanpkgref moves to texlinks.sty
436
            2011/01/26 update (C)
437
```

```
438
     with nicetext RELEASE r0.42
     v0.43 2011/05/09
439
                        \gt, \lt
            2011/05/27 \cs uses \@backslashchar
440
            2011/06/20 \MakeActiveLetHere in \nice_maybe_meta_verb !!!
441
            2011/06/27 2011/05/27 undone
442
443
            2011/08/20 'r0.42', 'v0.43'
444
     with nicetext RELEASE r0.43
     v0.44 2011/09/09
                        \AddQuotes, \DontAddQuotes
445
     with nicetext RELEASE r0.44
446
     v0.45 2011/11/05 mod. \niceverb_collect_egroup/\VerticalCmdBox,
447
                         tried \output problem without avail
448
            2011/12/05 clarified "r0.44"
449
     with nicetext RELEASE r0.5
450
     v0.5 2012/08/27 using 'catcodes', \providecommand\CatCode,
451
                        rm. \AssignCatCodeTo, \private_letters
452
            2012/08/28 fixed \private_letters;
453
                        rewording for filling lines
454
            2012/09/27
                        corrections about \MakeActive...
455
456
     with nicetext RELEASE r0.6
457
     v0.51 2012/11/27 \[d]qtd only \provide'd
458
```