

# The `mathstyle` package

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## User's guide

This package exists for two reasons:

- The primitive operations for creating a super- or subscript in  $\text{\TeX}$  work almost as if `^` and `_` are macros taking an argument. However, that is not quite the case, and some things that you'd expect to work don't (e.g., `^{\congruence}`) whereas others which you'd think shouldn't work actually do (such as `^{\mathsf{s}}`). We do everyone a favor if it behaves consistently, i.e., if the superscript and subscript operations act as if they are macros taking exactly one argument.
- Because the  $\text{\TeX}$  math typesetting engine uses infix notation for fractions, one has to use `\mathchoice` or `\mathpalette` whenever trying to do anything requiring boxing or measuring math. This creates problems for loading fonts on demand as the font loading mechanism has to load fonts for all styles without even knowing if the font is going to be used. Getting the timing of `\mathchoice` right can be tricky as well. Since  $\text{\LaTeX}$  does not promote the primitive infix notation, this package keeps track of a current `mathstyle` parameter.

## 1 Some usage tips

If you want to use this package with `amsmath`, it is important `mathstyle` is loaded *after* `amsmath`.

The current `mathstyle` is stored in the variable `\mathstyle`. The command `\currentmathstyle` can be used to switch to the mode currently active. Below is shown how the macro `\mathrlap` from `mathtools` is implemented without knowing about the current `mathstyle` using `\mathpalette`.

```
\providecommand*\mathrlap[1][]{%  
  \ifx\@empty#1\@empty  
    \expandafter \mathpalette \expandafter \@mathrlap
```

```

\else
  \expandafter \mathrlap \expandafter #1%
\fi}
\providecommand*\mathrlap #1#2{{}\rlap{$\mathrlap{#1#2}$}}

```

The same definition using `\currentmathstyle` from this package.

```

\providecommand*\mathrlap[2][]{%
  #1 {} \rlap{$\mathrlap{\currentmathstyle {#2}$}}
}

```

## Implementation

```

1 <*package>
2 \ProvidesPackage{mathstyle}[2008/11/25 v0.88]

\@saveprimitive A straight copy from breqn, see implementation details there. Of course, with a
recent pdfTeX (v1.40+), one can just use \primitive to get the original. We will
implement that some day.

3 \providecommand\@saveprimitive[2]{%
4   \begingroup
5   \edef\@tempa{\string#1}\edef\@tempb{\meaning#1}%
6   \ifx\@tempa\@tempb \global\let#2#1%
7   \else
8     \edef\@tempb{\meaning#2}%
9     \ifx\@tempa\@tempb
10      \else \@saveprimitive@a#1#2%
11      \fi
12    \fi
13  \endgroup
14 }

15 \providecommand\@saveprimitive@a[2]{%
16   \begingroup
17   \def\@tempb##1#1##2{\edef\@tempb{##2}\@car{}}%
18   \@tempb\nullfont{select font nullfont}%
19   \topmark{\string\topmark:}%
20   \firstmark{\string\firstmark:}%
21   \botmark{\string\botmark:}%
22   \splitfirstmark{\string\splitfirstmark:}%
23   \splitbotmark{\string\splitbotmark:}%
24   #1{\string#1}%
25   \edef\@tempa{\expandafter\strip@prefix\meaning\@tempb}%
26   \edef\@tempb{\meaning#1}%
27   \ifx\@tempa\@tempb \global\let#2#1%
28   \else
29     \PackageError{mathstyle}%
30       {Unable to properly define \string#2; primitive

```

```

31      \noexpand#1no longer primitive}\@eha
32      \fi
33    \fi
34  \endgroup
35 }

```

Do initial `\chardef` of `\mathstyle`.

```
36 \chardef\mathstyle=\z@
```

Save the four style changing primitives, `\mathchoice` and the fraction commands.

```

37 \@saveprimitive\displaystyle\@@displaystyle
38 \@saveprimitive\textstyle\@@textstyle
39 \@saveprimitive\scriptstyle\@@scriptstyle
40 \@saveprimitive\scriptscriptstyle\@@scriptscriptstyle
41 \@saveprimitive\mathchoice\@@mathchoice
42 \@saveprimitive\over\@@over
43 \@saveprimitive\atop\@@atop
44 \@saveprimitive\above\@@above
45 \@saveprimitive\overwithdelims\@@overwithdelims
46 \@saveprimitive\atopwithdelims\@@atopwithdelims
47 \@saveprimitive\abovewithdelims\@@abovewithdelims

```

Then we redeclare the four style changing primitives.

```

48 \DeclareRobustCommand{\displaystyle}{%
49   \@@displaystyle \chardef\mathstyle\z@}
50 \DeclareRobustCommand{\textstyle}{%
51   \@@textstyle \chardef\mathstyle\@ne}
52 \DeclareRobustCommand{\scriptstyle}{%
53   \@@scriptstyle \chardef\mathstyle\tw@}
54 \DeclareRobustCommand{\scriptscriptstyle}{%
55   \@@scriptscriptstyle \chardef\mathstyle\thr@@}

```

First we get the primitive operations. These should have been control sequences in  $\TeX$  just like operations for `begin math`, `end math`, `begin display`, `end display`.

```

56 \begingroup \catcode'\^=7\relax \catcode'\_ =8\relax % just in case
57 \lowercase{\endgroup
58 \let\@@superscript=\^ \let\@@subscript=\_
59 }%
60 \begingroup \catcode'\^=12\relax \catcode'\_ =12\relax % just in case
61 \lowercase{\endgroup
62 \let\@@superscript@other=\^ \let\@@subscript@other=\_
63 }%

```

If we enter a sub- or superscript the `\mathstyle` must be adjusted. Since all is happening in a group, we do not have to worry about resetting.

```

64 \def\subsupstyle{%
65   \ifnum\mathstyle<\tw@ \chardef\mathstyle\tw@
66   \else \chardef\mathstyle\thr@@
67   \fi
68 }

```

Provide commands with meaningful names for the two primitives, cf. `\mathrel`.

```
69 \let\mathsup=\@@superscript
70 \let\mathsub=\@@subscript
\sb and \sp are then defined as macros.
71 \def\sb#1{\mathsub{\protect\subsupstyle#1}}%
72 \def\sp#1{\mathsup{\protect\subsupstyle#1}}%
```

`\mathchoice` is now just a switch. Note that this redefinition does not allow the arbitrary *<filler>* of the `TEX` primitive. Very rarely used anyway.

```
73 \def\mathchoice{%
74   \relax\ifcase\mathstyle
75     \expandafter\@firstoffour
76   \or
77     \expandafter\@secondoffour
78   \or
79     \expandafter\@thirdoffour
80   \else
81     \expandafter\@fourthoffour
82   \fi
83 }
```

Helper macros.

```
84 \providecommand\@firstoffour[4]{#1}
85 \providecommand\@secondoffour[4]{#2}
86 \providecommand\@thirdoffour[4]{#3}
87 \providecommand\@fourthoffour[4]{#4}
```

The fractions. Note that this uses the same names as in `amsmath`. Much the same except here they call `\fracstyle`.

```
88 \DeclareRobustCommand\genfrac[6]{%
89   {\fracstyle #1%
90     {\begingroup #5\endgroup
91       \csname @@\ifx\maxdimen#4\maxdimen over\else above\fi
92       \if @#2@\else withdelims\fi\endcsname #2#3#4\relax
93     #6}%
94   }%
95 }
96 \renewcommand{\frac}{\genfrac{}{}{}{}}
97 \providecommand{\dfrac}{\genfrac{}{}{}{}}
98 \providecommand{\tfrac}{\genfrac{}{}{}{}}
99 \renewcommand{\dfrac}{\genfrac{\displaystyle}{}{}{}}
100 \renewcommand{\tfrac}{\genfrac{\textstyle}{}{}{}}
101 \providecommand{\binom}{\genfrac{}{}{}{}}
102 \providecommand{\tbinom}{\genfrac{}{}{}{}}
103 \providecommand{\dbinom}{\genfrac{}{}{}{}}
104 \renewcommand{\binom}{\genfrac{}{}{0pt}}
105 \renewcommand{\dbinom}{\genfrac{\displaystyle}{}{0pt}}
106 \renewcommand{\tbinom}{\genfrac{\textstyle}{}{0pt}}
```

The `\fracstyle` command is a switch to go one level down but no further than three.

```

107 \def\fracstyle{\ifcase\mathstyle
108   \chardef\mathstyle=\@ne
109   \or
110   \chardef\mathstyle=\tw@
111   \else
112   \chardef\mathstyle=\thr@@
113   \fi
114 }

```

The `\currentmathstyle` checks the value of `\mathstyle` and switches to it so it is in essence the opposite of `\displaystyle` and friends.

```

115 \def\currentmathstyle{%
116   \ifcase\mathstyle
117     \@@displaystyle
118   \or
119     \@@textstyle
120   \or
121     \@@scriptstyle
122   \or
123     \@@scriptscriptstyle
124   \fi}

```

Finally, we declare the package options.

```

125 \DeclareOption{mathactivechars}{%
126   \catcode'\^=12\relax
127   \catcode'\_ =12\relax
128   \AtBeginDocument{\catcode'\^=12\relax \catcode'\_ =12\relax}%
129 }
130 \DeclareOption{activechars}{%
131   \catcode'\^=13\relax
132   \catcode'\_ =13\relax
133   \AtBeginDocument{\catcode'\^=13\relax \catcode'\_ =13\relax}%
134 }
135 \DeclareOption{noactivechars}{%
136   \catcode'\^=7\relax
137   \catcode'\_ =8\relax
138   \AtBeginDocument{\catcode'\^=7\relax \catcode'\_ =8\relax}%
139 }
140 \ExecuteOptions{mathactivechars}
141 \ProcessOptions\relax

```

WSPR: Set up the active behaviours: (this is set even in the `noactivechars` case but they are never activated. no worries?)

```

142 \ifnum\catcode'\^=13\relax
143   \let^=\sp \let_=\sb
144 \else
145   \mathcode'\^="8000\relax
146   \mathcode'\_ ="8000\relax
147   \begingroup
148     \catcode'\^=\active
149     \catcode'\_ =\active

```

```
150    \global\let^=\sp
151    \global\let_=\sb
152  \endgroup
153 \fi
154 \</package>
```