The makebox package*

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Abstract

This package defines a \makebox* command that allows to give the width for the \makebox command by a sample text instead of a measure.

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1 Using this package

\makebox*

Sometimes you want to put a text into a box that has the same width as another text. Normally, you have to use \settowidth to set a length to the width of the reference text and use \makebox afterwards. With this package, you can use the \makebox* command for that. The width of the box is then given by a mandatory first argument (instead of the optional first argument of the \makebox command). The following arguments are identically to the normal \makebox command.

For example,

```
--longer reference text--\\*
--\makebox*{longer reference text}{short text}--\\*
--\makebox*{longer reference text}[r]{short text}--\\*
--\makebox*{longer reference text}[r]{even longer text than the reference}--
```

*This file has version v0.1 last revised 2004/07/31.

leads to
–longer reference text–
– short text –
– short text–
even longer text than the reference

2 The implementation

Heading of the package:

```
\NeedsTeXFormat{LaTeX2e}
\ProvidesPackage{makebox}
  [2004/07/31 v0.1 extend makebox command]
```

`\makebox*` Save the original `\makebox` command since it has to be redefined.

```
\newcommand*\hh@orig@makebox{}
\let\hh@orig@makebox\makebox
```

Redefine `\makebox`. If using normally call the original command. If using with a star, get the width of the box by a text and call `\hh@makebox` for doing so.

```
\renewcommand*\makebox{%
  \@ifnextchar*%
  {\hh@makebox}{\hh@orig@makebox}%
}
```

The `\hh@makebox` is defined with two mandatory arguments since the star is the first argument and ignored. First, the width of the reference text is stored in the length `\@tempdima`. Then, the original `\makebox` command ist called to typeset the box.

```
\newcommand*\hh@makebox[2]{%
  \settowidth\@tempdima{#2}%
  \hh@orig@makebox[\@tempdima]%
}
```

Change History

1.04 `\textversion` etc. 2
General: Avoide usage of

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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; numbers in roman refer to the code lines where the entry is used.

Symbols
`\@ifnextchar` 7
`\@tempdima` 11, 12
H
`\hh@makebox` 8, 10

\hh@orig@makebox 4, 5, 8, 12

M

\makebox 5, 6
\makebox* *1*, 4

N

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S

\settowidth 11