The Tabbing package

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Abstract

This package provides a `Tabbing' environment, analog to the \LaTeX standard `tabbing' environment, but allowing accented letters. No more `\'a', `\a' and `\=a' needed.

1 The Tabbing package

\LaTeX provides the `tabbing' environment. But it is not user-friendly when you must use accented letters, whith the grave, acute and macron accents, `\'a á, `\a à and `\=a ä. Even when you use a good input encoding on 8 bits. So the Tabbing package offers a `Tabbing' environment, which is a slightly modified copy of the standard `tabbing' environment. In the `Tabbing' environment, the local commands `\>', `\<, `\=', `\+, `\-, `\}' and `\}' are replaced by `\TAB>', `\TAB<, `\TAB=', `\TAB+, `\TAB-, `\TAB' and `\TAB' respectively. Hence the conversion is rather easy. Acute and grave accents are very often used in french, this environment should be useful. In the example of Figure 1, the vertical rules mark the tab stops (with the macro `\tablule, which is not part of the package).

Note that the markup is more visible than in the `tabbing' environment, and the syntax of accented letters is the same outside and inside of the new Tabbing environment.

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\newcommand{\tabrule}{\makebox[0pt]{\raisebox{0pt}{\rule{\fboxrule}{#1\baselineskip}}}}

\begin{Tabbing}
gnomon \TAB= agnostic \TAB= agnostic \TAB= dillo \TAB= gnash \TAB= \kill
\TAB> gnu \TAB> gnu \TAB> gneisses \TAB> gnarl
\TAB> \TAB> \TAB> \TAB> \TAB> \TAB> \TAB> \TAB> \TAB> \TAB> \TAB> \TAB> examen
\TAB> \TAB> \TAB> \TAB> \TAB> \TAB> \TAB> \TAB> \TAB> \TAB> \TAB> \TAB> examen
\TAB> \TAB> \TAB> \TAB> \TAB> \TAB> \TAB> \TAB> \TAB> \TAB> \TAB> \TAB> examen
\TAB> \TAB> \TAB> \TAB> \TAB> \TAB> \TAB> \TAB> \TAB> \TAB> \TAB> \TAB> g
\end{Tabbing}

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>gnu</th>
<th>gneisses</th>
<th>gnarl</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>'eole 'eleve</td>
<td>examen</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cole \ live</td>
<td>examen</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>u e g</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 1: A simple Tabbing environment
2 Implementation

\begin{tabbing}
\textbf{Tabbing}\hspace{1cm} We just copy the standard \texttt{tabbing} environment, and add the local macro \texttt{\TAB} who tests its argument. An error message has been added.
\end{tabbing}
\begin{verbatim}
\def\TAB##1{\ifx ##1>\@rtab\else
\ifx ##1<\@ltab\else
\ifx ##1=\@settab\else
\ifx ##1+\@tabplus\else
\ifx ##1-\@tabminus\else
\ifx ##1`\@tabrj\else
\ifx ##1\@tablab\else
\PackageError{Tabbing}{Bad argument ##1 for Tabbing specification}
\fi\fi\fi\fi\fi\fi\fi}
\end{verbatim}