

NAME

detex – a filter to strip *TeX* commands from a .tex file.

SYNOPSIS

detex [**-c**lnstw] [**-e** *environment-list*] [*filename*.tex] ...]

DESCRIPTION

Detex reads each file in sequence, removes all comments and *TeX* control sequences and writes the remainder on the standard output. All text in math mode and display mode is removed. By default, *detex* follows `\input` commands. If a file cannot be opened, a warning message is printed and the command is ignored. If the **-n** option is used, no `\input` or `\include` commands will be processed. This allows single file processing. If no input file is given on the command line, *detex* reads from standard input.

If the magic sequence “`\begin{document}`” appears in the text, *detex* assumes it is dealing with *LaTeX* source and *detex* recognizes additional constructs used in *LaTeX*. These include the `\include` and `\includeonly` commands. The **-l** option can be used to force *LaTeX* mode and the **-t** option can be used to force *TeX* mode regardless of input content.

Text in various environment modes of *LaTeX* is ignored. The default modes are `array`, `eqnarray`, `equation`, `longtable`, `picture`, `tabular` and `verbatim`. The **-e** option can be used to specify a comma separated *environment-list* of environments to ignore. The list replaces the defaults so specifying an empty list effectively causes no environments to be ignored.

The **-c** option can be used in *LaTeX* mode to have *detex* echo the arguments to `\cite`, `\ref`, and `\pageref` macros. This can be useful when sending the output to a style checker.

Detex assumes the standard character classes are being used for *TeX*. *Detex* allows white space between control sequences and magic characters like ‘{’ when recognizing things like *LaTeX* environments.

The **-r** option tries to naively replace `$.$.`, `$$..$$`, `\(..\)` and `\[..\]` with nouns and verbs (in particular, “noun” and “verbs”) in a way that keeps sentences readable.

If the **-w** flag is given, the output is a word list, one ‘word’ (string of two or more letters and apostrophes beginning with a letter) per line, and all other characters ignored. Without **-w** the output follows the original, with the deletions mentioned above. Newline characters are preserved where possible so that the lines of output match the input as closely as possible.

The **-l** option will prefix each printed line with ‘filename:linenumber:’ indicating where that line is coming from in terms of the original (La)TeX document.

The `TEXINPUTS` environment variable is used to find `\input` and `\include` files. Like *TeX*, it interprets a leading or trailing ‘:’ as the default `TEXINPUTS`. It does *not* support the ‘//’ directory expansion magic sequence.

Detex now handles the basic *TeX* ligatures as a special case, replacing the ligatures with acceptable character substitutes. This eliminates spelling errors introduced by merely removing them. The ligatures are `\aa`, `\ae`, `\oe`, `\ss`, `\o`, `\l` (and their upper-case equivalents). The special “dotless” characters `\i` and `\j` are also replaced with `i` and `j` respectively.

Note that previous versions of *detex* would replace control sequences with a space character to prevent words from running together. However, this caused accents in the middle of words to break words, generating “spelling errors” that were not desirable. Therefore, the new version merely removes these accents. The old functionality can be essentially duplicated by using the

–s option.

SEE ALSO

tex(1)

DIAGNOSTICS

Nesting of `\input` is allowed but the number of opened files must not exceed the system’s limit on the number of simultaneously opened files. *Detex* ignores unrecognized option characters after printing a warning message.

AUTHOR

Originally written by Daniel Trinkle, Computer Science Department, Purdue University.

Maintained by Piotr Kubowicz <<https://github.com/pkubowicz/opendetex>>.

BUGS

Detex is not a *TeX* interpreter (it essentially reads the input with a (f)lex program), so it is easily confused by some constructs. Most errors result in too much rather than too little output.

Running *LaTeX* source without a “`\begin{document}`” through *detex* may produce errors.

Suggestions for improvements are (mildly) encouraged.