The **versions** package[*]

Omit passages optionally under LaTeX

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1 Legal matters:

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2 Short description:

Varies Stephen Bellantoni's 'version.sty' in optionally omitting environments, defining (among others) \includeversion and \excludeversion as well as a 'comment' environment. (For comparison to 'version.sty', see Section 'Improvements' below.) So multiple versions of a document may be printed from one source file. Cf. packages 'comment' (very similar functions and more, see comparison below), 'verbatim', 'optional' (on CTAN). —Needs LaTeX, even should work with LaTeX2.09 (please tell me if not).

3 Usage:

3.1 User commands:

In the document part of your source file, put into environments \begin{⟨*version*⟩} ⟨*code*⟩ \end{⟨*version*⟩} passages ⟨*code*⟩ (or other code) to be omitted optionally. ⟨*version*⟩ may be any string consisting of character tokens (see TeXbook, p. 40: '\csname'), and the document may contain environments with several names of this kind (VERSIONa, VERSIONb, etc.). Preceding \excludeversion{⟨*version*⟩}, \includeversion{⟨*version*⟩},

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[*]This manual corresponds to versions.sty v0.55, dated 2005/04/28.

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`\markversion{`⟨*version*⟩`}` (in the preamble or even later on) control how these environments behave.

`\excludeversion{`⟨*version*⟩`}`   '⟨*version*⟩' environments just not processed (ignored, i. e.);

`\includeversion{`⟨*version*⟩`}`   '⟨*version*⟩' environments processed as if `\begin{`⟨*version*⟩`}` and `\end{`⟨*version*⟩`}` just were not present, however they form groups like `\begin{relax}`⟨*code*⟩`\end{relax}` or `\begingroup` ⟨*code*⟩ `\endgroup`.

`\markversion{`⟨*version*⟩`}`   '⟨*version*⟩' environments processed, resulting text may be marked in printout—for comparison of variants of your document, e. g.

By default, these three commands send a message to screen, and `\markversion{`⟨*version*⟩`}` results in printed marks indicating start, `\end`, and '⟨*version*⟩'. Cf. subsection 'Customize' below. A warning is sent to screen if '⟨*version*⟩' has been defined earlier (by LaTeX, e. g.). (A '⟨*version*⟩' environment must not overlap with other environments, of course, must be balanced with respect to `\if...\fi`, and must not contain `\outer` macros. In LaTeX the only `\outer` macro is `^^L`—ASCII form feed.) TODO: ('comment.sty' and `comment` environment from 'verbatim.sty' are superior concerning `\outer` macros. On request, I could equip my `\processifversion` with that `\outer` feature.)

However, `\begin{`⟨*version*⟩`}`...`\end{`⟨*version*⟩`}` breaks inside macro arguments, e.g. of `\footnote` (it is even fragile). So there is `\processifversion{`⟨*version*⟩`}{`⟨*code*⟩`}` working analogously (grouping as well), depending on `\excludeversion` etc. (it is even robust). ('optional.sty' works similarly.)

A pre-installed instance of '⟨*version*⟩' is 'comment', which is ignored by default. So you may put rather long comments as ⟨*code*⟩ in `\begin{comment}`⟨*code*⟩`\end{comment}`. (This feature serves compatibility with Stephen Bellantoni's 'version.sty'.) Note that alternative packages 'comment' and 'verbatim' define `\comment` as well.

3.2 Options:

`\usepackage[tracing]{versions}` causes (i) checking package commands for undefinedness, (ii) messages on screen indicating line numbers of single excluded environments ('Ignore ⟨*version*⟩, lines ⟨*xx*⟩ to ⟨*yy*⟩]'). If final line number and closing bracket don't appear on screen, the environment presumably contains (implicit) `\fi` or `\if...` not matching each other within that environment. This package option needs LaTeX 2ε and TeX version greater equal 3.0. (No change of `\processifversion`.)

`\usepackage[nogroup]{versions}` provides a user command `\includeversionnogroup{`⟨*version*⟩`}` working like `\includeversion{`⟨*version*⟩`}`, but included '⟨*version*⟩' will form no grouping.

3.3 Customize:

To change messages from `\excludeversion`, `\includeversion`, `\markversion`, or to change printed marks resulting from `\markversion`, take some of the following lines

into your file, remove left hand comment marks ('%'), and change the definition. (Must perhaps be enclosed in `\makeatletter...\makeatother` or `\catcode'\@=12 ...\catcode'\@=11`.)

```
\renewcommand\versionmessage[2]{\typeout{*** '#1' #2. ***}}
\renewcommand\beginmarkversion{\@Vs@sffbox{\@currenvir$>$}}
\renewcommand\endmarkversion{\@Vs@sffbox{$<$\@currenvir}}
```

(For LaTeX 2_ε, replace `\renewcommand` by `\renewcommand*`.)

(1) `\versionmessage` is the style of screen reports from `\excludeversion` etc. Any redefinition must use two arguments. The first is the version name (⟨*version*⟩), the second is one out of '`excluded`', '`included`', '`included with marks`'.

(2) `\beginmarkversion` and `\endmarkversion` is the style of marks surrounding environments '⟨*version*⟩' after `\markversion{`⟨*version*⟩`}`. Any redefinition must use no argument. `\@currenvir` is '⟨*version*⟩'. `\@Vs@sffbox{`⟨*code*⟩`}` as in package definition typesets argument CODE as `\textsf{`⟨*code*⟩`}` and puts into an `\fbox`.

3.4 General warnings:

(For legal warnings see top of file, for errors and requirements see 'Short description', option '`tracing`' and 'user commands' above.) This package uses `\includeversion` and `\excludeversion` and thus cannot be used at the same time as Stephen Bellantoni's 'version.sty'.

> Please send bug reports and other comments to above e-mail address!

4 Comparison with Viktor Eijkhout's 'comment.sty':

'Comment' even works under plain TeX as well as LaTeX, present package under LaTeX only. `\specialcomment` in 'comment' supports special surroundings—this is missing here (but could easily be supplied on request). Included environments never form groups in 'comment', here user may choose whether they form groups or not, at least for simple including (not with marks). 'comment' includes by writing on and reading from disk, present package needs no writing on disk. Unlike the present package, 'comment' skips even `\outer` macros, `\if...`'s and `\fi`'s. (So 'comment' is better for "real" comments. —Concerning `\outer`, this feature is important for plain TeX, while under LaTeX the only `\outer` macro usually is `^^L`.) 'Comment' sometimes produces wrong spaces and discovers '`\end{comment}`' only if nothing else is in the input line.

5 Improvements vis-a-vis Stephen Bellantoni's 'version.sty':

- `\processifversion` added for excluding text inside arguments of, e. g., `\footnote` (where excluding *environment* would break). `\processifversion` is even robust.

- `\@Esphack` instead of `\@esphack` at `\end` of excluded environment; needed for properly processing input space symbols there.

- `\begin` and `\end` of included environment may appear in separate lines without doubling spaces (`\@bsphack` and `\@esphack` used).

- Screen messages sent by `\includeversion` and `\excludeversion`.

- Large passages don't fill main memory when excluded. ('s' in 'versions' means 'safe'!)

- Optional tracing of excluded environments added.

- Option of including without grouping.

- Original `\gdef` and `\csname #1END@NOTE\endcsname` in `\excludeversion` were superfluous.

6 Version history:

v0.1   2003/09/29   Very first; sent to Donald, Victor, Christian, Volker.

v0.2   2003/09/30   `\@sV@iffalse` replacing `\csname iffalse\fi`; `\@sV@ex`: `\@Esphack` in group, extra `\ignorespaces`.

v0.3   2003/10/01   Documentation: added warnings about `\if...` `\fi` and `\outer`— thanks to Victor Eijkhout; sent it to him.

v0.31 2003/10/03   Documentation: added that 'comment.sty' and 'verbatim.sty' are superior in the respect discussed above; also added comparison with 'comment.sty'.

v0.4   2003/10/06   Documentation: Replaced stupid proposal of `\aftergroup` for including (needs stack!); retreated offer of partially enable skipping `\outer`/`\if...`/`\fi`. (`\process...` typically comes too late to change category codes.)

                         `\xdef` → `\gdef` for `\@sV@ex`. Then changed all '@sV' into '@Vs'. Documentation: Referred to TeXbook for character tokens in version names. Removed `\@Vs@sphgobble` from `\@Vs@iprocess` (leave spacing to user); now robust without `\Declare...`

                         Then 'phgobble' → 'phnoop'. Added option 'nogroup'. Added `\normalfont` in `\@Vs@sffbox`. Sent to Victor E. 2005/10/05; minor changes in documentation afterwards.

v0.5   2003/10/10 `\@vS@iprocess` → `\@vS@iprocess`; `\long\def\@Vs@iprocess`. Sent to CTAN.

v0.51 2003/10/15 Documentation: added 'comment' drawback: `\end{document}` works in own line only.

v0.52 2004/05/24 One 'makro' → 'macro'.

v0.53 2004/08/19 Named LPPL v1.3, added maintenance status.

v0.54 2005/01/10 `http://www.contact.uwe.lueck.de.vu`, LPPL v1.3a.

v0.55 2005/04/28 `http://contact-ednotes.sty.de.vu`; `\global\@ignorefalse`.