Writing TCC publications with handmacs.tex

This document describes a set of \TeX macros that have been used to write many official TCC documents. Use these if you are already proficient with \TeX. Otherwise you may find it much easier to learn SGMLTools—see the TCC homepage under Documentation standards.

Official TCC publications currently live in this directory:

```
~www/docs/tcc/help/pubs
```

As with all help system files, rcs is used for revision control, and all files should be in group tcc. Use “make permissions” in the help system root directory to change all your help files to the correct group.

Within that directory is a file called handmacs.tex, containing \TeX macros used in the publications. This document discusses the use of these macros; the user is assumed to have some slight familiarity with \TeX as regards font changes, diacritical marks, and so forth.

The file skeleton

The first lines should look like this:

```latex
%% filename.tex: description of contents
%
\input handmacs % Include the standard TeX macros
\title={your title here}
\mainTitle{the title}
```

The \input line causes inclusion of the standard \TeX macros. Insert the title of your document between the braces of the \title line. The \mainTitle macro, as shown, makes the large title at the top of the first page the same as the running title—but if you want a different large title, you can put the appropriate text here.

Section and subsection commands

To start a new major section, use a line like this:

```latex
\section{text}
```

For a minor section, use:

```latex
\subsection{text}
```

The control sequence \hbar can be used to draw a line across the page, for example to separate a table of contents from a document body.
Bullet lists, item lists, and examples

Since the basic style uses unindent paragraphs, and the usual \item macro in \TeX assumes an indented paragraph style, it is necessary to use a special macro called \meti (that’s “item” spelled backwards) after a bullet list or item lists. Use \item{step} for each step in an itemized lists, or use \bull for a bullet list. Here is an example of an item list, and the source form:

1. Turn off the cat.
2. Let the light out.

\item{1.}Turn off the cat.
\item{2.}Let the light out.
\meti

Here’s an example of a bullet list:

- Not responsible.
- What is reality?

\bull Not responsible.
\bull What is reality?
\meti

For typesetting examples, start with a line containing just \ex (for example), then use one or more \a{...} lines to display text in typewriter font, then end with a line containing just \xe (that’s \ex spelled backwards). To display something in a heavy box, enclose it inside a \boxit{...} macro. The above example looks like this in the source for this file:

\ex
\boxit{
\bull Not responsible.
\bull What is reality?
\meti
}
\a{\B bull\ Not responsible.}
\a{\B bull\ What is reality?}
\a{\B meti}
\xe

If you want to display a line in typewriter type like \a{...}, except indented, use \b{...} for one level of indentation, \c{...} for two levels, and \d{...} for three levels. The indented lines in the above examples used \b{...}.

To display a line with the Unix prompt, use \pr{...}, which works like \a except that it puts a dollar sign in front in non-italic typewriter type. To get whole lines displayed in non-italic typewriter type, use \o instead of \a, and \ob and \oc for more indentation.
Funny characters

Here are some characters and other symbols that have special meanings in \TeX, and the control sequences defined in handmacs.tex that produce them:

\& \text{\texttt{\textbackslash amp}}
\ \ \text{\texttt{\textbackslash B}}
\ | \text{\texttt{\textbar}}
\ ~ \text{\texttt{\textasciitilde}}
\RETURN \text{\texttt{\textbackslash CR}}
\{ \text{\texttt{\textbackslash L}}
\< \text{\texttt{\textbackslash Lb ("left brokit")}}
\n \text{\texttt{\textbackslash n (for C programs, etc.)}}
\} \text{\texttt{\textbackslash R}}
\> \text{\texttt{\textbackslash Rb ("right brokit")}}
\ SP \text{\texttt{\texttt{(visible space)}}}
~ \text{\texttt{\textbackslash tilde}}
\ \text{\texttt{\textunderscore}}
\ $ \text{\texttt{\text\$}}$

Predefined tables

For the common case where a two-column table is used, displaying a relatively narrow left-hand column in typewriter font, and with the right column formed into text paragraphs, use \texttt{\texttt{\textbackslash twotab\{\ldots\}]]. This macro includes a template, so all you will need is the body of the table. For example:

\begin{tabular}{ll}
super & The old way. \\
ucsh & The new super-duper UC shell, which works great but there's no documentation. \\
\end{tabular}

\texttt{\textbackslash twotab\%}
\texttt{\%}
\texttt{\%}
\texttt{super\& The old way.\cr
ucsh\& The new super-duper UC shell, which works great but there's no documentation.\cr}
\texttt{\%}

The default column widths for a \texttt{\twotab} are given in handmacs.tex (at this writing, 1'' for the left column and 3'' for the right column, although a total of 5'' is available).

If you want to change these widths for one table, use the explicitly-sized version:

\texttt{\twotabSize\{w_1\}\{w_2\}\{\ldots\}]

where \texttt{w_1} and \texttt{w_2} are the widths of the two columns.

To change the default widths for all successive tables, use lines of the form

\texttt{\twotabLeftSize=<dim>}
\texttt{\twotabTextSize=<dim>}

where <dim> is some dimension, e.g., 3.5in.
Closing timestamp and credits

Just before the \bye at the end of the document, include a call to \credits{...} to show who wrote this document. Include a call to \today so that the compilation date will appear in the document. Here is an example of a call to \credits{...}:

\begin{verbatim}
\credits%
{
  Written by John W. Shipman ({\tt john@nmt.edu}).
  This version printed \today.
}%
\end{verbatim}

Written by John W. Shipman (tcc-doc@nmt.edu). This version printed 2003-06-30. Copyright © 2001 by the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology.