

The `physics2` package

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Abstract

This is the document for `physics2` package, which defines commands for typesetting math formulae faster and more simply. `physics2` is a modularized package, each module provides its own function.

This document describes the `physics2` package in more detail. But if you are a user of the legacy `physics` package, you can click [here](#) to see the documentation for `physics` users before you start. If you never used `physics` package before, just read *this* documentation.

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*<https://www.github.com/AlphaZTX/physics2>

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1 Introduction

1.1 The purpose of this package

This package aims to provide a bundle of commands for typesetting math faster in different modules. The commands provided by `physics2` and its different modules are designed to be short and easy to memorize.

1.2 Packages required

The `physics2` package itself only requires the `keyval` package, which is part of the `latex-graphics` bundle. Almost every \LaTeX distribution will include this bundle.

Different modules of `physics2` might require different packages. It will be explained in the following sections that which module requires which package.

The `physics2` package requires \LaTeX 2_ε kernel released after 2020/10. Please make sure that your \LaTeX distribution is not too old.

1.3 Loading the `physics2` package

Just like loading any package, write

```
\usepackage{physics2}
```

in the preamble to load the `physics2` package. In this version, `physics2` doesn't provide a package option.

However, `physics2` itself only provides very few functions. Actually, it just provides a method to load modules. You need to load different modules of `physics2` to have different kinds of functions applied to your document.

1.4 Loading a module of `physics2`

You can load a module of `physics2` only *after* you write `\usepackage{physics2}` in the preamble. Load a `physics2` module like this:

`\usephysicsmodule{\langle module \rangle}`

The usage of `\usephysicsmodule` is similar to `\usepackage`, so you can load more than one modules in one line. For example,

```
\usephysicsmodule{ab,ab.braket}
```

This line loads the `ab` and `ab.braket` modules.

You can also load *one* module with options. The options of a `physics2` module can be a comma-separated key-value list. For example,

```
\usephysicsmodule[tightbraces=true]{ab}
\usephysicsmodule{ab.braket,doubleprod}
```

These two lines load the `ab` module with option `tightbraces=true` and load `ab.braket` and `doubleprod` modules.



The `common` module will be loaded automatically when you load the `physics2` package and *only* the `common` module will be loaded automatically. Any other module should be loaded manually by writing `\usephysicsmodule{\langle module \rangle}` after you loaded `physics2` in the preamble.

The following sections introduce all the user-level modules of `physics2`. View back to the table of contents to see the names of user-level modules.

2 Modules of `physics2`

2.1 The automatically loaded `common` module

The `common` module provides the following commands:

`\delopen` and `\delclose`, followed by a math delimiter. They can be regarded as abbreviations of “open delimiter” and “close delimiter”. If you had heard of the `mleftright` package. You can regard `\delopen` and `\delclose` as a simpler version of `\mleft` and `\mright`. For example,

[2.1.1]

```
\[ \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^3 \]
\[ \delopen(\frac{1}{2}\delclose)^3 \]
```

$0\left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^3$ $0\delopen(\frac{1}{2}\delclose)^3$

`\biggg` and `\Biggg`, followed by a math delimiter. They are even bigger than `\Bigg`. `\biggg` and `\Biggg` may be useful when you need to write something really tall in math mode, but most OpenType math font do not support `\langle` (or U+27E8) and `\rangle` (or U+27E9) in this large size. Take an example,

[2.1.2]

```
\[\Biggg(\biggg(\Bigg(\bigg(\Big(\big((
)\big)\Big)\bigg)\Bigg)\biggg)\Biggg)\]
```



`\biggl`, `\biggm`, `\biggr`, `\Biggl`, `\Biggm` and `\Biggr` are also supported.

2.2 The **ab** module – automatic braces

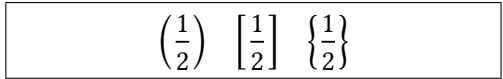
This module provides the command `\ab`. The `\ab` command, as a shorthand of “automatic braces”, would specify the size of the following pair of delimiters. The delimiters after `\ab` should not be out of the range described by the following chart:

(,)	
[,]	
\{, \}	or \lbrace, \rbrace
<, >	or \langle, \rangle
,	or \vert, \vert
\ , \	or \Vert, \Vert

For example, it’s illegal to write an “`\ab(`” without a “`)`”; it’s also illegal to write `\ab=foo=`. Take some correct examples:

[2.2.1]

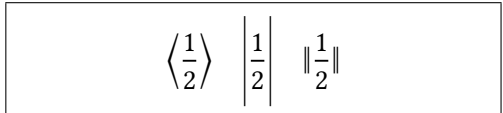
```
\[ \ab ( \frac{1}{2} ) \quad \quad \quad
\ab [ \frac{1}{2} ] \quad \quad \quad
\ab\{ \frac{1}{2} \} \quad \quad \quad \]
```



You can also write a command from `\big` to `\Biggg` between `\ab` and the first delimiter, which means to specify the size of delimiters manually. Also, you can write a star (*) between `\ab` and the first delimiter, to prevent `\ab` from setting the size of delimiters. For example,

[2.2.2]

```
\[ \ab <\frac{1}{2}> \quad \quad \quad
\ab\biggg|\frac{1}{2}| \quad \quad \quad
\ab* \|\frac{1}{2}\| \quad \quad \quad \]
```



Always remember, do not put an `\ab` separately at the end of math mode like `\ab$`, because `\ab` will try to absorb the following math shift character (\$) as its argument.

The **ab** module also provides `\Xab` commands, where *X* can be *p*, *b*, *B*, *a*, *v* and *V*. These commands take a normal argument but not an argument delimited with paired delimiters. For example,

[2.2.3] `\def\0{\frac{1}{2}}`
`\[\pab{\0} \bab{\0} \Bab{\0} \]`
`\[\aab{\0} \vab{\0} \Vab{\0} \]`

$$\left(\frac{1}{2}\right)\left[\frac{1}{2}\right]\left\{\frac{1}{2}\right\}$$

$$\left\langle\frac{1}{2}\right|\frac{1}{2}\| \|\frac{1}{2}\|$$

After `\Xab` can be a “biggg” command or a star. For example,

[2.2.4] `\def\0{\frac{1}{2}}`
`\[\pab\Big{\0} \quad \bab*{\0} \]`

$$\left(\frac{1}{2}\right) \left[\frac{1}{2}\right]$$

The options of `ab` module `tightbraces`, a bool type key, whose default value is `true`, influences whether thin skips are reserved around the paired delimiters. It only works with the automatically sized delimiters.

2.3 The `ab.braket` module — Dirac bra-ket notation

This module provides four commands — `\bra`, `\ket`, `\braket` and `\ketbra`. After these commands can be a star (*) or a “biggg” command. These commands share similar syntaxes like `\ab`’s syntax. But, *the bra-ket commands from `ab.braket` module are completely different from `\ab`*. Their internal structures are different.

The argument of `\bra` should be delimited with `<` and `|`, that is,

$$\backslash\bra < \langle subformula \rangle |$$

For example,

[2.3.1] `\[\bra < \frac{\phi}{2} | \]`
`\[\bra* < \frac{\phi}{2} | \]`
`\[\bra\Big < \phi | \]`

$$\left\langle\frac{\phi}{2}\right|$$

$$\left\langle\frac{\phi}{2}\right|$$

$$\left\langle\phi\right|$$

The argument of `\ket` should be delimited with `|` and `>`, that is,

$$\backslash\ket | \langle subformula \rangle >$$

For example,

[2.3.2] `\[\ket | \frac{\psi}{2} > \]`
`\[\ket* | \frac{\psi}{2} > \]`
`\[\ket\Big | \psi > \]`

$$\left|\frac{\psi}{2}\right\rangle$$

$$\left|\frac{\psi}{2}\right\rangle$$

$$\left|\psi\right\rangle$$



If you want to write “>” and “<” for relations in the argument of `\bra` and `\ket`, you can write `\mathrel{>}` and `\mathrel{<}` (although there is almost no such need).

The argument of `\braket` should be delimited with `<` and `>`, that is,

`\braket <⟨subformula⟩ >`

In the `⟨subformula⟩` argument, every “|” will be regarded as an extensible vertical bar. For example,

[2.3.3] `\[\braket< \phi > \]`
`\[\braket< \phi | \psi > \]`
`\[\braket< \phi | A | \psi > \]`

$$\langle \phi \rangle$$

$$\langle \phi | \psi \rangle$$

$$\langle \phi | A | \psi \rangle$$

[2.3.4] `\def\0{\frac{\phi}{2}}`
`\[\braket < \0 | \psi > \]`
`\[\braket* < \0 | \psi > \]`
`\[\braket\Bigg< \0 | \psi > \]`

$$\left\langle \frac{\phi}{2} \middle| \psi \right\rangle$$

$$\langle \frac{\phi}{2} | \psi \rangle$$

$$\left\langle \frac{\phi}{2} \middle| \psi \right\rangle$$

The argument of `\ketbra` should be delimited with `|` and `|`. In the argument, `>` and `<` will be regarded as extensible `⟩` and `⟨`. that is,

`\ketbra |⟨subformula1⟩ >⟨optional⟩ <⟨subformula2⟩ |`

For example,

[2.3.5] `\def\0{\frac{\phi}{2}}`
`\[\ketbra | \0 >< \psi | \]`
`\[\ketbra* | \0 >< \psi | \]`
`\[\ketbra\Bigg| \0 >< \psi | \]`

$$\left| \frac{\phi}{2} \right\rangle \left\langle \psi \middle| \right.$$

$$\left| \frac{\phi}{2} \right\rangle \langle \psi |$$

$$\left| \frac{\phi}{2} \right\rangle \left\langle \psi \middle| \right.$$

[2.3.6] `\def\0{\frac{\phi}{2}}`
`\[\ketbra| \0 >_x^y < \psi | \]`

$$\left| \frac{\phi}{2} \right\rangle_x^y \left\langle \psi \middle| \right.$$



If you want to write “>” and “<” for relations in the argument of `\braket` and `\ketbra`, you can write `\>` and `\<` (although there is almost no such need). It is quite different from `\mathrel{>}` or `\mathrel{<}` because in these commands’ argument, `>` and `<` will be redefined.

Next, the `braket` module will be introduced. Please notice that `braket` is conflict with `ab.braket`, they cannot be used together.

2.4 The `braket` module — Dirac bra-ket notation

Please notice that this module is conflict with the `ab.braket` module. Don’t use them together.

This module contains four commands — `\bra`, `\ket`, `\braket` and `\ketbra`. After these commands can be a star (*) or a square-bracket-delimited size option, the size option can take the following values:

`big`, `Big`, `bigg`, `Bigg`, `biggg` or `Biggg`.

Star stands for “do not size the bra-ket automatically”.

The argument(s) of these four commands are braced with { and }. `\bra` and `\ket` take one mandatory argument. For example,

[2.4.1]	<pre> \def\0{\frac\phi2} \[\bra {\0} \quad \bra* {\0} \quad \bra[Big] {\0} \] \[\ket {\0} \quad \ket* {\0} \quad \ket[Big] {\0} \] </pre>	$\left\langle \frac{\phi}{2} \middle \quad \left\langle \frac{\phi}{2} \middle \quad \left\langle \frac{\phi}{2} \middle \right.$ $\left. \left \frac{\phi}{2} \right\rangle \quad \left \frac{\phi}{2} \right\rangle \quad \left \frac{\phi}{2} \right\rangle \right.$
---------	---	---

The `\braket` command, in default, can take two arguments.

[2.4.2]	<pre> \def\0{\frac\phi2} \[\braket {\0} {\psi} \quad \braket*{\0} {\psi} \quad \braket[big] {\0} {\psi} \] </pre>	$\left\langle \frac{\phi}{2} \middle \psi \right\rangle \quad \left\langle \frac{\phi}{2} \middle \psi \right\rangle \quad \left\langle \frac{\phi}{2} \middle \psi \right\rangle$
---------	--	---

If you want `\braket` to take one or three arguments, you can write the number of arguments in the square bracket. If you need to specify the size of bra-ket simultaneously, you need to separate the number and the size with a comma:

[2.4.3]	<pre> \def\0{\frac\phi2} \[\braket [1] {\0} \quad \braket*[1] {\0} \] \[\braket [3] {\0}{A}{\psi} \quad \braket[3,big] {\0}{A}{\psi} \quad \braket[Big,3] {\0}{A}{\psi} \] </pre>	$\left\langle \frac{\phi}{2} \right\rangle \quad \left\langle \frac{\phi}{2} \right\rangle$ $\left\langle \frac{\phi}{2} \middle A \middle \psi \right\rangle$ $\left\langle \frac{\phi}{2} \middle A \middle \psi \right\rangle \quad \left\langle \frac{\phi}{2} \middle A \middle \psi \right\rangle$
---------	---	--

The `\ketbra` command takes two mandatory arguments. It can also take an optional argument between the two mandatory arguments. The optional argument will be placed between `\rangle` and `\langle`:

```
[2.4.4] \def\0{\frac\phi2}
\[\ketbra{\0}{\psi}\quad
\ketbra*{\0}{\psi}\]
\[\ketbra[Bigg]{\0}{\psi}\]
\[\ketbra{\0}{_x^y}{\psi}\]
```

$$\left|\frac{\phi}{2}\right\rangle\langle\psi| \quad \left|\frac{\phi}{2}\right\rangle\langle\psi|$$

$$\left|\frac{\phi}{2}\right\rangle\langle\psi|$$

$$\left|\frac{\phi}{2}\right\rangle_x^y\langle\psi|$$

2.5 The `diagmat` module — simple diagonal matrices

This module provides `\diagmat` command:

$$\diagmat[\text{empty} = \langle \text{empty entry} \rangle]{\langle \text{diag} \rangle}$$

where `\langle diag \rangle` is the diagonal of the diagonal matrix. The entries should be separated by commas. The `empty` option is optional, with default value `\empty`. For example,

```
[2.5.1] \[
\diagmat { 1, 2, 3 }
\]
```

$$\begin{matrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 3 \end{matrix}$$

`\pdiagmat`, `\bdiagmat`, `\Bdiagmat`, `\vdiagmat` and `\Vdiagmat` are also available. Prefixes like `p`, `b`, `B` have the same meaning as the `p`, `b`, `B` in `amsmath`'s `pmatrix`, `bmatrix` and `Bmatrix`. For example,

```
[2.5.2] \[
\pdiagmat [ empty = {} ]
{ a, b, c, d }
\]
```

$$\begin{pmatrix} a & & & \\ & b & & \\ & & c & \\ & & & d \end{pmatrix}$$

This module requires `amsmath`.

The options of `diagmat` module You can set the default value of `\diagmat`'s empty entries in the module option like this:

$$\usephysicsmodule[empty={\cdot}]{diagmat}$$

2.6 The `doubleprod` module — tensors’ double product operator

Take an example of this module:

[2.6.1] `$ A \doublecross B \doubledot C $` $A \times B : C$

`\doublecross` and `\doubledot` are regarded as binary operators by \TeX .

The options of `doubleprod` module You can control the scale of “ \times ” and “ \cdot ” in `\doublecross` and `\doubledot` in module option. For example,

```
\usephysicsmodule[crossscale=0.75,dotscale=1.2]{doubleprod}
```

The default values of `crossscale` and `dotscale` are 0.8 and 1. You can also control the distances between the two “ \times ”s and “ \cdot ”s through the `crossopenup` and `dotopenup` options. For example,

```
\usephysicsmodule[crossopenup=.05,dotopenup=.25]{doubleprod}
```

The default values of `crossopenup` and `dotopenup` are 0.02 and 0.2. The value stands for the multiple of current font size. Moreover, you can change the symbols produced by `\doublecross` and `\doubledot` by setting `crosssymbol` and `dotsymbol` in module option.

2.7 The `xmat` module — matrices with formatted entries

The `xmat` module provides `\xmat` command for matrices with formatted entries:

```
\xmat[<options>]{<entry>}{<rows shown>}{<cols shown>}
```

If *<rows shown>* and *<cols shown>* are digits, the value of them must be less at least 2 than the value of `amsmath`’s `MaxMatrixCols` counter. For example,

[2.7.1] `\[\xmat{a}{2}{3} \]`
$$\begin{matrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & a_{13} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & a_{23} \end{matrix}$$

`\pxmat`, `\bxmat`, `\Bxmat`, `\vxmat` and `\Vxmat` are also available. The meaning of `p` and so on is the same as the `p` in `pmatrix` of `amsmath`. For example,

[2.7.2] `\[\pxmat{M}{3}{3} \]`
$$\begin{pmatrix} M_{11} & M_{12} & M_{13} \\ M_{21} & M_{22} & M_{23} \\ M_{31} & M_{32} & M_{33} \end{pmatrix}$$

If $\langle rows\ shown \rangle$ and $\langle cols\ shown \rangle$ contain non-digit characters, extra dots will be added. For example,

[2.7.3]

```
\[
  \bxmat[showleft=3,showtop=2]
  {X}{m}{n}
\]
```

$$\begin{bmatrix} X_{11} & X_{12} & X_{13} & \cdots & X_{1n} \\ X_{21} & X_{22} & X_{23} & \cdots & X_{2n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ X_{m1} & X_{m2} & X_{m3} & \cdots & X_{mn} \end{bmatrix}$$

In this example we used the `showleft` and `showtop` options. The default value of them is the value of `MaxMatrixCols` minus 2. You can also set them in the module option like this:

```
\usephysicsmodule[showtop=3,showleft=3]{xmat}
```

Then every `\xmat` with non-digital $\langle rows\ shown \rangle$ and $\langle cols\ shown \rangle$ will have 2 top-most rows and 3 left-most columns shown. This will also influence “`\xmat`”s with digital $\langle rows\ shown \rangle$ and $\langle cols\ shown \rangle$ when $\langle rows\ shown \rangle$ and $\langle cols\ shown \rangle$ are larger than the values corresponding to `showtop` and `showleft`. For example,

[2.7.4]

```
% \usephysicsmodule
% [showtop=3,showleft=3]{xmat}
\[ \pxmat{A}{8}{8} \]
```

$$\begin{pmatrix} A_{11} & A_{12} & A_{13} & \cdots & A_{18} \\ A_{21} & A_{22} & A_{23} & \cdots & A_{28} \\ A_{31} & A_{32} & A_{33} & \cdots & A_{38} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ A_{81} & A_{82} & A_{83} & \cdots & A_{88} \end{pmatrix}$$

However, when $\langle rows\ shown \rangle$ and $\langle cols\ shown \rangle$ are 1 greater than $\langle showtop \rangle$ and $\langle showleft \rangle$, for example, $\langle rows\ shown \rangle = 4$ and $\langle cols\ shown \rangle = 4$ in last example’s settings, `\xmat` will still add the extra dots:

[2.7.5]

```
% \usephysicsmodule
% [showtop=3,showleft=3]{xmat}
\[ \pxmat{A}{4}{4} \]
```

$$\begin{pmatrix} A_{11} & A_{12} & A_{13} & \cdots & A_{14} \\ A_{21} & A_{22} & A_{23} & \cdots & A_{24} \\ A_{31} & A_{32} & A_{33} & \cdots & A_{34} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ A_{41} & A_{42} & A_{43} & \cdots & A_{44} \end{pmatrix}$$

In such situations, we need to specify `showtop` and `showleft` manually. For example,

[2.7.6]

```
% \usephysicsmodule
% [showtop=3,showleft=3]{xmat}
\[ \pxmat[showtop=4,showleft=4]
  {A}{4}{4} \]
```

$$\begin{pmatrix} A_{11} & A_{12} & A_{13} & A_{14} \\ A_{21} & A_{22} & A_{23} & A_{24} \\ A_{31} & A_{32} & A_{33} & A_{34} \\ A_{41} & A_{42} & A_{43} & A_{44} \end{pmatrix}$$

The `\xmat` command provides the `format` option, which allows users to use a new entry format. For example,

```
[2.7.7] \[
        \xmat [showleft=2,showtop=2,
              format=\texttt{#1[#2][#3]}}]
        {x}{m}{n}
\]
```

$$\begin{array}{cccc} x[1][1] & x[1][2] & \cdots & x[1][n] \\ x[2][1] & x[2][2] & \cdots & x[2][n] \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ x[m][1] & x[m][2] & \cdots & x[m][n] \end{array}$$

In the value of `format` key, `#1` stands for the common entry, or the first mandatory *entry* argument of `\xmat`; `#2` stands for the row index and `#3` stands for the column index.

This module requires [amsmath](#).

The options of `xmat` module Only `showtop` and `showleft` can be used as module options. `format` should be only used in the optional argument of the `\xmat` command.

3 The “legacy” modules

The legacy modules have similar names like *module*.legacy. Most of them are designed to provide solutions to maintain documents written with the legacy [physics](#) package. It’s not suggest to use them in a new document.

3.1 The `ab.legacy` module

This module provides the following commands:

```
\abs \norm \eval \order
```

They can take a normal argument. Between these commands and their argument can be a “biggg” command or a star. For example,

```
[3.1.1] \def\0{\frac12}
\[\abs{\0} \quad \quad \quad \norm\Big{\0} \quad \quad \quad \order*{\0} \quad \quad \quad \]
```

$\left|\frac{1}{2}\right| \quad \left\|\frac{1}{2}\right\| \quad \mathcal{O}\left(\frac{1}{2}\right)$

```
[3.1.2] \def\0{\frac12x}
\[\eval{\0}_a^b \quad \quad \quad \eval[{\0}_a^b \quad \quad \quad \eval[[]\big{\0}_a^b \quad \quad \quad \]
```

$\frac{1}{2}x \Big|_a^b \quad \left(\frac{1}{2}x \Big|_a^b \quad \left[\frac{1}{2}x \Big|_a^b$

You can set the “order” symbol in this module through the `order` option like this:

```
\usephysicsmodule[order=0]{ab.legacy}
```

For further information of this module, see §2.1 of [physics2-legacy](#).

3.2 The `bm-um.legacy` module

If you are maintaining a document with plenty of “`\bm`”s or “`\boldsymbol`”s in it but want to use `unicode-math` package simultaneously, you could take a look at this module.

The `\bm` command from `bm` package uses `\mathversion` to support its function, but there are few OpenType math fonts who released with a bold version. The `bm-um.legacy` module provides a `\bm` command too, but this `\bm` can only take *one* math character or a series of math characters sharing the same category code as its argument. If the argument was Latin letters or Greek letters, `\bm` would switch to the bold italic glyphs corresponding to them (if there exists bold italic glyphs); else `\bm` would switch to the bold upright glyphs. For example,

[3.2.1] `\bm{0}\bm{A}\bm{z}` `\bm{\alpha}\bm{\Omega}` **0AzαΩ**

3.3 The `nabla.legacy` module

This module provides some commands related to nabla (∇). Notice that this module requires the `fixdif` package with file date 2023/01/31 at minimum.

This module defines `\grad` and `\curl` and redefines `\div`. For example,

[3.3.1] `\[\grad V \]` `\[\div (x,y,z) \]` `\[\curl(x,y,z) \]`

$$\nabla V$$

$$\nabla \cdot (x, y, z)$$

$$\nabla \times (x, y, z)$$

The “ \div ” symbol was redefined as `\divsymbol`.

3.4 The `op.legacy` module

This module provides a series of commands for log-like operators. They are

```
\asin \acos \atan
\acsc \asec \acot
```

```

\Tr      \tr      \rank
\erf     \Res     \res
\PV      \pv
\Re      \Im

```

where `\Re` and `\Im` are redefined. The first four lines of commands yield what they look like in math mode. For example,

[3.4.1] `\asin x$ \quad $\rank A$` $\operatorname{asin} x$ $\operatorname{rank} A$

`\PV` yields “ \mathcal{P} ” as an ordinary symbol and `\pv` yields “p.v.”. For example,

[3.4.2] `\PV f(z)$ \quad $\pv f(z)$` $\mathcal{P}f(z)$ p.v. $f(z)$

`\Re` and `\Im` are redefined as “Re” and “Im”. \Re and \Im are redefined as `\Resymbol` and `\Imsymbol`, in default.

This module *does not* require [amsmath](#).

The options of `op.legacy` module `ReIm`, a bool key with default value true, determines whether to redefine `\Re` and `\Im`. If you want to reserve the definition of `\Re` and `\Im`, you can write like this:

```
\usephysicsmodule[ReIm=false]{op.legacy}
```

3.5 The `qtext.legacy` module

This module was written just to offer a method to maintain documents written with the legacy `physics` package. See §2.4 of [physics2-legacy](#) for more information.