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1. Licence, Requirements and README

Permission is granted to copy, distribute and/or modify this software under the terms of the \LaTeX{} Project Public License (\LPPL{}), version 1.3 or later (http://www.latex-project.org/lppl.txt). The software has the status "maintained."

\texttt{XSIM} loads the packages expl3 [L3Pa], xparse [L3Pb], etoolbox [Leh19], array [MC19] booktabs [Fea16] and translations [Nie17]. All of these packages are present on a modern and up to date \TeX{} distribution such as \TeX{} Live or MiK\TeX{} so no further action should be needed. When you are using \texttt{XSIM} you should be using an up to date \TeX{} distribution, anyway.
2. Motivation, Background

Newer versions of \texttt{xsim} may depend on newer versions of the support packages. Remember: it is always dangerous to update single packages. Always update your \TeX{} distribution if you want an up to date version of a package. Be careful: if you’re in the middle of an important project it might be better to wait with the update until you’ve finished the project. Every update might be breaking some things.

Please also be aware that \texttt{xsim} is actively developed and many things may still change. However, I will try my best to keep the interface stable.

I’m currently thinking to make the option \texttt{no-files} the default behavior of \texttt{xsim}. There is a poll and discussion regarding this question on \texttt{xsim}’s github page if you like to give your opinion on this.

The whole collection mechanism is likely to change completely in the not-so-far future (let’s say sometime in the six months from April 2020 or so).

2. Motivation, Background

It has been quite a while since I first published \texttt{exsheets} [Nie19] in June 2012. Since then it has gained a user base and a little bit of popularity as the number of questions on tex.sx shows (143 at the time of writing) [\texttt{var}]. User questions, bug reports and feature requests improved it over the time. It still has a version number starting with a zero, though, which in my versioning system means I still consider it experimental.

This is due to several facts. It lacks a few features which I consider essential for a full version 1. For one thing it is not possible to have several kinds of exercises numbered independently. Using verbatim material such as listings inside exercises and solutions is not possible and the current workaround isn’t that ideal either. One request which dates back quite a while now was to have different types of points to exercises…

All of those aren’t easy to add due to the way \texttt{exsheets} is implemented right now. As a consequence I wanted to re-implement \texttt{exsheets} for a long time. This is what lead to \texttt{xsim}. Internally the package works completely different.

\texttt{xsim} will be the official successor of \texttt{exsheets} which is now considered obsolete but will stay alive and will still receive bugfix releases. However, new features will not be added to \texttt{exsheets} any more.

3. How to Read the Manual

3.1. Nomenclature

Throughout this manual certain terms are used. This section explains their meaning in this manual.
collection A collection bundles a number of exercises of one type or all types of exercises within certain barriers in the document. Those exercise collections can be printed at any place in the document.

goal Goals are a certain type of properties with a numerical value the sum of which is available throughout the document.

parameter Parameters are options of exercise types which are the same for each exercise of a type and can be retrieved and used in exercise templates.

property Properties are options of exercises which are individual for each exercise and can be retrieved and used in exercise templates.

tag Tags are a certain type of properties with a csv list as value which can be used for selective usage of exercises.

template Templates are generic code frameworks which are used for typesetting xsim’s objects such as exercises, solutions, or grading tables.

3.2. Package Options

xsim has these package options:

verbose Writes extensive information about what xsim is doing into the log file.

final If used the exercise and solution environments will not rewrite the environment body files.

clear-aux If used every time the total number of exercise changes xsim will write less information to the auxiliary file on the next run and only if the number of exercises stays stable between compilations the needed information will be written to the auxiliary file. This needs more compilations until everything stabilizes but should reduce the probability of possibly faulty exercises after changes to the document. The final option automatically disables this option. See also sections 5 on page 7 and B.2 on page 53.

no-files Introduced in version 0.13
(Oct 6, 2019)
This option prevents xsim from writing the exercises and solutions to external files. This will keep your working folder “clean” but will also prevent using verbatim material in exercises and solutions and will possibly slow processing further down. This option is considered experimental. Feedback is very welcome.

use-aux Introduced in version 0.15
(Nov 2, 2019) With this option enabled xsim will use the regular auxiliary file \jobname.aux instead of its own auxiliary file \jobname.xsim.
3. How to Read the Manual

**blank**

With this option enabled XSIM will not define the default environments exercise and solution.

Those options are load-time options and are used the usual way as package options:

```
\usepackage[verbose]{xsim}
```

Although those options technically belong to the package module (see also section 3.3) it is not possible to set them via \xsimsetup.

### 3.3. Setting Options

Apart from the package options already described in section 3.2 on the previous page XSIM has further options. All those options are set using the following command:

```
\xsimsetup{(options)}
```

Set up XSIM’s package options and all other options described at other places in the manual.

Options can be “toplevel” options or options belonging to a module:

- **toplevel** = \{⟨value⟩\}
  A toplevel option.

- **module/sublevel** = \{⟨value⟩\}
  A sublevel option belonging to the module **module**

Both kinds of options are set with the setup command:

```
\xsimsetup{
  toplevel = ⟨value⟩ ,
  module/sublevel = ⟨value⟩
}
```

### 3.4. Command descriptions

Some commands do have a * symbol printed next to their names. This indicates that the command is expandable, i.e., it is usable in an \edef or \write context and will expand according to its description. All other commands are engine protected, i.e., in the sense of e-\TeX’s \protected.

Some command name descriptions end with TF.

```
\SomeCommandTF⟨arguments⟩\{⟨true⟩\} {⟨false⟩}
```

A command with maybe some arguments and ending with the two arguments ⟨true⟩ and ⟨false⟩.
4. Exercises and Solutions

This means two things: the command is a conditional which tests something and depending on the outcome of the test leaves either the \langle true\rangle argument (T) or the \langle false\rangle argument (F) in the input stream. It also means two additional commands exist:

\SomeCommandT\{\langle \mathrm{arguments} \rangle \langle \text{true} \rangle \}

The same as \SomeCommandTF but only with the \langle true\rangle argument and no \langle false\rangle argument.

\SomeCommandF\{\langle \mathrm{arguments} \rangle \langle \text{false} \rangle \}

The same as \SomeCommandTF but only with the \langle false\rangle argument and no \langle true\rangle argument.

4. Exercises and Solutions

The two predefined environments for exercises and solutions are the following ones:\footnote{When you load \texttt{xsim} with the \texttt{blank} those environments will \textit{not} be defined!}:

\begin{exercise}\{\langle \mathrm{properties} \rangle \}

Input and typeset an exercise. See section 7 on page 12 for details on exercise properties.

\end{exercise}

\begin{solution}\{\langle \mathrm{options} \rangle \}

Input and typeset the solution to the exercise of the previous exercise environment. See section 11 on page 26 for details on options of solutions.

\end{solution}

\begin{exercise}

A first example for an exercise.

\end{exercise}

\begin{solution}[\texttt{print}=\texttt{true}]\texttt{false}

A first example for a solution.

\end{solution}

Exercise 1

A first example for an exercise.

As can be seen in the example a solution is not printed with the default setup. This can be changed using the following option.

\texttt{solution/\texttt{print}=\texttt{true}|false}

\begin{verbatim}
Set if solutions are printed or not.
\end{verbatim}

The option (belonging to the module \texttt{solution}) can either be set locally as option to the solution environment

\begin{solution}[\texttt{print}=\texttt{true}]

A first example for a solution.

\end{solution}
5. How the Exercise Environments Work

or with the setup command for all following solutions:

\begin{solution}
\xsimsetup{
  solution/print = true
}\end{solution}

There is an completely analogous option for the exercise environment:

\begin{solution}
\exercise\print = \text{true}|\text{false}
\end{solution}

\text{Default: true}

Set if exercises are printed or not.

More details on those two environments can be found in section 8 on page 19.

5. How the Exercise Environments Work

Both the exercise and the solution environments write the contents of their bodies verbatim to external files following a certain naming structure:

\begin{itemize}
  \item \langle jobname \rangle - \langle type \rangle - \langle id \rangle - \text{exercise|solution-body.tex}
\end{itemize}

The name starts with the name of the job (which is the name of the document itself) followed by type and id of the corresponding exercise and then followed by the environment type. For example both environments from the first example have been written to \text{files} named

\begin{itemize}
  \item xsim\_manual\_exercise\_1\_exercise\_body.tex
  \item xsim\_manual\_exercise\_1\_solution\_body.tex
\end{itemize}

These external files are input when the respective exercise or solution is printed. An advantage of using external files is that \text{verbatim material is allowed} inside the environments. Details on the \langle type \rangle of an exercise will be given in section 6 on page 9. The \langle id \rangle of an exercise is a \text{positive integer unique to each exercise environment regardless if the exercise is being printed or used at all.}

Each of those files contains some information about itself and where and why it was generated:

\begin{verbatim}
\% file `xsim\_manual\_exercise\_1\_exercise\_body.tex'
\% in folder `exercises/'
\end{verbatim}

2. In this example the sourcecode line number is misleading as the example where the file was generated itself was an external file where the exercise environment indeed \text{was} on line 1.
Arguably one downside of the approach using external files for each exercise and its solution is that your project folder will be cluttered with files. In order to deal with this somehow \texttt{xsim} offers the following option:

\smallskip
\verb|\texttt{path} = \{(path name)\}| (initially empty)

With this option a subfolder or path within the main project folder can be given. Exercises will be written to and included from this path. \textit{The path must exist on your system before you can use it!} This document uses \texttt{path = \{exercises\}}.

\smallskip
\verb|\texttt{file-extension} = \{(string)\}| Default: \texttt{tex}

This option let’s you choose the extension of the external files.

\smallskip
\begin{itemize}
\item Another thing to keep in mind: the environment in many ways works the same way as the \texttt{filecontents} environment. \textit{This also means that you cannot have comments or \texttt{\label}s or anything else on the first line of the environments!}
\end{itemize}

\smallskip
\begin{itemize}
\item \texttt{\begin{exercise}[points=2]} % this comment will cause trouble
\item \texttt{Lorem ipsum}
\item \texttt{\end{exercise}}
\end{itemize}

Introduced in version 0.13 (Oct 6, 2019)

If you don’t like all the external files and the problems which come with them \textit{and} if you don’t need any verbatim or similar material inside the exercises and solutions then you can use the following package option:

\texttt{no-files}

This package option prevents \texttt{xsim} from writing the exercises and solutions to external files. This will keep your working folder “clean” but will also prevent using verbatim material in exercises and solutions and will possibly slow processing further down. \textit{This option is considered experimental. Feedback is very welcome.}
6. New Exercise Types

\texttt{XSIM} writes a lot of stuff to an auxiliary file called \texttt{\jobname.xsim} (or the common \texttt{\jobname.aux} if you use option \texttt{use-aux}) for re-using information on subsequent compilations. If you add exercises, change properties \textit{etc.} it might happen that wrong information is staying in the auxiliary file and is wrongly used by \texttt{XSIM}. In such cases deleting the auxiliary file and doing a few fresh compilations may resolve your problems.

Sometimes the \textit{existence of exercise or solution files from earlier compilations} may lead to wrong lists of exercises or solutions. In such cases it can be useful to delete all those files and doing a fresh compilation. It may be helpful to use a subfolder for those external files which will make deleting them a little bit easier. (Don’t forget to both create the subfolder and set \texttt{path} accordingly then.)

Using the \texttt{clear-aux} option might help to reduce erroneous exercises.

A lot of the lines \texttt{XSIM} writes to the auxiliary file and reads in a subsequent run look like this:

\begin{verbatim}
\XSIM{points}{exercise-2=={4}||exercise-10=={2.5}||problem-11=={5}}
\end{verbatim}

As you can see different entries of the various properties of exercises are separated with ||. This means that you cannot use this symbol combination inside properties.

For this reason \texttt{XSIM} provides an option to change the marker.

\begin{verbatim}
split-aux-lists = \{\texttt{(string)}\}
\end{verbatim}

Default: ||

Set the string that is used to separate the property entries in the auxiliary file.

6. New Exercise Types

It is easy to define new exercise environments together with a corresponding solution environment using the following command:

\begin{verbatim}
\DeclareExerciseType\{\texttt{(type)}\}\{\texttt{(parameters)}\}
\end{verbatim}

Declare a new exercise type analogous to the exercise and solution environments.

Declaring a new exercise type will also define a new command:

\begin{verbatim}
\numberOf\{\texttt{(exercise-env)}\}\s
\end{verbatim}

These commands hold the absolut number of used exercises of type \texttt{(type)}. The meaning of \texttt{(exercise-env)} will become clear below when the exercise parameters are explained. It is always the same as the exercise environment name.
6. New Exercise Types

There are \numberofexercises-exercises and \numberofproblems-problem in this manual.

There are 12 exercises and 1 problem in this manual.

\texttt{\LaTeX}'s pre-defined environment pair has been defined as follows:

\begin{verbatim}
\DeclareExerciseType{exercise} {
  exercise-env = exercise ,
  solution-env = solution ,
  exercise-name = \XSIMtranslate{exercise} ,
  exercises-name = \XSIMtranslate{exercises} ,
  solution-name = \XSIMtranslate{solution} ,
  solutions-name = \XSIMtranslate{solutions} ,
  exercise-template = default ,
  solution-template = default ,
  exercise-heading = \subsection* ,
  solution-heading = \subsection* 
}
\end{verbatim}

The above already is an example for almost all parameters that can (and often must) be set. Here is the complete list:

\texttt{\LaTeX} parameters

\begin{itemize}
  \item \texttt{exercise-env} = \{\langle\text{exercise environment name}\rangle\}
    \begin{itemize}
      \item The name for the environment used for the exercises of type \langle\text{type}\rangle.
      \item This parameter is mandatory.
      \item It can’t be changed afterwards.
    \end{itemize}
  \item \texttt{solution-env} = \{\langle\text{solution environment name}\rangle\}
    \begin{itemize}
      \item The name for the environment used for the solutions of type \langle\text{type}\rangle.
      \item This parameter is mandatory.
      \item It can’t be changed afterwards.
    \end{itemize}
  \item \texttt{exercise-name} = \{\langle\text{exercise name}\rangle\}
    \begin{itemize}
      \item The name of the exercises of type \langle\text{type}\rangle – used for typesetting.
      \item This parameter is mandatory.
    \end{itemize}
  \item \texttt{exercises-name} = \{\langle\text{exercises name}\rangle\}
    \begin{itemize}
      \item The plural name of the exercises of type \langle\text{type}\rangle – used for typesetting. If this is not set explicitly an \texttt{s} is appended to the singular name.
      \item Introduced in version 0.12 (Sep 26, 2019)
    \end{itemize}
  \item \texttt{solution-name} = \{\langle\text{solution name}\rangle\}
    \begin{itemize}
      \item The name of the solutions of type \langle\text{type}\rangle – used for typesetting.
      \item This parameter is mandatory.
    \end{itemize}
  \item \texttt{solutions-name} = \{\langle\text{solutions name}\rangle\}
    \begin{itemize}
      \item The plural name of the solutions of type \langle\text{type}\rangle – used for typesetting. If this is not set explicitly an \texttt{s} is appended to the singular name.
      \item Introduced in version 0.12 (Sep 26, 2019)
    \end{itemize}
\end{itemize}
6. New Exercise Types

**exercise-template** = \{exercise template\}

The template used for typesetting the exercises of type \(\langle \text{type} \rangle\). *This parameter is mandatory.* See section 13 on page 30 for details on templates.

**solution-template** = \{solution template\}

The template used for typesetting the exercises of type \(\langle \text{type} \rangle\). *This parameter is mandatory.* See section 13 on page 30 for details on templates.

**counter** = \{counter name\}

The counter used for the exercises of type \(\langle \text{type} \rangle\). If not explicitly set the counter with the same name as \texttt{exercise-env} is used. Otherwise the specified counter is used. This enables to have different types of exercises sharing a common counter. *This parameter can’t be changed afterwards.* If the explicit or implicit counter does not exist, yet, it will be defined.

**solution-counter** = \{counter name\}

The counter used for the solutions of type \(\langle \text{type} \rangle\). If not explicitly set the counter with the same name as \texttt{solution-env} is used. Otherwise the specified counter is used. This enables to have different types of solutions sharing a common counter although this doesn’t actually make much sense. But it can be useful to avoid using an already existing counter. *This parameter can’t be changed afterwards.* If the explicit or implicit counter does not exist, yet, it will be defined. The sole purpose of this counter is to be able to label solutions so they can be \pageref{...}.

**number** = \{integer\}

An internal parameter that is used to keep track of the number of exercises of a type. This parameter cannot be set or changed by the user.

**exercise-heading** = \{exercise heading command\}

The command used for typesetting of the heading of exercises of type \(\langle \text{type} \rangle\) – used for typesetting with the command \texttt{\GetExerciseHeadingF}.

**solution-heading** = \{solution heading command\}

The command used for typesetting of the heading of solutions of type \(\langle \text{type} \rangle\) – used for typesetting with the command \texttt{\GetExerciseHeadingF}.

It is possible to change some of the parameters after an exercise type has been defined. Those include \texttt{exercise-name, solution-name, exercise-template,} and \texttt{solution-template}. It is also possible to define new parameters.

\texttt{\ DeclareExerciseParameter}\*\{(parameter)\}

Declares the new parameter \(\langle \text{parameter} \rangle\). The optional star declares a fixed parameter which cannot be changed once it is set. *You probably will never need this command. Most tasks can be solved using properties (see section 7 on the following page) instead.*

\texttt{\ SetExerciseParameter\{\(\langle \text{type} \rangle\)\}\{\langle \text{parameter} \rangle\}\{\langle \text{value} \rangle\}]

Usable to set a single parameter to a new value.

\texttt{\ SetExerciseParameters\{\(\langle \text{type} \rangle\)\}\{\langle \text{parameters} \rangle\}]

Set several parameters at once. \(\langle \text{parameters} \rangle\) is a csv list of key/value pairs.
If you try to set an already set but fixed parameter like `exercise-env` a warning will be written to the log file. For all parameters that can be changed also options exist which can be set via `\xsimsetup`. They are explained in section 8.2 on page 19.

All exercises of a type use the parameters (e.g., `exercise-template`) that are currently active. If you want exercises with a different look or different names in the same document you should use different exercises types.

## 7. Exercise Properties

### 7.1. Predefined Properties

Exercise like the `exercise` environment and possibly others defined with `\DeclareExerciseType` have a number of predefined properties:

- **id** = `{⟨integer⟩}`
  - Holds the internal id of an exercise. *Cannot be set by the user.*

- **ID** = `{⟨text⟩}`
  - Holds the user id of an exercise if defined. Otherwise it is equal to `id`.

- **counter** = `{⟨text⟩}
  - Holds the counter value representation of an exercise (i.e., what you usually know as `\the(counter)`). *Cannot be set by the user.*

- **counter-value** = `{⟨integer⟩}
  - Holds the counter value of an exercise (i.e., what you usually know as `\the\value{(counter)}`). *Cannot be set by the user.*

- **subtitle** = `{⟨text⟩}
  - Holds the subtitle of an exercise.

- **points** = `{⟨number⟩}
  - Holds the reachable points of an exercise.

- **bonus-points** = `{⟨number⟩}
  - Holds the reachable bonus-points of an exercise.

- **print** = `true|false`
  - Holds the print boolean of an exercise.

- **print!** = `true|false`
  - Holds a special print boolean of an exercise, see page 18.

- **use** = `true|false`
  - Holds the usage boolean of an exercise.
Exercise Properties

\textbf{use!} = \texttt{true}|\texttt{false}  
Holds a special usage boolean of an exercise, see page 18.

\textbf{used} = \texttt{true}|\texttt{false}  
True if an exercise has been used at least once. For an existing exercise this is only false for exercises that have been collected (\textit{cf.} section 9 on page 21).

\textbf{solution} = \texttt{true}|\texttt{false}  
Holds the solution boolean of an exercise. If this is true then a solution has the same text/environment body as the corresponding exercise. (This might be useful for multiple choice questions for example.)

\textbf{tags} = \{(csv list of tags)\}  
Holds the list of tags the exercise should be associated with.

\textbf{topics} = \{(csv list of topics)\}  
Holds the list of topics the exercise should be associated with.

\textbf{page} = \{(text)\}  
Holds the page counter value representation of an exercise \textit{(i.e.,} what you usually know as \texttt{\thepage}).

\textbf{page-value} = \{(integer)\}  
Holds the page counter value of an exercise \textit{(i.e.,} what you usually know as \texttt{\the\value{page}}).

\textbf{section} = \{(text)\}  
Holds the section counter value representation of an exercise \textit{(i.e.,} what you usually know as \texttt{\thesection}).

\textbf{section-value} = \{(integer)\}  
Holds the section counter value of an exercise \textit{(i.e.,} what you usually know as \texttt{\the\value{section}}).

\textbf{chapter} = \{(text)\}  
Holds the chapter counter value representation of an exercise \textit{(i.e.,} what you usually know as \texttt{\thechapter}). \textit{Only if a command \texttt{\chapter} and a counter \texttt{\chapter} exist.}

\textbf{chapter-value} = \{(integer)\}  
Holds the chapter counter value of an exercise \textit{(i.e.,} what you usually know as \texttt{\the\value{chapter}}). \textit{Only if a command \texttt{\chapter} and a counter \texttt{\chapter} exist.}

\textbf{sectioning} = \{(section numbers)\}  
Holds five brace groups which in turn hold the section numbers (integers) of the exercise in the order \{(chapter\}\}{\{(section\}\}{\{(subsection\}\}{\{(subsubsection\}\}{\{(paragraph\}\).
7. Exercise Properties

exercise-body = \{\TeX code\}

When the package option no-files is set this property is defined and holds the environment body of an exercise.

solution-body = \{\TeX code\}

When the package option no-files is set this property is defined and holds the environment body of the corresponding solution.

Some of these properties are fixed and cannot be set by the user. Those include id, counter, and counter-value. The others can be set using the optional argument of the exercise environment.

\begin{exercise}[subtitle={This is a subtitle},points=4,bonus-points=1]
An exercise where some properties have been set.
\end{exercise}

Exercise 2 This is a subtitle
An exercise where some properties have been set.

7.2. Declaring Own Properties

\texttt{xsim} offers the possibility to declare additional exercise properties:

\begin{Verbatim}
\DeclareExerciseProperty!*-{\{\textit{property}\}}
\end{Verbatim}

Declares the property \textit{property}.  

If used with the optional ! a \textbf{unique property} is defined which means that each exercise must have a property value distinct from all other exercises (all means all – independent from the exercise type).

If used with the optional * a \textbf{boolean property} is defined which means that it only should get the values \texttt{true} or \texttt{false} and if used without value it gets the value \texttt{true} instead of an empty value. If any other value is used the property is set to \texttt{false}. A boolean property obviously cannot be unique. The optional * takes precedence over the optional !, \textit{i.e.}, if both are present the property is boolean \textit{but not} unique.

If used with the optional - a property is defined which won’t get updated through subsequent compilation runs but is only set when the exercise is used.

\begin{Verbatim}
\DeclareExercisePropertyAlias\{\{\textit{property 1}\}\}{\{\textit{property 2}\}}
\end{Verbatim}

Declares \textit{property 1} to be an alias of \textit{property 2}. This means that each time \textit{property 2} is set \textit{property 1} will be set to the same value unless it has been set already. As an example: property ID is an alias of property id.

This is better demonstrated with an example:
The power of properties will get more clear when reading section 13 on page 30 about templates.

### 7.3. A Special Kind of Property: Exercise Goals

Exercise goals are a generic concept in **xsim** for exercise properties like **points** or **bonus-points**. Those are properties which can (only) get a decimal number as value the sum of which is calculated and available (after a compilation) throughout the document.

\texttt{\DeclareExerciseGoal{⟨goal⟩}}

Declare a new exercise goal named \texttt{⟨goal⟩} and also a property called \texttt{⟨goal⟩}.

\texttt{\TotalExerciseTypeGoal{⟨type⟩}{⟨goal⟩}{⟨singular⟩}{⟨plural⟩}}

Get the sum of goal \texttt{⟨goal⟩} for all exercises of type \texttt{⟨type⟩}. \texttt{⟨singular⟩} and \texttt{⟨plural⟩} are placed after the sum in the input stream depending on whether the sum equals 1 or not.

\texttt{\TotalExerciseTypeGoals{⟨type⟩}{⟨list of goals⟩}{⟨singular⟩}{⟨plural⟩}}

Get the sum of goal all goals in \texttt{⟨list of goals⟩} for all exercises of type \texttt{⟨type⟩}. The goal names in \texttt{⟨list of goals⟩} must be separated with +. \texttt{⟨singular⟩} and \texttt{⟨plural⟩} are placed after the sum in the input stream depending on whether the sum equals 1 or not.

\texttt{\TotalExerciseGoal{⟨goal⟩}{⟨singular⟩}{⟨plural⟩}}

Get the sum of goal \texttt{⟨goal⟩} for all exercises. \texttt{⟨singular⟩} and \texttt{⟨plural⟩} are placed after the sum in
7. Exercise Properties

the input stream depending on whether the sum equals 1 or not.

\( \text{TotalExerciseGoals}\{\{\text{list of goals}\}\}\{\{\text{_singular}\}\}\{\{\text{plural}\}\}\)

Get the sum of goal all goals in \( \{\text{list of goals}\} \) for all exercises. The goal names in \( \{\text{list of goals}\} \) must be separated with \( + \). \( \{\text{singular}\} \) and \( \{\text{plural}\} \) are placed after the sum in the input stream depending on whether the sum equals 1 or not.

\( \text{AddtoExerciseTypeGoal}\{\{\text{type}\}\}\{\{\text{goal}\}\}\{\{\text{value}\}\}\)

Adds \( \{\text{value}\} \) to the goal \( \{\text{goal}\} \) of exercise type \( \{\text{type}\} \).

\( \text{AddtoExerciseTypeGoalPrint}\{\{\text{type}\}\}\{\{\text{goal}\}\}\{\{\text{value}\}\}\{\{\text{singular}\}\}\{\{\text{plural}\}\}\)

Adds \( \{\text{value}\} \) to the goal \( \{\text{goal}\} \) of exercise type \( \{\text{type}\} \). The value and – depending on wether the value equals 1 or not – \( \{\text{singular}\} \) or \( \{\text{plural}\} \) are left in the input stream.

\( \text{AddtoExerciseGoal}\{\{\text{goal}\}\}\{\{\text{value}\}\}\)

Adds \( \{\text{value}\} \) to the goal \( \{\text{goal}\} \) of the current exercise type. (To be used within exercises.)

\( \text{AddtoExerciseTypeGoalPrint}\{\{\text{goal}\}\}\{\{\text{value}\}\}\{\{\text{singular}\}\}\{\{\text{plural}\}\}\)

Adds \( \{\text{value}\} \) to the goal \( \{\text{goal}\} \) of the current exercise type. The value and – depending on wether the value equals 1 or not – \( \{\text{singular}\} \) or \( \{\text{plural}\} \) are left in the input stream. (To be used within exercises.)

\( \text{ExerciseGoalValuePrint}\{\{\text{value}\}\}\{\{\text{singular}\}\}\{\{\text{plural}\}\}\)

Print \( \{\text{value}\} \) and – depending on wether the value equals 1 or not – \( \{\text{singular}\} \) or \( \{\text{plural}\} \).

\( \text{printgoal}\{\{\text{value}\}\}\)

Print \( \{\text{value}\} \) according to option \texttt{goal-print}. Defined in terms of \texttt{ExerciseGoalValuePrint}.

\( \text{printpoints}\{\{\text{type}\}\}\)

Print the sum of points for all exercises of type \( \{\text{type}\} \) followed by an appropriate translation of the words “point” or “points”, respectively. Defined in terms of \texttt{TotalExerciseTypeGoal}.

\( \text{printtotalpoints}\)

Print the sum of points for all exercises followed by an appropriate translation of the words “point” or “points”, respectively. Defined in terms of \texttt{TotalExerciseGoal}.

\( \text{addpoints}^*\{\{\text{value}\}\}\)

Adds \( \{\text{value}\} \) to the points of the current exercise type. (To be used within exercises.) Prints the value followed by an appropriate translation of the words “point” or “points”, respectively. The starred version prints nothing. Defined in terms of \texttt{AddtoExerciseGoal} and \texttt{AddtoExerciseGoalPrint}.

\( \text{points}\{\{\text{value}\}\}\)

Print \( \{\text{value}\} \) followed by an appropriate translation of the words “point” or “points”, respectively. Defined in terms of \texttt{ExerciseGoalValuePrint}.

---

3. See section 14 on page 47 for details on the definition and usage of language dependent words.
7. Exercise Properties

\printbonus\{\textit{\langle type\rangle}\}
Print the sum of bonus points for all exercises of type \textit{\langle type\rangle} followed by an appropriate translation of the words “point” or “points”, respectively. Defined in terms of \texttt{\TotalExerciseTypeGoal}.

\printtotalbonus
Print the sum of bonus points for all exercises followed by an appropriate translation of the words “point” or “points”, respectively. Defined in terms of \texttt{\TotalExerciseGoal}.

\addbonus^{\{\textit{\langle value\rangle}\}}
Adds \textit{\langle value\rangle} to the bonus points of the current exercise type. (To be used within exercises.) Prints the value followed by an appropriate translation of the words “point” or “points”, respectively. The starred version prints nothing. Defined in terms of \texttt{\AddtoExerciseGoal} and \texttt{\AddtoExerciseGoalPrint}.

The two existing goals are defined with

1. \texttt{\ DeclareExerciseGoal\{points\}}
2. \texttt{\ DeclareExerciseGoal\{bonus-points\}}

When goal values are printed the decimal number is fed to a function which can be changed using the following option:

\texttt{\goal-print = \{\langle code\rangle\}}
Default: \#1

How to format goal values. Use \#1 to refer to the actual number.

At last some examples for a custom command: let’s say you want a command which prints the complete sum for all exercises of all exercise types of both \texttt{points} and \texttt{bonus-points} added up:

\NewDocumentCommand\printsumofpointsandbonus{}{%
\TotalExerciseGoals\{points\+\texttt{\ bonusc-points}\}%
\texttt{\XSIMtranslate\{point\}}%
\texttt{\XSIMtranslate\{points\}}%
}

Here is how you could mimick the command \texttt{\totalpoints} from \texttt{exsheets}:

\NewDocumentCommand\pointsandbonus{}{%
\TotalExerciseGoal\{points\}\{}%
\IfExerciseGoalsSumF\{\texttt{\ bonusc-points}\}{}{=0}{%
\texttt{\poly\texttt{\ bonusc-points}\{}\langle 0\texttt{\rangle}\} %
\texttt{\XSIMtranslate\{points\}}%
}

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7. Exercise Properties

7.4. A Special Kind of Property: Exercise Tags

Exercise tags are a generic concept in \texttt{XSIM} for exercise properties like \texttt{tags} or \texttt{topics}. Those are properties which can (only) get a csv list of strings as value. Those strings can be used to selectively use exercises. See section 8 on the next page for details on usage of exercises and the difference to \textit{printing} an exercise and how to use exercise tags for selection.

\texttt{\textbackslash DeclareExerciseTagging\{\textit{tag}\}}

This defines an exercise tagging group named \textit{\texttt{tag}}. It also defines a property named \textit{\texttt{tag}}. In addition two options are defined: an option named \textit{\texttt{tag}} which can be used for selection and an boolean option \textit{\texttt{tag}/ignore-untagged}.

\texttt{\textbackslash ProvideExerciseTagging\{\textit{tag}\}}

The same as \texttt{\textbackslash DeclareExerciseTagging} but does nothing when \textit{\texttt{tag}} already exists.

The two existing tagging groups have been defined and preset with the following code:

\begin{verbatim}
\DeclareExerciseTagging{tags}
\DeclareExerciseTagging{topics}
\xsimsetup{tags/ignore-untagged=false}
\end{verbatim}

This means that these options are available:

\texttt{tags} = \{\textit{csv list of tags}\}

Choose the set of tags whose associated exercises should be printed.

\texttt{topics} = \{\textit{csv list of topics}\}

Choose the set of topics whose associated exercises should be printed.

\texttt{tags/ignore-untagged} = \texttt{true|false} \hspace{1cm} \texttt{Default: false}

If set to \texttt{true} exercises with no tags will be printed even if tags have been chosen with the option \texttt{tags}.

\texttt{topics/ignore-untagged} = \texttt{true|false} \hspace{1cm} \texttt{Default: true}

If set to \texttt{true} exercises with no topics will be printed even if topics have been chosen with the option \texttt{topics}.

It may happen that you choose certain tags for printing and want one or two exercises to be printed or used even if they don’t match the tagging criteria. For this reason two additional properties exist which can be set to an exercise:

\texttt{print!} = \texttt{true|false}

If set to \texttt{true} the exercise will be printed (and thus used) regardless of other conditions.

\texttt{use!} = \texttt{true|false}

If set to \texttt{true} the exercise will be used regardless of other conditions.
8. Using and Printing an Exercise

8.1. What the Environments do

When an exercise is started with \begin{exercise} (or other environments defined through \DeclareExerciseType) then different things happen depending on different settings:

- If the insert mode is active nothing happens, see section 9 on page 21 for details on this.
- Else the id integer is incremented.
- If the exercise is used the corresponding counter is stepped and the exercise is added to the “use list”. The properties counter and use are updated accordingly.
- If an exercise is printed then it is also used. An exercise that isn’t used cannot be printed. Being printed means two things: being added to the “print list” and being typeset at the position where the exercise is placed in the source file. If an exercise is not printed but used it means that the counter will be stepped. This can be useful for creating an exercise sheet only containing the solutions for some exercises.
- If an exercise is printed certain hooks and template code is inserted around the environment body.

\begin{exercise}[print=false,ID=invisible]

This exercise will not be printed but the exercise counter will be incremented nonetheless. Its solution will be printed in the list of solutions.
\end{exercise}

\begin{exercise}
\begin{solution}
The solution of the exercise that has not been printed.
\end{solution}
\end{exercise}

The schematic structure of an exercise is shown in figure 1 on the next page.

8.2. Environment Options & Hooks

For each exercise type there are the following options for both environments, the environments’ names are the module names for the options (here using the “exercise” type):

exercise/\texttt{print} = true|false\hspace{1cm} Default: true
Determines if exercises of type “exercise” are printed.

exercise/\texttt{use} = true|false\hspace{1cm} Default: true
Determines if exercises of type “exercise” are used.
8. Using and Printing an Exercise

![Diagram of exercise structure](https://via.placeholder.com/150)

**Figure 1:** Schematic structure of an exercise or solution.

- **exercise/within** = {{(counter)}} (initially empty)
  Adds the exercise counter to the reset list of the counter (counter). *Beware that if the counter is a shared counter this will affect all objects using this counter!*

- **exercise/the-counter** = {{(code)}}
  An interface for redefining the counter representation command \the(counter).

- **exercise/template** = {{(template)}}
  An interface for \SetExerciseParameter{exercise}{exercise-template}{{(template)}}.

- **solution/template** = {{(template)}}
  An interface for \SetExerciseParameter{exercise}{solution-template}{{(template)}}.

- **exercise/name** = {{(name)}}
  An interface for \SetExerciseParameter{exercise}{exercise-name}{{(name)}}.

- **solution/name** = {{(name)}}
  An interface for \SetExerciseParameter{exercise}{solution-name}{{(name)}}.

- **exercise/heading** = {{(heading command)}}
  An interface for \SetExerciseParameter{exercise}{exercise-heading}{{(heading command)}}.

- **solution/heading** = {{(heading command)}}
  An interface for \SetExerciseParameter{exercise}{solution-heading}{{(heading command)}}.

- **exercise/pre-hook** = {{(code)}} (initially empty)
  The code for the *pre exercise hook* for exercises of the type “exercise”.

- **exercise/begin-hook** = {{(code)}} (initially empty)
  The code for the *begin exercise hook* for exercises of the type “exercise”.

---

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9. Collecting Exercises

exercise/end-hook = {⟨code⟩}  (initially empty)
The code for the end exercise hook for exercises of the type “exercise”.

exercise/post-hook = {⟨code⟩}  (initially empty)
The code for the post exercise hook for exercises of the type “exercise”.

solution/print = true|false  Default: false
Determines if solutions of type “exercise” are printed.

solution/pre-hook = {⟨code⟩}  (initially empty)
The code for the pre solution hook for solutions of the type “exercise”.

solution/begin-hook = {⟨code⟩}  (initially empty)
The code for the begin solution hook for solutions of the type “exercise”.

solution/end-hook = {⟨code⟩}  (initially empty)
The code for the end solution hook for solutions of the type “exercise”.

solution/post-hook = {⟨code⟩}  (initially empty)
The code for the post solution hook for solutions of the type “exercise”.

8.3. (Re-)Inserting a Certain Exercise
If you know type and id of an exercise you can (re-)insert every existing exercise, i.e., every exercise whose external file exists.

\printexercise{(type)}{(csv of ids)}
Inserts the exercise or exercises of type ⟨type⟩ with the ids or IDs given in ⟨csv of ids⟩.

\xprintexercise{(type)}{(csv of ids)}
The same as \printexercise but expands ⟨type⟩ and the items of ⟨csv of ids⟩ before it uses them.

\printexercise{exercise}{invisible}

Exercise 5
This exercise will not be printed but the exercise counter will be incremented nonetheless. Its solution will be printed in the list of solutions.

9. Collecting Exercises

The whole collection mechanism is likely to change completely in the not-so-far future (let’s say sometime in the six months from April 2020 or so).
9. Collecting Exercises

9.1. Background

`xsim` knows the concept of “exercise collections”. A collection of exercises can be useful when you want to print a certain group of exercises several times. Each collection must have a unique name with which you can refer to the corresponding collection. A collection is realized by declaring the collection and by surrounding the exercises belonging to the collection with a certain pair of commands (this is explained in the next section).

Let’s say you have several files of math exercises where one only contains geometry exercises and another only calculus exercises and so on. Surrounding the \input of each file with said pair of commands for a certain collection all exercises of the corresponding file now are a collection which then can be printed at once wherever you want the collection of exercises to be printed. By choosing certain tags (see section 7.4 on page 18) inside each collection you could even cherry-pick exercises from the external file.

9.2. Usage

A collection must be declared in the preamble. Using a pair of commands explained below exercises between those commands are added to the corresponding collection but not printed. After a collection is completed the collection can be printed as often as needed.

\DeclareExerciseCollection{(collection name)}

Define a new collection `(collection name)` in the document preamble.

\collectexercisestype{(collection name)}{(exercise type)}

Opens the collection `(collection name)` which now collects all exercises of type `(exercise type)` until the collection is closed with `\collectexercisesstop`. Collections of other types are not collected.

\collectexercises{(collection name)}

Opens the collection `(collection name)` which now collects all exercises until the collection is closed with `\collectexercisesstop`.

\collectexercisesstop{(collection name)}

Closes the collection `(collection name)`.

\printcollection{(options)}{(collection name)}

Prints the collection `(collection name)`, i.e., all exercises collected earlier. This command cannot be used before the corresponding collection has been closed correctly.

Valid options are the following:

\print-collection\[headings = \text{true|false}\]

If true a heading for each exercise type is inserted.

---

4. This command starts a group with `\begingroup`
5. This command starts a group with `\begingroup`
6. This command ends a group with `\endgroup`
9. Collecting Exercises

\texttt{print-collections-headings-template} = \{\texttt{template}\}\hspace{2cm} \text{Default: collection}

The heading template used when \texttt{headings = \{true\}}.

\texttt{print-collections-print} = \{\texttt{exercises}|\texttt{solutions}|\texttt{both}\} \hspace{2cm} \text{Default: exercises}

Determines whether \texttt{\printcollection} prints the exercises or the solutions of the collection. When you choose \texttt{both} exercises and solutions are printed alternately.

Those options can also be set via \texttt{\xsimsetup} using the module \texttt{print-collection}.

Please be aware that exercises are not used or printed while they are collected. Nonetheless the property \texttt{use} is set to \texttt{true} (so that solutions can be printed even if the exercises are not) and the property \texttt{print} is set to \texttt{false}. Also their counters are \textit{not stepped} during the process. This only happens when they are printed the first time, \textit{cf.} the \texttt{used} property. At that time also the properties \texttt{page}, \texttt{section} and \texttt{chapter} are set and the property \texttt{print} is set to \texttt{true}.

The usage should be clear:

\begin{verbatim}
\collectexercises{foo}
\begin{exercise}
This exercise is added to the collection 'foo'.
\end{exercise}
\begin{exercise}
This exercise is also added to the collection 'foo'.
\end{exercise}
\begin{exercise}
So is this.
\end{exercise}
\begin{exercise}
As well as this one.
\end{exercise}
\collectexercisesstop{foo}
\end{verbatim}

Once the collection is closed it can be printed:

\begin{verbatim}
\printcollection{foo}
\end{verbatim}

**Exercise 6**

This exercise is added to the collection ‘foo’.
9. Collecting Exercises

Exercise 7
This exercise is also added to the collection ‘foo’.

Exercise 8
So is this.

Exercise 9
As well as this one.

You can open several collections at the same time:

\begin{verbatim}
. \collectexercises{foo}
  ...
. \collectexercisestype{bar}{exercises}
  ...
. \collectexercisesstop{bar}
  ...
. \collectexercisesstop{foo}
\end{verbatim}

Exercises will be added to each open collection.
There is one generic collection called “all exercises”. As the name already suggests it will hold all exercises. So if you say

\begin{verbatim}
. \printcollection{all exercises}
\end{verbatim}

all exercises will be printed.

If you use \texttt{\label}s inside of exercises and you print exercises more than once in your document (by reusing a collection for example) you will get

LaTeX Warning: There were multiply-defined labels.

Equally if you have environments like \texttt{\begin{equation}} which step a counter inside an exercise or solution the counter will be stepped each time the exercise is used.

At last now an example using external files, collections and tags:
The recommended usage is similar to the last example. Actually a collection can be printed before it is opened, too. (This needs at least two compilations, though.) However, it is safer printing a collection only once and only after it has been collected. No guaranties are given that properties are set correctly if you use the collection before. You usually also will make sure that the exercises in a collection are unique, i. e., that an exercise is not part of several collections – at least not if both collections are printed in the same document.

10. Printing Random Exercises From a Collection

\textsc{xsim} provides the possibility of selecting random exercises from a collection (cf. section 9 on page 21).

Please be aware that this feature is not available in \textsc{Xe}\TeX{}!

\texttt{\printrandomexercises[\langle options\rangle]\{\langle number\rangle\}}

This command prints \langle number\rangle random exercises from the collection chosen with option \texttt{collection}, see below. When this command is used it generates a random list of integers which is written to the aux file. On the subsequent compilations the according exercises are printed. \textit{If you want to regenerate the random list you have to delete the aux file before compiling.}

Valid options for this command are:
11. Printing Solutions

\texttt{random/sort = true|false} \hspace{1cm} \text{Default: true}
Determines whether the random chosen exercises should be sorted according to their order of definition in the collection or not.

\texttt{random/collection = \{collection\}} \hspace{1cm} \text{Default: all exercises}
The collection from which the exercises are to be chosen from.

\texttt{random/exclude = \{csv list of ids\}} \hspace{1cm} A list of ids or IDs of exercises not to be chosen.

\texttt{random/print = exercises|solutions|both} \hspace{1cm} \text{Default: exercises}
Determines whether \texttt{\textbackslash\textit{printrandomexercises}} prints the exercises or the solutions. When you choose both exercises and solutions are printed alternately.

\texttt{\textbackslash\textit{printrandomexercises}[collection=foo]\{2\}}

\textbf{Exercise 6}
This exercise is added to the collection 'foo'.

\textbf{Exercise 7}
This exercise is also added to the collection 'foo'.

The example above of course doesn’t make much sense but if you have a collection which collects exercises from an external file and the exercises haven’t been printed in the document before then you will get a list of subsequently numbered exercises.

11. Printing Solutions

There are different commands for printing the solutions to exercises:

\texttt{\textbackslash\textit{printsolutionstype*\{\textit{options}\}\{exercise type\}}}
Prints the solutions of all used exercises of type \textit{exercise type}. The starred version only prints the solutions of all printed exercises of type \textit{exercise type}.

\texttt{\textbackslash\textit{printsolutions*\{\textit{options}\}}}
Prints the solutions of all used exercises of all types ordered by type. The starred version only prints the solutions of all printed exercises of all types.

\texttt{\textbackslash\textit{printallsolutions*\{\textit{options}\}}}
Prints the solutions of all used exercises of all types ordered by appearance in the document. The starred version only prints the solutions of all printed exercises of all types.

\texttt{\textbackslash\textit{printsolution\{\textit{options}\}\{\textit{type}\}\{id\}}}
Prints the solution of the exercise of type \textit{type} with the id \textit{id}. 

\xprintsolution\{(type)\}\{(id)\}

The same as \printsolution but expands (type) and (id) before it uses them.

\printsolutionstype{exercise}

### Solutions to the Exercises

**Solution 1**

A first example for a solution.

**Solution 5**

The solution of the exercise that has not been printed.

**Solution 11**

Try to fill in these blanks. All of them are created by using the \blank command.

The options can be divided into two groups. The ones in the first group modify the layout.

- \printsolutions/headings = true|false
  
  Default: true
  
  If true a heading for each exercise type is inserted.

- \printsolutions/headings-template = \{⟨template⟩\}
  
  Default: default
  
  The heading template used when headings = {true}.

The ones in the second group set conditions selecting which solutions are printed. If you combine those conditions a solution is printed if it meets either of the conditions.

- \printsolutions/section = true|false|⟨integer⟩
  
  Default: false
  
  If you set section = {true} only solutions of exercises of the current section are printed. If you set section = {4} only solutions of exercises in a section with number 4 are printed.

- \printsolutions/chapter = true|false|⟨integer⟩
  
  Default: false
  
  If you set chapter = {true} only solutions of exercises of the current chapter are printed. If you set chapter = {4} only solutions of exercises in a chapter with number 4 are printed.

- \printsolutions/collection = false|⟨collection name⟩
  
  Default: false
  
  If used only solutions of exercises belonging to collection ⟨collection name⟩ are printed.

The conditions can be combined. The following call will only print solutions from exercises in section 3 of chapter 2:

\printsolutions[chapter=2,section=3]
12. Grading Tables

The selection per section or per chapter relies on the counter numbers of the sections or chapters, respectively. This means if section numbers are reset (e.g. by \chapter or \appendix) and you have exercises from different sections with the same section number the solutions of all those exercises will be printed. This means you only should use the section selection when section are the top document level headings (apart from parts) and you have no exercises in the appendix. Similar considerations are valid for the chapter selection.

All options can also be set via \xsimsetup using the module print-solutions.

```
\printsolutions[section=4,headings-template=per-section]
```

Solutions to the Exercises of Section 4

Solution 1

A first example for a solution.

```
\printsolution{exercise}{5}
```

Solution 5

The solution of the exercise that has not been printed.

12. Grading Tables

When you create exercises it may not only be desirable to be able to add points and bonus-points to a question (see section 7.3 on page 15 about exercise goals) but also to be able to output a grading table. \textit{xsim} has built-in means for this.

\gradingtable{(options)}

Print a grading table.

Valid options for this command are

- `template` = `(template)`
  - Choose the template used for the grading table.
  - Default: default

- `type` = `(exercise type)`
  - Choose the exercise type for which the table is printed.
  - (initially empty)

Both option defaults can be changed with \xsimsetup setting the options using grading-table.
12. Grading Tables

\set\setup{
  grading-table/template = default*
}

An example:

\begin{gradingtable}[type=exercise]

\begin{tabular}{lcc}
\hline
Exercise & Points & reached \\
\hline
  1     &  0    \\
  2     &  4    \\
  3     &  0    \\
  4     &  0    \\
  5     &  0    \\
  6     &  0    \\
  7     &  0    \\
  8     &  0    \\
  9     &  0    \\
 10 & 2.5 & \\
 11 &  0 & \\
 12 &  0 & \\
\hline
  total & 6.5 & \\
\end{tabular}

\end{gradingtable}

Or using the “default*” template:

\begin{gradingtable}[template=default*,type=exercise]

\begin{tabular}{lcccccccccccc}
\hline
Exercise & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 & 6 & 7 & 8 & 9 & 10 & 11 & 12 & total \\
\hline
Points & 0 & 4 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 2.5 & 0 & 0 & 6.5 \\
\hline
reached & & & & & & & & & & & & & \\
\end{tabular}

Available templates and how to define new ones are explained in sections 13.4.3 on page 39 and 13.6 on page 40. \texttt{xsim} per default provides two templates “default” and “default*”, the first one has a vertical layout, the second a horizontal layout. Both templates can be used per type like in the examples above or for all types at once by leaving the specification \texttt{type} away:
\begin{table}[h]
\centering
\begin{tabular}{lrr}
\hline
& Points & reached \\
\hline
Exercise 1 & 0 & \\
Exercise 2 & 4 & \\
Exercise 3 & 0 & \\
Exercise 4 & 0 & \\
Exercise 5 & 0 & \\
Exercise 6 & 0 & \\
Exercise 7 & 0 & \\
Exercise 8 & 0 & \\
Exercise 9 & 0 & \\
Exercise 10 & 2.5 & \\
Exercise 11 & 0 & \\
Exercise 12 & 0 & \\
Problem 1 & 5 & \\
\hline
\end{tabular}
\caption{Points reached}
\end{table}

13. Styling the Exercises – Templates

13.1. Background

Whenever \texttt{xsim} outputs something to be typeset it uses so-called templates for the task. \texttt{xsim} knows of three different kinds of templates:

- environment templates (see section 13.4.1 on page 38),
- heading templates (see section 13.4.2 on page 38) and
- grading table templates (see section 13.4.3 on page 39)

The most important one for the styling of the exercises are the environment templates. Those templates give you complete control over the look and arrangement of an exercise. To be able to do this \texttt{xsim} provides a large number of commands which can be used only inside template definitions.\footnote{7} Those commands are explained in the next section. Their usage will hopefully become clear in the examples in section 13.6 on page 40. Having full control over the layout comes at a price: you need to be able to program yourself in order to achieve certain layouts.\footnote{8}

---

\footnote{7. The last sentence is wrong: those commands can be used anywhere but most of them only give useful results inside of templates.}

\footnote{8. I plan to incorporate the most common layouts – and maybe some fancy ones, too – in the examples section 13.6 on page 40 but at the time of writing this is still up in the air.}
13. Styling the Exercises – Templates

13.2. Templates Provided by the Package

\texttt{XSIM} comes with a few predefined layouts:

- \textbf{default} The template activated per default and the only one available without further action.

- \textbf{runin} A layout rather similar to the one by package \texttt{exsheets}, see section 13.6.3 on page 42. Available through the style file \texttt{layouts} (see section 13.5 on page 39 for more information on style files).

- \textbf{margin} A layout rather similar to the one by package \texttt{exsheets}, see section 13.6.4. Available through the style file \texttt{layouts}.

- \textbf{minimal} A minimalistic layout, see section 13.6.5. As the others inspired by an \texttt{exsheets} layout. Available through the style file \texttt{layouts}.

- \textbf{inline} A minimalistic layout, the same as \texttt{minimal} but doesn’t add \texttt{\par} at the beginning and end. Available through the style file \texttt{layouts}.

- \textbf{centered} A layout with a centered heading. Available through the style file \texttt{layouts}.

\begin{table}[h]
\centering
\begin{tabular}{|l|l|}
\hline
Layout & \texttt{\textbf{default}} \texttt{//two.taboldstyle./five.taboldstyle} p. \texttt{\textbf{Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetuer adipiscing elit. Ut purus elit, vestibulum ut, placerat ac, adipiscing vitae, felis. Curabitur dictum gravida mauris. Nam arcu libero, nonummy eget, consectetuer id, vulputate a, magna. Donec vehicula augue eu neque. Pellentesque habitant morbi tristique senectus et netus et malesuada fames ac turpis egestas. Mauris ut leo. Cras viverra metus rhoncus sem.}} \\
\hline
\end{tabular}
\end{table}

\begin{table}[h]
\centering
\begin{tabular}{|l|l|}
\hline
Layout & \texttt{\textbf{runin}} \texttt{2.5 points} \\
\hline
\end{tabular}
\end{table}

\begin{table}[h]
\centering
\begin{tabular}{|l|l|}
\hline
\hline
\end{tabular}
\end{table}

\begin{table}[h]
\centering
\begin{tabular}{|l|l|}
\hline
\hline
\end{tabular}
\end{table}
13. Styling the Exercises – Templates

**Layout “inline”**


**Layout “minimal” (Like “inline” but as own paragraph.)**


**Layout “centered”**

Exercise 10 *The Subtitle*


### 13.3. Commands for Usage in Template Definitions

#### 13.3.1. Goals

\IfExerciseGoalTF{⟨goal⟩}{⟨relation and value⟩}{⟨true⟩}{⟨false⟩}

Checks the sum of goal ⟨goal⟩ against ⟨relation and value⟩.

\IfExerciseGoalSingularTF{⟨goal⟩}{⟨true⟩}{⟨false⟩}

Checks if the value of the goal ⟨goal⟩ of the current exercise equals 1. This is the same as \IfExerciseGoalTF{⟨goal⟩}{=1}{⟨true⟩}{⟨false⟩}.

\IfExerciseTypeGoalsSumTF{⟨type⟩}{⟨list of goals⟩}{⟨relation and value⟩}{⟨true⟩}{⟨false⟩}

Checks the sum of all goals in ⟨list of goals⟩ for the exercises of type ⟨type⟩ against ⟨relation and value⟩.

\IfExerciseGoalsSumTF{⟨type⟩}{⟨list of goals⟩}{⟨relation and value⟩}{⟨true⟩}{⟨false⟩}

Checks the sum of all goals in ⟨list of goals⟩ for all exercises of all types against ⟨relation and value⟩.
13. Styling the Exercises – Templates

\TotalExerciseTypeGoal{⟨goal⟩}{⟨type⟩}{⟨singular⟩}{⟨plural⟩}
Print the sum of goal ⟨goal⟩ for the exercises of type ⟨type⟩ and append ⟨singular⟩ or ⟨plural⟩
depending on wether the sum equals 1 or not.

\TotalExerciseGoal{⟨goal⟩}{⟨singular⟩}{⟨plural⟩}
Print the sum of goal ⟨goal⟩ for all exercises of all types and append ⟨singular⟩ or ⟨plural⟩
depending on wether the sum equals 1 or not.

13.3.2. Properties

\IfExercisePropertyExistTF{⟨property⟩}{⟨true⟩}{⟨false⟩}
Tests wether an exercise property with the name ⟨property⟩ is defined.

\IfExercisePropertySetTF{⟨property⟩}{⟨true⟩}{⟨false⟩}
Tests wether the exercise property ⟨property⟩ has been set for the current exercise.

\GetExerciseProperty{⟨property⟩}
Retrieves the value of the property ⟨property⟩ for the current exercise.

\GetExercisePropertyTF{⟨property⟩}{⟨true⟩}{⟨false⟩}
Tests wether the exercise property ⟨property⟩ has been set for the current exercise. Inside the
⟨true⟩ branch you can refer to the retrieved value either with \PropertyValue. This
can be expanded its contents inside a group.

\GetExerciseBody{exercise|solution}
Introduced in version 0.10
(Sep 19, 2017)
Retrieves the environment body of either the exercise or the corresponding solution of the
current exercise.

\GetExerciseIdForProperty{⟨property⟩}{⟨value⟩}
Retrieves the property id of the exercise where the property ⟨property⟩ has the value ⟨value⟩.
This only works for unique properties!

\GetExerciseTypeForProperty{⟨property⟩}{⟨value⟩}
Retrieves the property type of the exercise where the property ⟨property⟩ has the value ⟨value⟩.
This only works for unique properties!

\SetExerciseProperty{⟨property⟩}{⟨value⟩}
Set the property ⟨property⟩ of the current exercise to ⟨value⟩.

\SetExpandedExerciseProperty{⟨property⟩}{⟨value⟩}
Introduced in version 0.9
(Jun 20, 2017)
Expand ⟨value⟩ \edef-like and set the property ⟨property⟩ of the current exercise to the result
of the expansion.

\ExerciseSetProperty{⟨type⟩}{⟨id⟩}{⟨property⟩}{⟨value⟩}
Introduced in version 0.9
(Jun 20, 2017)
Set the property ⟨property⟩ of the exercise of type ⟨type⟩ and id ⟨id⟩ to ⟨value⟩.
13. Styling the Exercises – Templates

\ExerciseSetExpandedProperty{(type)}{(id)}{(property)}{(value)}
Expand \verb|value| \texttt{\edef}-like and set the property \langle property \rangle of the exercise of type \langle type \rangle and id \langle id \rangle to the result of the expansion.

\IfExerciseBooleanPropertyTF{(property)}{(true)}{(false)}
Checks whether the boolean property \langle property \rangle has value \texttt{true} or \texttt{false} and leaves the corresponding argument in the input stream. Gives an error if \langle property \rangle is not a boolean property.

\GetExerciseAliasProperty{(property)}
Retrieves the value of the property of which \langle property \rangle is an alias of for the current exercise.

\SaveExerciseProperty{(property)}{(macro)}
Saves the value of the property \langle property \rangle for the current exercise in macro \langle macro \rangle.

\GlobalSaveExerciseProperty
Globally saves the value of the property \langle property \rangle for the current exercise in macro \langle macro \rangle.

\ExercisePropertyIfSetTF{(type)}{(id)}{(property)}{(true)}{(false)}
Test if the property \langle property \rangle has been set for the exercise of type \langle type \rangle with id \langle id \rangle.

\ExercisePropertyGet{(type)}{(id)}{(property)}
Retrieves the value of the property \langle property \rangle for the exercise of type \langle type \rangle with id \langle id \rangle.

\ExercisePropertyGetAlias{(type)}{(id)}{(property)}
Retrieves the value of the property of which \langle property \rangle is an alias of for the exercise of type \langle type \rangle with id \langle id \rangle.

\ExercisePropertySave{(type)}{(id)}{(property)}{(macro)}
Saves the value of the property \langle property \rangle for the exercise of type \langle type \rangle with id \langle id \rangle in macro \langle macro \rangle.

\ExercisePropertyGlobalSave{(type)}{(id)}{(property)}{(macro)}
Globally saves the value of the property \langle property \rangle for the exercise of type \langle type \rangle with id \langle id \rangle in macro \langle macro \rangle.

13.3.3. Parameters

\GetExerciseParameter{(parameter)}
Retrieves the value of the parameter \langle parameter \rangle for the current exercise type.

\GetExerciseParameterIF{(parameter)}{(true)}{(false)}
Retrieves the value of the parameter \langle parameter \rangle for the current exercise type. Inside the \langle true \rangle branch you can refer to the retrieved value either with \#1 or with \verb|ParameterValue|. This command expands its contents inside a group.
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\GetExerciseName
Retrieves the value of the parameter $\text{exercise-name}$ for the current exercise or of the parameter $\text{solution-name}$ for the current solution.

\GetExerciseHeadingF{⟨false⟩}
Retrieves the value of the parameter $\text{exercise-heading}$ for the current exercise or of the parameter $\text{solution-heading}$ for the current solution. Inserts ⟨false⟩ if the corresponding parameter has not been set.

\ExerciseParameterGet{⟨type⟩}{⟨parameter⟩}
Retrieves the value of the parameter ⟨parameter⟩ for the exercise of type ⟨type⟩ with id ⟨id⟩.

\IfExerciseParameterSetTF{⟨parameter⟩}{⟨true⟩}{⟨false⟩}
Test if the parameter ⟨parameter⟩ has been set for the current exercise type.

\ExerciseParameterIfSetTF{⟨type⟩}{⟨parameter⟩}{⟨true⟩}{⟨false⟩}
Test if the parameter ⟨parameter⟩ has been set for the exercise type ⟨type⟩.

\ForEachExerciseTag{⟨type⟩}{⟨code⟩}
Loops over all tags of tag type ⟨type⟩ for the current exercise applying ⟨code⟩ each time. Inside ⟨code⟩ you can refer to the corresponding tag with #1.

\ListExerciseTags{⟨type⟩}{⟨between⟩}
Lists all tags of tag type ⟨type⟩ for the current exercise using ⟨between⟩ as a separator.

\UseExerciseTags{⟨type⟩}{⟨between two⟩}{⟨between⟩}{⟨between last two⟩}
Lists all tags of tag type ⟨type⟩ for the current exercise using ⟨between⟩ as a separator and ⟨between last two⟩ as separator between the last two tags of the list. If the list only consists of two tags ⟨between two⟩ is used as separator.

\IfExerciseTagSetTF{⟨value⟩}{⟨true⟩}{⟨false⟩}
In order to insert text (also outside of exercises) depending on the chosen tags this command lets you check if value ⟨value⟩ has been set for tags.

\IfExerciseTopicSetTF{⟨value⟩}{⟨true⟩}{⟨false⟩}
In order to insert text (also outside of exercises) depending on the chosen tags this command lets you check if value ⟨value⟩ has been set for topics.

13.3.5. Further Commands for Usage in Template Definitions

\UseExerciseTemplate{⟨type⟩}{⟨name⟩}
Retrieve template ⟨name⟩ of type ⟨type⟩. This can be useful if you want to define a template which just adds some code to an existing template (an automated \label, say).

\ExerciseType
Can be used to refer to the current exercise type.
\ExerciseID
Can be used to refer to the current exercise id.

\ExerciseText
Can be used inside solutions to retrieve the text of the corresponding solution. This is probably seldom useful as in most use cases the exercise property solution is the easier alternative.

\ExerciseCollection
Can be used in certain templates to refer to the collection that is currently inserted.

\numberofusedexercises
Holds the total number of used exercises. Useful in table template definitions.

\ExerciseTableType\{\langle code\rangle\}
In table template definitions this macro either expands to the given exercise type or – if no type has been given – to \langle code\rangle.

\IfInsideSolutionTF\{\langle true\rangle\}\{\langle false\rangle\}
Tests if the template is used inside a solution environment or not.

\IfSolutionPrintTF\{\langle true\rangle\}\{\langle false\rangle\}
Tests if the option print for the solutions of the current ExerciseType is set to true or false.

\IfExistSolutionTF\{\langle true\rangle\}\{\langle false\rangle\}
Tests if a solution for the current exercise exists.

\ForEachPrintedExerciseByType\{\langle code\rangle\}
Loops over each printed exercise ordered by the exercise types and within each type by id. Inside \langle code\rangle you can refer to several properties of the corresponding exercise:

• #1: the type of the exercise
• #2: the id of the exercise
• #3: the counter property of the exercise
• #4: the subtitle property of the exercise
• #5: the points property of the exercise
• #6: the bonus-points property of the exercise

\ForEachUsedExerciseByType\{\langle code\rangle\}
Loops over each used exercise ordered by the exercise types and within each type by id. Inside \langle code\rangle you can refer to several properties of the corresponding exercise:

• #1: the type of the exercise
• #2: the id of the exercise
• #3: the counter property of the exercise
13. Styling the Exercises – Templates

• #4: the `subtitle` property of the exercise
• #5: the `points` property of the exercise
• #6: the `bonus-points` property of the exercise

\ForEachPrintedExerciseByID{(code)}
Loops over each `printed` exercise order by the exercise id. Inside (code) you can refer to several properties of the corresponding exercise:
• #1: the type of the exercise
• #2: the id of the exercise
• #3: the `counter` property of the exercise
• #4: the `subtitle` property of the exercise
• #5: the `points` property of the exercise
• #6: the `bonus-points` property of the exercise

\ForEachUsedExerciseByID{(code)}
Loops over each `used` exercise order by the exercise id. Inside (code) you can refer to several properties of the corresponding exercise:
• #1: the type of the exercise
• #2: the id of the exercise
• #3: the `counter` property of the exercise
• #4: the `subtitle` property of the exercise
• #5: the `points` property of the exercise
• #6: the `bonus-points` property of the exercise

\XSIMprint{exercise|solution}{{type}}{{id}}
Inserts the either the exercise or the solution of type ⟨type⟩ with the id or ID ⟨id⟩.

\XSIMxprint{exercise|solution}{{type}}{{id}}
The same as \XSIMprint but expands ⟨type⟩ and ⟨id⟩ before it uses them.

\XSIMtranslate{(keyword)}
Delivers the translation of ⟨keyword⟩ according to the current document language (in the meaning of a babel [Bra19] or polyglossia [Cha19] language). Existing keywords and keyword translations (and how to add new ones) are explained in section 14 on page 47.

\XSIMexpandcode{(code)}
Expands ⟨code⟩ like \edef does and leaves the result in the input stream.

\XSIMifchapterTF{⟨true⟩}{⟨false⟩}
Returns ⟨true⟩ if both a macro \chapter and a counter chapter are defined and ⟨false⟩ otherwise.
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\XSIMmixedcase{(code)}
Converts the full expansion⁹ of (code) to mixed case:
\XSIMmixedcase{this is some text} This is some text
This command expands (code) before converting it.

\XSIMputright{macro}{(code)}
Extends the macro definition of (macro) with (code) putting it to the right. This is more or
less a local version of the LaTeX kernel macro \g@addto@macro.

\XSIMifeqTF{(code 1)}{(code 2)}{(true)}{(false)}
Checks if the full expansion⁹ of (code 1) and (code 2) is the same tokenlist.

\XSIMifblankTF{(code)}{(true)}{(false)}
Checks if the full expansion⁹ of (code) is blank (i. e., if it is empty or only consists of spaces).

\XSIMatbegindocument{(code)}
Adds (code) to \textsc{xsim}'s begin document hook. Should be used inside style files instead of
\AtBeginDocument.

\XSIMatenddocument{(code)}
Adds (code) to \textsc{xsim}'s end document hook. Should be used inside style files instead of
\AtEndDocument.

13.4. Declaring Templates

13.4.1. Environment Templates
\DeclareExerciseEnvironmentTemplate{(name)}{(begin code)}{(end code)}
Declare the environment template (name).

Environment templates are used by the exercise and solution environments. Those are the
templates set with the parameters exercise-template and solution-template.
The predefined template is called "default", see section 13.6.1 on page 40.

13.4.2. Heading Templates
\DeclareExerciseHeadingTemplate{(name)}{(code)}
Declare the heading template (name).

Heading templates are used by \texttt{print-solutions, \texttt{print-solution-type} and \texttt{print-collection}}. Those are the templates set with the option headings-template of the modules \texttt{print-solutions} and \texttt{print-collection}.
The predefined templates are "default", "collection", "per-section" and "per-chapter" see section 13.6.6 on page 44.

⁹. This is a \texttt{roman-numeral} expansion [Flo].

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13. Styling the Exercises – Templates

13.4.3. Grading Table Templates

\DeclareExerciseTableTemplate{(name)}{(code)}

Declare the grading table template \textit{name}.

Table templates are used by \texttt{gradingtable}. Those are the templates set with the option \texttt{template} of module \texttt{grading-table}.

The predefined templates are “default” and “default*”, see sections 13.6.7 on page 44 and 13.6.8 on page 45.

13.5. Create and Use \textsc{XSIM} Style Files

\textsc{XSIM} offers you the possibility to create own style files. Let’s say you want to have a style called \texttt{math-exam}. Then you need to save all necessary definitions in a file called:

\texttt{xsim.style.math-exam.code.tex}

The first command in the file should be \texttt{\xsimstyle{math-exam}}. This file can now be loaded into your document using \texttt{\loadxsimstyle{math-exam}} or by using \texttt{\xsimsetup{load-style=math-exam}}:

\begin{verbatim}
\documentclass[DIV=18,parskip=half]{scrartcl}
\usepackage[T1]{fontenc}
\usepackage[utf8]{inputenc}
\usepackage[clear-aux]{xsim}
\loadxsimstyle{math-exam}
\title{Math Exam \#3}
\date{2017-03-28}
\end{verbatim}

In this style file stuff like template and property definitions should happen. This is more or less a convenient way to

- keep the preamble “clean” and
- define re-usable styles without the need of copying the document preamble to another document.

A style file is like a package or class file, \textit{i.e.}, @\ has category code 11 (letter).

The formal description of the commands:

\texttt{\xsimstyle*{(style name)}}

The first command in a \textsc{XSIM} style file called \texttt{xsim.style.(style name).code.tex} which defines the \textsc{XSIM} style \texttt{(style name)}. The starred version activates expl3 syntax.\footnote{Those users who want this will know what it means. If you don’t know what it means you will not need it.}
13. Styling the Exercises – Templates

\loadxsimstyle{(csv list of style names)}
Load one or more styles into the document.

\loadstyle = {(csv list of style names)}
Another interface for \loadxsimstyle{(csv list of style names)}.

At the moment this mechanism offers no advantages over creating a custom package or simply \inputing a file. Future versions might provide additional features.

13.6. Examples

The repository of this package \newcite{11} currently includes 38 example documents demonstrating how different aspects of this package work or how different kinds of problems can be solved or how different kinds of layouts can be achieved as well as how solve concrete problems that have come up in different \LaTeX forums, see section F on page 59.

13.6.1. The default Exercise Template

Below the definition of the default exercise template provided by XSIM is shown:

```latex
\DeclareExerciseEnvironmentTemplate{default}{%\\GetExerciseHeadingF{subsection*}}{
  \XSIMmixedcase{\GetExerciseName}\nobreakspace
  \GetExerciseProperty{counter}
  \IfInsideSolutionF
  { \GetExercisePropertyT{subtitle}
    { {\normalfont\itshape\PropertyValue}}% }%
  }
\GetExercisePropertyT{points}
  {%
    \marginpar
    {%
      \IfInsideSolutionF{\rule{1.2cm}{1pt}\slash}%
      \printgoal{\PropertyValue}
      \GetExercisePropertyT{bonus-points}{~(+\printgoal{\PropertyValue})%}
    }%
    \textsimtranslate {point-abbr}%
  }%
}
```

13. Styling the Exercises – Templates

13.6.2. A New Exercise Type Using tcolorbox

Let’s say we want exercises to be put in a \texttt{tcolorbox}. We want a bold title and, if given, an italic subtitle. Exercises should also have the points after the subtitle in parentheses if given. Let’s also say we want those to be an additional exercise type in addition to the ones \texttt{XSIM} already provides. This is shown with the following code which is also how the problems in this manual have been defined:

\begin{verbatim}
\begin{verbatim}
\DeclareExerciseEnvironmentTemplate{tcolorbox}
\tcolorbox[
  colback = red!5!white ,
  colframe = red!75!black ,
  colbacktitle = yellow!50!red ,
  coltitle = red!25!black ,
  breakable ,
  drop shadow ,
  beforeafter skip = .5\baselineskip ,
  title =
  \textbf{\GetExerciseName~\GetExerciseProperty{counter}}% 
  \GetExercisePropertyT{subtitle}{ \textit{\PropertyValue}}%
  \IfInsideSolutionF{%
    \GetExercisePropertyT{points}{ % notice the space
      \% 
      \printgoal{\PropertyValue}
    \IfExerciseGoalSingularTF{points}{%
      \XSIMtranslate{point}}\}%
  }%
}%
\end{verbatim}
\end{verbatim}
\DeclareExerciseType{problem}{
  exercise-env = problem ,
  solution-env = answer ,
  exercise-name = Problem ,
  solution-name = Answer ,
  exercise-template = tcolorbox ,
  solution-template = tcolorbox
}
13. Styling the Exercises – Templates

See it in action:

```latex
\begin{problem}[subtitle=My subtitle, points=5]
This is a problem using a subtitle and points.
\end{problem}
```

```latex
\begin{answer}
This is the answer to problem~\GetExerciseProperty{counter}.
\end{answer}
```

**Problem 1** *My subtitle* (5 points)

This is a problem using a subtitle and points.

13.6.3. Mimicking exsheets’ \texttt{runin} Template

The following example shows how you could mimick exsheets’ \texttt{runin} template. The outcome isn’t exactly the same since exsheets doesn’t use \texttt{marginpar} but the result should look very similar. A safer definition would use a real sectioning command for the title.

```latex
\usepackage{needspace}
\DeclareExerciseEnvironmentTemplate{runin}{\par\vspace{\baselineskip}\Needspace*{2\baselineskip}\noindent
\textbf{\XSIMmixedcase{\GetExerciseName}\ GetExerciseProperty{counter}}% 
\GetExercisePropertyT{subtitle}{ \textit{#1}} % <<< notice the space 
\IfInsideSolutionF{\% 
\GetExercisePropertyT{points}{\% 
 \marginpar{\% 
 \printgoal{\PropertyValue}\% 
 \GetExercisePropertyT{bonus-points}{+\printgoal{\PropertyValue}}\% 
 \IfExerciseGoalSingularTF{points}
 {\XSIMtranslate{point}} 
 {\XSIMtranslate{points}}% 
 }\% 
 }\% 
 }\%
{} \%}
```
13. Styling the Exercises – Templates

13.6.4. Mimicking exsheets’ margin Template

The following example shows how you could mimick exsheets’ margin template.

\begin{verbatim}
\DeclareExerciseEnvironmentTemplate{margin}
  \%
  \trivlist
  \item[\lap{\smash{\begin{tabular}[t]{@{}r@{}}
  \textbf{\XSIMmixedcase{\GetExerciseName}~\GetExerciseProperty{counter}}
  \IfExercisePropertySetT{points}{\
    \textbf{\GetExerciseProperty{points}}%\textbf{\GetExerciseProperty{points}}%\textbf{\GetExerciseProperty{points}}%
    \IfInsideSolutionF{\GetExercisePropertyT{points}{\XSIMtranslate{point}}}
    \IfExerciseGoalSingularTF{points}{\XSIMtranslate{points}}{}
  }%\end{tabular}}\XSIMtranslate{point-abbr}}%\end{tabular}}\XSIMtranslate{point-abbr}}%\end{tabular}}\XSIMtranslate{point-abbr}}%\end{tabular}}\XSIMtranslate{point-abbr}}%\end{tabular}}\XSIMtranslate{point-abbr}}%\end{tabular}}\XSIMtranslate{point-abbr}}%\end{tabular}}\XSIMtranslate{point-abbr}}%\end{tabular}}\XSIMtranslate{point-abbr}}%\end{tabular}}\XSIMtranslate{point-abbr}}%\end{tabular}}\XSIMtranslate{point-abbr}}%\end{tabular}}\XSIMtranslate{point-abbr}}%\end{tabular}}\XSIMtranslate{point-abbr}}%\end{tabular}}\XSIMtranslate{point-abbr}}%\end{tabular}}\XSIMtranslate{point-abbr}}%\end{tabular}}\XSIMtranslate{point-abbr}}%\end{tabular}}\XSIMtranslate{point-abbr}}%\end{tabular}}\XSIMtranslate{point-abbr}}%\end{tabular}}\XSIMtranslate{point-abbr}}%\end{tabular}}\XSIMtranslate{point-abbr}}%\end{tabular}}\XSIMtranslate{point-abbr}}%\end{tabular}}\XSIMtranslate{point-abbr}}%\end{tabular}}\XSIMtranslate{point-abbr}}%\end{tabular}}\XSIMtranslate{point-abbr}}%\end{tabular}}\XSIMtranslate{point-abbr}}%\end{tabular}}\XSIMtranslate{point-abbr}}%\end{tabular}}\XSIMtranslate{point-abbr}}%\end{tabular}}\XSIMtranslate{point-abbr}}%\end{tabular}}\XSIMtranslate{point-abbr}}%\end{tabular}}\XSIMtranslate{point-abbr}}%\end{tabular}}\XSIMtranslate{point-abbr}}%\end{tabular}}\XSIMtranslate{point-abbr}}%\end{tabular}}\XSIMtranslate{point-abbr}}%\end{tabular}}\XSIMtranslate{point-abbr}}%\end{tabular}}\XSIMtranslate{point-abbr}}%\end{tabular}}\XSIMtranslate{point-abbr}}%\end{tabular}}\XSIMtranslate{point-abbr}}%\end{tabular}}\XSIMtranslate{point-abbr}}%\end{tabular}}\XSIMtranslate{point-abbr}}%\end{tabular}}\XSIMtranslate{point-abbr}}%\end{tabular}}\XSIMtranslate{point-abbr}}%\end{tabular}}\XSIMtranslate{point-abbr}}%\end{tabular}}\XSIMtranslate{point-abbr}}%\end{tabular}}\XSIMtranslate{point-abbr}}%\end{tabular}}\XSIMtranslate{point-abbr}}%\end{tabular}}\XSIMtranslate{point-abbr}}%\end{tabular}}\XSIMtranslate{point-abbr}}%\end{tabular}}\XSIMtranslate{point-abbr}}%\end{tabular}}\XSIMtranslate{point-abbr}}%\end{tabular}}\XSIMtranslate{point-abbr}}%\end{tabular}}\XSIMtranslate{point-abbr}}%\end{tabular}}\XSIMtranslate{point-abbr}}%\end{tabular}}\XSIMtranslate{point-abbr}}%\end{tabular}}\XSIMtranslate{point-abbr}}%\end{tabular}}\XSIMtranslate{point-abbr}}%\end{tabular}}\XSIMtranslate{point-abbr}}%\end{tabular}}\XSIMtranslate{point-abbr}}%\end{tabular}}\XSIMtranslate{point-abbr}}%\end{tabular}}\XSIMtranslate{point-abbr}}%\end{tabular}}\XSIMtranslate{point-abbr}}%\end{tabular}}\XSIMtranslate{point-abbr}}%\end{tabular}}\XSIMtranslate{point-abbr}}%\end{tabular}}\XSIMtranslate{point-abbr}}%\end{tabular}}\XSIMtranslate{point-abbr}}%\end{tabular}}\XSIMtranslate{point-abbr}}%\end{tabular}}\XSIMtranslate{point-abr}
13. Styling the Exercises – Templates

13.6.6. The Headings Templates

XSIM defines four heading templates which only differ by which text they output:

```
\DeclareExerciseHeadingTemplate{default}
\\section*{\XSIMtranslate{default-heading}}
\DeclareExerciseHeadingTemplate{collection}
\\section*{\XSIMtranslate{collection-heading}}
\DeclareExerciseHeadingTemplate{per-section}
\\section*{\XSIMtranslate{per-section-heading}}
\DeclareExerciseHeadingTemplate{per-chapter}
\\section*{\XSIMtranslate{per-chapter-heading}}
```

Section 14 on page 47 shows how the translations are defined.

13.6.7. The default Table Template

This template is the one used for grading tables per default. It has a vertical layout.

```
\DeclareExerciseTableTemplate{default}{%
  \XSIMputright\ExerciseTableCode{%
  \toprule
  \XSIMifblankTF{\ExerciseType}{%
    \{\XSIMmixedcase{\GetExerciseParameter{exercise-name}}}%
    &
    \XSIMmixedcase{\XSIMtranslate{points}} &
    \XSIMtranslate{reached} \\
  \midrule
  \%}
  \ForEachUsedExerciseByType{%\XSIMifeqTF{#1}{\ExerciseTableType{#1}}{}
    \{\XSIMifblankTF{\ExerciseType}{%
      \XSIMputright\ExerciseTableCode{%
        \XSIMmixedcase{\ExerciseParameterGet{#1}{exercise-name} }%
      }%
    }%
    \}%
  }
  \XSIMputright\ExerciseTableCode{#3 & \XSIMifblankTF{#5}{\printgoal{0}}{\printgoal{#5}} \& \%}%
  %
%
\%}
\XSIMputright\ExerciseTableCode{%
```
The part

\begin{tabular}{lll}
\midrule
\null & \null & \null \\
\null & \null & \null \\
\null & \null & \null \\
\null & \null & \null \\
\bottomrule
\end{tabular}

repeatedly checks if an exercise type has been given for the table. This makes it possible to design the table differently if it is for one exercise type only (the \texttt{true} case) or for all exercise types (the \texttt{false} case). \texttt{\ExerciseTableType{⟨code⟩}} either expands to the given exercise type or to \langle code\rangle.

\subsection*{13.6.8. The default* Table Template}

The second of the predefined grading table templates. It has a horizontal layout.

\begin{tabular}{lll}
\midrule
\null & \null & \null \\
\null & \null & \null \\
\null & \null & \null \\
\null & \null & \null \\
\bottomrule
\end{tabular}

If you have a lot of exercises the width of a table with this layout may exceed the text width of the document!
13. Styling the Exercises – Templates

\XSIMputright\ExerciseTableCode{%
   \XSIMmixedcase{\ExerciseParameterGet{#1}{exercise-name} }%
}\%
\XSIMputright\ExerciseTableCode{#3 \&}
\%
\XSIMputright\ExerciseTableCode{%
   \XSIMtranslate{total} \\%
   \midrule
   \XSIMmixedcase{\XSIMtranslate{points}} &
}\%
\ForEachUsedExerciseByType{%
   \XSIMifeqTF{#1}{\ExerciseTableType{#1}}{%
      \XSIMputright\ExerciseTableCode{%
         \XSIMifeqTF{#5}{\printgoal{0}}{\printgoal{#5}} \&
      }%
   }%
\}%
\XSIMputright\ExerciseTableCode{%
   \XSIMifblankTF{\ExerciseType}{\TotalExerciseGoal{points}{}{}{}}\%
   \TotalExerciseTypeGoal{\ExerciseType}{points}{}{}}%
\}%
\ForEachUsedExerciseByType{%
   \XSIMifeqTF{#1}{\ExerciseTableType{#1}}{%
      \XSIMputright\ExerciseTableCode{&}
   }%
\}%
\XSIMputright\ExerciseTableCode{ \midrule
   \XSIMtranslate{reached} &
}\%
\ForEachUsedExerciseByType{%
   \XSIMifeqTF{#1}{\ExerciseTableType{#1}}{%
      \XSIMputright\ExerciseTableCode{&}
   }%
\}%
\XSIMputright\ExerciseTableCode{ \bottomrule }%
def\numberofcolumns{%
   \XSIMifblankTF{\ExerciseType}{\numberofusedexercises}{
      \csname numberof \ExerciseType s\endcsname}
}%
\XSIMifeqF{\numberofcolumns}{0}{%
   \begin{tabular}{l*{\numberofcolumns}{c}c}
      \ExerciseTableCode
   \end{tabular}%
}%
The part

\begin{exercise}
  \ExercisetableType{⟨code⟩}
\end{exercise}

repeatedly checks if an exercise type has been given for the table. This makes it possible to
design the table differently if it is for one exercise type only (the \texttt{true} case) or for all exercise
types (the \texttt{false} case). \ExercisetableType{⟨code⟩} either expands to the given exercise
type or to \texttt{(code)}.

\section{Exercise Translations}

\DeclareExerciseTranslation{⟨language⟩}{⟨keyword⟩}{⟨translation⟩}
\begin{itemize}
  \item Declare the translation of \texttt{(keyword)} for language \texttt{(language)}.
\end{itemize}

\DeclareExerciseTranslations{⟨keyword⟩}{⟨translations⟩}
\begin{itemize}
  \item Declare the translations of \texttt{(keyword)} for several languages at once. See an example of the
    usage below.
\end{itemize}

\XSIMtranslate{⟨keyword⟩}
\begin{itemize}
  \item Delivers the translation of \texttt{(keyword)} according to the current document language (in the
\end{itemize}

\ForEachExerciseTranslation{⟨code⟩}
\begin{itemize}
  \item Loops over all translations of all keywords known to \XSIM. Inside \texttt{(code)} you can refer to the
    keyword with \texttt{#1}, to the language with \texttt{#2}, and to the translation with \texttt{#3}.
\end{itemize}

As an example how to use \DeclareExerciseTranslations here is how the translations
for exercise have been defined:

\begin{exercise}
  \DeclareExerciseTranslations{exercise}{
    \texttt{Fallback} = exercise ,
    \texttt{English} = exercise ,
    \texttt{French} = exercice ,
    \texttt{German} = "Ubung
  }
\end{exercise}

Table 1 on the next page shows all existing keywords with all predefined translations.
14. Exercise Translations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>keyword</th>
<th>language</th>
<th>translation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>exercise</td>
<td>Fallback</td>
<td>exercise</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>exercise</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>exercise</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>exercise</td>
<td>French</td>
<td>exercise</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>exercise</td>
<td>German</td>
<td>&quot;Übung</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>exercises</td>
<td>Fallback</td>
<td>exercises</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>exercises</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>exercises</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>exercises</td>
<td>French</td>
<td>exercises</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>exercises</td>
<td>German</td>
<td>&quot;Übungen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>question</td>
<td>Fallback</td>
<td>question</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>question</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>question</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>question</td>
<td>French</td>
<td>question</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>question</td>
<td>German</td>
<td>Aufgabe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>questions</td>
<td>Fallback</td>
<td>questions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>questions</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>questions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>questions</td>
<td>French</td>
<td>questions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>questions</td>
<td>German</td>
<td>Aufgaben</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>solution</td>
<td>Fallback</td>
<td>solution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>solution</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>solution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>solution</td>
<td>French</td>
<td>solution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>solution</td>
<td>German</td>
<td>L&quot;osung</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>solutions</td>
<td>Fallback</td>
<td>solutions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>solutions</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>solutions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>solutions</td>
<td>French</td>
<td>solutions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>solutions</td>
<td>German</td>
<td>L&quot;osungen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>point-abbr</td>
<td>Fallback</td>
<td>p.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>point-abbr</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>p.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>point-abbr</td>
<td>French</td>
<td>p.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>point-abbr</td>
<td>German</td>
<td>P.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>point</td>
<td>Fallback</td>
<td>point</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>point</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>point</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>point</td>
<td>French</td>
<td>point</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>point</td>
<td>German</td>
<td>Punkt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>points</td>
<td>Fallback</td>
<td>points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>points</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>points</td>
<td>French</td>
<td>points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>points</td>
<td>German</td>
<td>Punkte</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>reached</td>
<td>Fallback</td>
<td>reached</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>reached</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>reached</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

continues
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>keyword</th>
<th>language</th>
<th>translation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>reached</td>
<td>French</td>
<td>obtenus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>total</td>
<td>German</td>
<td>erreicht</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>total</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>total</td>
<td>French</td>
<td>total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>total</td>
<td>German</td>
<td>insgesamt</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

default-heading Fallback \texttt{\textbackslash{}SIMmixedcase \{GetExerciseParameter \{solutions-name\} to the \texttt{\textbackslash{}SIMmixedcase \{\texttt{GetExerciseParameter \{exercises-name\}\}}}}

default-heading English \texttt{\textbackslash{}SIMmixedcase \{GetExerciseParameter \{solutions-name\} to the \texttt{\textbackslash{}SIMmixedcase \{\texttt{GetExerciseParameter \{exercises-name\}\}}}}

default-heading French \texttt{\textbackslash{}SIMmixedcase \{GetExerciseParameter \{solutions-name\} des \texttt{\textbackslash{}SIMmixedcase \{\texttt{GetExerciseParameter \{exercises-name\}\}}}}

default-heading German \texttt{\textbackslash{}SIMmixedcase \{GetExerciseParameter \{solutions-name\} zu den \texttt{\textbackslash{}SIMmixedcase \{\texttt{GetExerciseParameter \{exercises-name\}\}}}}

collection-heading Fallback \texttt{\textbackslash{}SIMmixedcase \{GetExerciseParameter \{exercises-name\}\}}

collection-heading English \texttt{\textbackslash{}SIMmixedcase \{GetExerciseParameter \{exercises-name\}\}}

collection-heading French \texttt{\textbackslash{}SIMmixedcase \{GetExerciseParameter \{exercises-name\}\}}

collection-heading German \texttt{\textbackslash{}SIMmixedcase \{GetExerciseParameter \{exercises-name\}\}}

per-section-heading Fallback \texttt{\textbackslash{}SIMmixedcase \{GetExerciseParameter \{solutions-name\} to the \texttt{\textbackslash{}SIMmixedcase \{\texttt{GetExerciseParameter \{exercises-name\}\}} of Section\nobreakspace \texttt{\textbackslash{}ExerciseSection \texttt{\textbackslash{}SIMmixedcase \{GetExerciseParameter \{exercises-name\}\}}}}

per-section-heading English \texttt{\textbackslash{}SIMmixedcase \{GetExerciseParameter \{solutions-name\} to the \texttt{\textbackslash{}SIMmixedcase \{\texttt{GetExerciseParameter \{exercises-name\}\}} of Section\nobreakspace \texttt{\textbackslash{}ExerciseSection \texttt{\textbackslash{}SIMmixedcase \{GetExerciseParameter \{exercises-name\}\}}}}

per-section-heading French \texttt{\textbackslash{}SIMmixedcase \{GetExerciseParameter \{solutions-name\} des \texttt{\textbackslash{}SIMmixedcase \{\texttt{GetExerciseParameter \{exercises-name\}\}} de la section\nobreakspace \texttt{\textbackslash{}ExerciseSection \texttt{\textbackslash{}SIMmixedcase \{GetExerciseParameter \{exercises-name\}\}}}}

continues
15. Cloze Tests and Blank Lines

Similar to exsheets \textsc{xsim} provides a command \texttt{\textbackslash blank}:

\texttt{\textbackslash blank[\{options\}]{\textbackslash\{text to be filled in\}\{\textbackslash\}}}

Creates a blank in normal text or in an exercise but fills the text of its argument if inside a solution. If used at the \texttt{begin of a paragraph} \texttt{\textbackslash blank} will do two things: it will set the linespread according to an option explained below and will insert \texttt{\textbackslash par} after the lines. The starred version doesn’t do these things.

Those are the options for customization:

\texttt{\textbackslash blank/\textbackslash blank-style = \{\texttt{\textbackslash code}\}} \hspace{1cm} \text{Default: } \texttt{\textbackslash underline\{#1\}}

Instructions for typesetting the blank cloze. Refer to the filled in space with \texttt{#1}.

\texttt{\textbackslash blank/filled-style = \{\texttt{\textbackslash code}\}} \hspace{1cm} \text{Default: } \texttt{\textbackslash underline\{#1\}}

Instructions for typesetting the filled cloze. Refer to the filled in text with \texttt{#1}

\texttt{style = \{\texttt{\textbackslash code}\}} \hspace{1cm} \text{Shortcut for setting both \textbackslash blank-style and \textbackslash filled-style at once.}

\texttt{\textbackslash blank/scale = \{\texttt{decimal number}\}} \hspace{1cm} \text{Default: } 1

Scales the blank to \texttt{\{decimal number\}} times its natural width.
Blank tests and blank lines

\begin{exercise}
Try to fill in \blank[width=4cm]{these} blanks. All of them \blank{are created} by using the \texttt{\cs{blank} \blank{command}}.
\end{exercise}

\begin{solution}[print]
Try to fill in \blank[width=4cm]{these} blanks. All of them \blank{are created} by using the \texttt{\cs{blank} \blank{command}}.
\end{solution}

A number of empty lines are easily created by setting the \texttt{width} option:

\begin{exercise}
\texttt{\xsimsetup{blank/filled-style=\textcolor{red}{#1}}}
\begin{exercise}
Try to fill in \underline{________________________} blanks. All of them \underline{_______} by using the \texttt{\blank ________}.
\end{exercise}

\begin{solution}
Try to fill in \texttt{these} blanks. All of them \texttt{are created} by using the \texttt{\blank command}.
\end{solution}

Write up the pros and cons of \texttt{\xsim} over \texttt{\pkg{exsheets}}:

\begin{itemize}
\item \texttt{\xsimsetup{\textcolor{red}{\texttt{\blank}}}}
\end{itemize}
A. Future Plans

\texttt{xsim} is complete in so far as it is perfectly usable to create exams or exercise and solution sections in books with the most freedom in layout already. But still there are features which would be useful additions. Below I list all ideas that I currently plan to add to \texttt{xsim}:

- a document class \texttt{xsim-exam} for creating exams; this class should itself feature the possibility of creating different versions of an exam, maybe already provide multiple choice questions and so on; one could also think about automatic creation of running headers and footers, \textit{i.e.}, means for changing the layout of the exam; following the spirit of \texttt{xsim} this should probably be done using templates as well.

I am very open to suggestions regarding features, both in general and specifically regarding the document class.

B. FAQ & How to…

This section serves as a kind of gallery showing solutions to common problems. I expect this section to grow over the years. Some examples especially regarding other layouts are also shown in example files added to this package.

B.1. …Know if \texttt{xsim} Needs Another Compilation?

If \texttt{xsim} wants you to recompile your document it writes the following to the logfile:

```
1. **********************************************
2. * xsim warning: "rerun"
3. *
4. * Exercise properties may have changed. Rerun to get them synchronized.
5. **********************************************
```

So just check the logfile regularly (which you should be doing anyway) and keep your eyes open.
B. FAQ & How to…

B.2. …Resolve Getting Repeatedly Wrong Exercise Properties or Wrong Exercise Lists?

\textsc{xsim} writes a lot of stuff to an auxiliary file called \jobname{}.\textsc{xsim} (or the common \jobname{}.\textsc{aux} if you use option \texttt{use-aux}) for re-using information on subsequent compilations. If you add exercises, change properties etc. it might happen that wrong information is staying in the auxiliary file and is wrongly used by \textsc{xsim}. In such cases deleting the auxiliary file and doing a few fresh compilations may resolve your problems.

Sometimes the \textit{existence of exercise or solution files from earlier compilations} may lead to wrong lists of exercises or solutions. In such cases it can be useful to delete all those files and doing a fresh compilation. It may be helpful to use a subfolder for those external files which will make deleting them a little bit easier. (Don’t forget to both create the subfolder and set \texttt{path} accordingly then.)

Using the \texttt{clear-aux} option might help to reduce erroneous exercises.

B.3. …Resolve Strange Errors After Updating?

\textsc{xsim} writes a lot of stuff to the auxiliary file. An update may well change how this is done so deleting the auxiliary file and doing a few fresh compilations may resolve your problems.

B.4. ! \TeX{} capacity exceeded, sorry [text input levels=15]. Why?

Did you try to use an exercise or solution in a macro of some sort? This generally will fail. But there should never be the need to hide the environments inside of a macro, anyway.

B.5. Runaway argument? !File ended while scanning use of \textasciitilde{}M. Why?

Did you try to use an exercise or solution in a macro of some sort? This generally will fail. But there should never be the need to hide the environments inside of a macro, anyway.

B.6. …Put a Star (or Another Symbol) in Headings of Exercises That Are Special?

The code below shows one possible modification of an exercise template which allows to easily create bonus exercises:

```latex
% preamble:
\usepackage{amsymb}
% declare boolean property:
\DeclareExerciseProperty*[bonus]
\DeclareExerciseEnvironmentTemplate{bonus}{\subsection*}
```

12. The reasons are similar to the ones given here: https://tex.stackexchange.com/a/295422/.

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B. FAQ & How to...

\begin{exercise}[bonus]
A bonus question.
\end{exercise}

\section*{Bonus Exercise 12}
A bonus question.

B.7. …Print All Solutions Grouped by Section?
Here is an idea how to get a list of all solutions grouped by the section the corresponding exercises are appearing in.

\begin{verbatim}
% preamble:
% \usepackage{etoolbox}
% \newcounter{sections}
\end{verbatim}
C. The xsimverb package

\begin{verbatim}
4  \setcounter{sections}{1}
5  \whileboolexpr{ test {\ifnumless{\value{sections}}{\value{section}+1}} }
6  { \printSolutions[section=\value{sections},headings-template=per-section]
7    \stepcounter{sections}
8  }
\end{verbatim}

For this manual we then get the following list.\textsuperscript{13}

**Solutions to the Exercises of Section 4**

**Solution 1**

A first example for a solution.

**Solutions to the Exercises of Section 8**

**Solution 5**

The solution of the exercise that has not been printed.

**Answers to the Problems of Section 13**

**Answer 1 My subtitle**

This is the answer to problem 1.

**Solutions to the Exercises of Section 15**

**Solution 11**

Try to fill in these blanks. All of them are created by using the `\blank` command.

C. The xsimverb package

\textsc{XSim} comes bundled with another package called xsimverb. This package loads a very small subset of \textsc{XSim} which allows to create environments that write their contents verbatim to

\footnote{13. Taking care of the fact that we’re in the appendix now which means we can’t use \texttt{value(section)}. Therefore this manual does \texttt{edef\lastsection{arabic{section}}} right before \texttt{appendix}}
C. The xsimverb package

external files. It provides the following commands (which of course are also available in **{xsim}**, too):

\XSIMfilewritestart*{⟨/file name⟩}

Start writing to the file named ⟨/file name⟩. This should be the last command in the begin definition of an environment. If is is used in an environment with arguments where the last argument is optional you should check if the optional argument is given and use the starred version if the test is negative. This is demonstrated in an example below using xparse’s \NewDocumentEnvironment. If you want an environment with only an optional argument you should use xparse’s commands to define it. Due to the way how \newenvironment scans for optional arguments you’ll otherwise may end up with leading spaces gobbled from the first line in your environment.

\XSIMfilewritestop

Stop writing to the file. This should be the first command in the end definition of an environment.

\XSIMsetfilebegin{⟨code⟩}

This command can be used to write something to the external file before the environment contents. Must be set before \XSIMfilewritestart in the begin definition.

\XSIMsetfileend{⟨code⟩}

This command can be used to write something to the external file after the environment contents. Must be set before \XSIMfilewritestart in the begin definition.

\XSIMgobblechars{⟨integer⟩}

Determines how many characters are cut off of the beginning of each line of the environment body before it is written to the file. The default value is 0.

The following code shows an example of how to use those commands:

```
\documentclass{article}
\usepackage{xsimverb, listings}
\makeatletter
\NewDocumentEnvironment{example}{o}{\XSIMsetfilebegin{\@percentchar\space file \jobname.tmp'}}{\XSIMsetfileend{\@percentchar\space bye bye}}{\IfNoValueTF{#1}{\XSIMfilewritestart*{\jobname.tmp}}{\XSIMfilewritestart{\jobname.tmp}}}\XSIMfilewritestop
\lstinputlisting[language={LaTeX},]{\jobname.tmp}
```

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D. All Exercise Examples

The \texttt{tmp} file produced by the above example will contain the following three lines (if the file itself was called \texttt{test.tex}):

\begin{verbatim}
% file `test.tmp'
bla bla \LaTeX
% bye bye
\end{verbatim}

D. All Exercise Examples

You will notice that some exercises from section 13.6 on page 40 look differently in this section. That is because all exercises of a type use the template that’s currently active. If you want exercises with a different look you should use different exercises types.

The following list is created with this code:

\begin{verbatim}
\xsimsetup{exercise/template = bonus}
\printcollection[headings]{all exercises}
\end{verbatim}

Exercises

Exercise 1
A first example for an exercise.

Exercise 2 \textit{This is a subtitle}
An exercise where some properties have been set.
D. All Exercise Examples

Exercise 3
\GetExerciseProperty{id}: 3
\GetExerciseAliasProperty{ID}: 3
\GetExerciseProperty{ID}: 3

Exercise 4
\GetExerciseProperty{id}: 4
\GetExerciseAliasProperty{ID}: 4
\GetExerciseProperty{ID}: foo-bar

Exercise 5
This exercise will not be printed but the exercise counter will be incremented nonetheless. Its solution will be printed in the list of solutions.

Exercise 6
This exercise is added to the collection ‘foo’.

Exercise 7
This exercise is also added to the collection ‘foo’.

Exercise 8
So is this.

Exercise 9
As well as this one.

Exercise 10 The Subtitle

Exercise 11
Try to fill in ________________ blanks. All of them ________ by using the \blank ______.
E. All Solution Examples

★ Bonus Exercise 12

A bonus question.

Problems

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Problem 1 My subtitle (5 points)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>This is a problem using a subtitle and points.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

E. All Solution Examples

Solutions to the Exercises

Solution 1

A first example for a solution.

Solution 5

The solution of the exercise that has not been printed.

Solution 11

Try to fill in these blanks. All of them are created by using the \blank command.

Answers to the Problems

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answer 1 My subtitle</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>This is the answer to problem 1.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

F. Example Documents Coming With This Package

The repository of this package currently includes 38 example documents demonstrating how different aspects of this package work or how different kinds of problems can be solved or how different kinds of layouts can be achieved as well as how to solve concrete problems that have come up in different \LaTeX forums.

Besides showing excerpts of the code and the resulting pdf the examples below also link to both the tex source the resulting pdf.

---

\[\text{GitHub: https://github.com/cgnieder/xsim/}, \text{CTAN: http://www.ctan.org/pkg/xsim/}\]

---
## Example 1: Create blank lines

**Links:** [TEX] [PDF]  
**File:** xsim.blanks.tex

```latex
\xsimsetup{
  solution/print = true ,
  blank/filled-style = \underline{\textcolor{red}{#1}}}

\begin{document}
  \begin{exercise}[points=3]
    Erklären Sie den Begriff.
  \end{exercise}

  \begin{exercise}[points=3]
    Lösung 1
  \end{exercise}
```

## Example 2: Put headings in a box

**Links:** [TEX] [PDF]  
**File:** xsim.boxed-headings.tex

```latex
\DeclareExerciseEnvironmentTemplate{custom}{%
  \Needspace*{5\baselineskip}
  \textbf{\XSIMmixedcase{\GetExerciseName}~\GetExerciseProperty{counter}.}~%
  \GetExercisePropertyT{subtitle}{\textit{#1}}~%
  \end{tcolorbox}\noindent}

\begin{exercise}{custom}
  

  1
```

## Example 3: Create code examples

**Links:** [TEX] [PDF]  
**File:** xsim.code-and-output.tex

```latex
\makeatletter
\NewDocumentEnvironment{example}{!o}{%Madam%}{%}
\XSIMgobblechars{2}%
\begin{document}
  \begin{example}{example}{!o}{%
    bla bla \LaTeX
    % bye bye
    bla bla \LaTeX

    blubber \LaTeX
  \end{example}
```

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Exercise 2

Example 5: Crossreferencing between problems and answers

Files: [xsim.crossref.tex]

Example 4: How to use collections

Files: [xsim.collections.tex]

Example 6: Exercises as a description list

Files: [xsim.description-list.tex]
F. Example Documents Coming With This Package

Example 7: A custom point scheme

Links: [TeX] [PDF]
File: xsim.different-point-types.tex

\newcommand{\printA}{\TotalExerciseGoal{A}{~A~ point}{~A~ points}}
\newcommand{\printC}{\TotalExerciseGoal{C}{~C~ point}{~C~ points}}
\newcommand{\printE}{\TotalExerciseGoal{E}{~E~ point}{~E~ points}}
\usepackage{needspace}
\DeclareExerciseEnvironmentTemplate{custom}{%}
\par\vspace{\baselineskip}

Reachable: 2 A points, 2 C points, and 3 E points.
1. Differentiate \( y = 3x^2 + 5x + 3 \). (1/0/0)
2. Find the equation of the tangent line to the function \( y = x/2 \) at \( x = 2 \). (2/1/0)
3. Prove that the derivative of a constant is zero. (0/1/2)

Example 8: Difficulty levels

Links: [TeX] [PDF]
File: xsim.difficulties.tex

\DeclareExerciseEnvironmentTemplate{custom}{}
\subsection*
\% \XSIMmixedcase {\GetExerciseName}\nobreakspace
\GetExerciseProperty{counter}\%
\IfExercisePropertySetT{difficulty}

Exercise 1 (easy)
An easy question.
Exercise 2 (hard)
Now lets see if you can solve this one.

Example 9: Floating exercises and a list of exercises

Links: [TeX] [PDF]
File: xsim.floating.tex

\listname={List of Exercises},
\name=Exercise,
\placement=htp,
\}{ex}
\DeclareExerciseEnvironmentTemplate{float}{%}
\ex\% \captionsetup{labelformat=empty,
\singlespace\check=false,listformat=empty}

List of Exercises
Exercise 1 . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 1
Exercise 2: Let's have a look

Quisque ullamcorper placerat ipsum. Cras nibh. Morbi vel justo vitae lacus
tincidunt ultrices. Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetuer adipiscing elit. In
hac habitasse platea dictumst. Integer tempus convallis augue. Etiam facilisis.
Nunc elementum fermentum wisi. Aenean placerat. Ut imperdiet, enim sed
gravida sollicitudin, felis odio placerat quam, ac pulvinar elit purus eget enim.
Nunc vitae tortor. Proin tempus nibh sit amet nisl. Vivamus quis tortor vitae
risus porta vehicula.

Exercise 2: Let's have a
Example 10: Using the grade distribution macros

Example /one.taboldstyle/zero.taboldstyle: Using the grade distribution macros

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exercise 4</th>
<th>Exercise 5</th>
<th>Exercise 6</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>31 points</td>
<td>28 points</td>
<td>24 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 points</td>
<td>20 points</td>
<td>18 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 points</td>
<td>14 points</td>
<td>12 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34 points</td>
<td>31 points</td>
<td>28 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26 points</td>
<td>23 points</td>
<td>20 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 points</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Example 11: Give hints

Example /one.taboldstyle/two.taboldstyle: Give hints

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exercise 1</th>
<th>Exercise 2</th>
<th>Exercise 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>This is the first problem.</td>
<td>This is the second problem.</td>
<td>This is the third problem.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2 Hints

Example 12: Use listings in exercises

Example /one.taboldstyle/three.taboldstyle: Use listings in exercises

Consider the following C program.

```c
#include <stdio.h>
int main(int argc, char *argv[]) {
    printf("hello, world\n");
}
```
F. Example Documents Coming With This Package

Example 13: A custom list of exercises

Links: [TeX] [PDF]

File: xsim.listofexercises.tex

```latex
7  exercise/within=chapter,
8  exercise/template=theorem,
9  exercise/the-counter=\thechapter.\arabic{exercise}
10 }
11
12 \DeclareExerciseEnvironmentTemplate{theorem}
13 {\par\addvspace{\baselineskip}
14 \noindent
15 }
\chapter{Kineti}
1.1 435-1
1.2 (Foo Bar)435-2
1.3 435-3
```

Example 14: Multiplechoice exercises

Links: [TeX] [PDF]

File: xsim.multiplechoice.tex

```latex
7 \newcommand\choice{\item}
8 \DeclareExerciseProperty{choices}
9 \DeclareExerciseProperty{multiple}
10 \DeclareExerciseEnvironmentTemplate{mc}
11 {\%\\par\addvspace{\baselineskip}\noindent}
12 \UseExerciseTemplate{begin}{default}
13 {\IfExerciseBooleanPropertyTF{multiple}
14 {Select one or more correct answers}
15 }
```

Example 15: Sum of points

Links: [TeX] [PDF]

File: xsim.pointsums.tex

```latex
7 {\\XSIMtranslate{points}}\\%
8 }
9
10 \NewDocumentCommand\pointsandbonus{\%
11 \TotalExerciseGoal{points}\{}
12 {\IfExerciseGoalsSumTF{bonus-points}{=0}
13 {}\%
14 {\\XSIMtranslate{points}\\%}
```

Exercise 1

Exercise 2

1 Prime Numbers

A prime number is a positive integer other than 1 that is only divisible by 1 and itself.

As you will show in Exercise 1.1, there are infinitely many primes. The number of primes that are smaller than a given natural number $n$ is denoted by $\pi(n)$.

Exercises

Exercise 2.1. Extend $\zeta$ as far as possible and find all zeros of the function.

Hints:

Exercise 1

Exercise 2

Exercise 3

Solutions

Exercise 1

Solution 1

This is the solution to exercise 1.

4 (+1) p.

Exercise 2

Exercise 3

Solutions

Exercise 1

Solution 1

Solution 2

Solution 3

Total 12 points.
Example 19: Random/custom order of exercises

```latex
\begin{document}
\collectexercises{foo}
\begin{exercise}
  foo
\end{exercise}
\begin{exercise}
  bar
\end{exercise}
\end{document}
```

Exercise 3
bar

Example 20: Exercises and solutions in a tcolorbox

```latex
\DeclareExerciseEnvironmentTemplate{custom}{%
  \begin{tcolorbox}[
    width = \textwidth ,
    colbacktitle = \IfInsideSolutionTF{green}{red} ,
    coltitle = black ,
    title = {\XSIMmixedcase{\GetExerciseName}-\GetExerciseProperty{counter}}}\end{tcolorbox}}
```

Exercise 4
a Latin Text

Exercise 5
a Latin text again

Example 21: Using pythontex

```latex
\section{Test}
\begin{exercise}[subtitle = Codeless Question, points=10]
  A question without code, worth 10 points. Subtitle and point values are in correct place.
\end{exercise}
\begin{solution}
  Solution 1
\end{solution}
```

Exercise 1 Codeless:
A question without code, correct place.

Exercise 2 Codeful:
Now with PythonTeX:
```
print("hello, world!")
sim = 0
```
F. Example Documents Coming With This Package

Example 22: Print solutions per chapter/section

Links: [\TeX] [PDF] [forum]  
File: xsim.texsx-305110.tex

\begin{document}
\part{EXCERCISES}
\chapter{Topic 1}
\section{Section}
\end{document}

Example 23: Adapt how points are printed

Links: [\TeX] [PDF] [forum]  
File: xsim.texsx-308883.tex

\begin{document}
\begin{exercise}[points=2.5]
foo
\end{exercise}
\end{document}

Example 24: Another tcolorbox example

Links: [\TeX] [PDF] [forum]  
File: xsim.texsx-338165.tex

\usepackage{tasks}
\usepackage{xsim}
\usepackage{tcolorbox}
\tcbuselibrary{breakable, skins}
\settasks{ label = \arabic*. }
\DeclareExerciseEnvironmentTemplate{boxed}{
  \tcolorbox[
Soient E = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\} par A = \{1, 2, 3, 4\}, B
\begin{enumerate}
  \item Calculer $\overline{A}$. 
  \item Calculer $(A \cap B)$
  \item $\{5, 6, 7\}$
\end{enumerate}
Chapter one

The First Chapter

Exercise 1 Compute the derivative of the following function:
\[ f(x) = \sin((\sin x)^2) \]

Exercise 2 Compute the derivative of the following function:
\[ f(x) = \sin((\sin x)^2) \]

The solution of this exercise is on page 4.
F. Example Documents Coming With This Package

Example 28: Layout adjustments
Links: [TeX] [PDF] [forum]  
File: xsim.texsx-369803.tex

\usepackage{amsthm}
\usepackage{amsfonts}
\usepackage{amssymb}
\usepackage[left=2cm,right=2.5cm,top=2.5cm,bottom=2cm]{geometry}
\usepackage{xsim,siunitx}
\DeclareExerciseTagging{difficulty}
\DeclareExerciseEnvironmentTemplate{custom}

Aufgabe 1 (Widerstandswürfel)
Gegeben ist ein Würfel, wobei jede der Kanten einen Widerstand von \( R = 1 \, \Omega \) hat.
Wie groß ist der Widerstand entlang einer Raumdiagonale?

Lösung 1
Wir wollen den Widerstand zwischen den Punkten \( X \) und \( Y \) bestimmen, also entlang der Raumdiagonale (siehe Abb. ??). Weil die Raumin, und deswegen eine recht...}

Example 29: Minimalistic layout
Links: [TeX] [PDF] [forum]  
File: xsim.texsx-370642.tex

\{\par\}
\xsimsetup{exercise/template=simple}
\begin{document}
\begin{exercise}\label{eq1}
Let \( X \) be such that\dots
\end{exercise}

1. Let \( X \) be such that\dots
2. In this exercise consider \( Y = 2 \) \dots
3. Consider \( X \) as in exercise 1 (I would like to see the issue number 1)

Example 30: Exercises and sub-exercises
Links: [TeX] [PDF] [forum]  
File: xsim.texsx-391530.tex

solution-env = answer ,
exercise-name = Question ,
solution-name = Answer ,
exercise-template = item ,
solution-template = item }
\DeclareExerciseProperty{title}

1. Who is the President?
2. Who is the Prime Minister?
3. Who is the Defence Minister?
4. Who is the Finance Minister?
F. Example Documents Coming With This Package

Example 31: Different aspects of exercises, highlighted solutions
Links: [TeX] [PDF] [forum]  
File: xsim.texsx-395273.tex

\DeclareExerciseTagging{level}
% declare a template which typesets exercises
differently according to given properties:
\DeclareExerciseEnvironmentTemplate{exercise}
\renewcommand{\theenumi}{\thesolution.\arabic{enumi}}%
\par
\addvspace{\baselineskip}
\NeedSpace{2}\baselineskip


Example 32: Multiple choice questions with automated solutions
Links: [TeX] [PDF] [forum]  
File: xsim.texsx-498299.tex

\newcommand{\answer[1]}{\par
\addvspace{\baselineskip}
\NeedSpace{2}\baselineskip
2. What is the sum of
(a) Leg
(c) Area
3. What is the sum of
(a) −6

2 Answers

Example 33: Custom list of exercises
Links: [TeX] [PDF] [forum]  
File: xsim.texwelt-6698.tex

\usepackage{xsim}
\xsimsetup{exercise/name = Aufgabe ,
solution/name = Lösung ,
exercise/within = section ,
exercise/the-counter = \thesolution.\arabic{exercise} ,
exercise/template = mine }

Aufgabe 1.2
Eine zweite Aufgabe

1.1 Erstes Unterkapitel

Aufgabe 1.3
Eine Aufgabe in einem Unterkapitel

Aufgabe 1.4
F. Example Documents Coming With This Package

Example 34: Indicate difficulty level

\DeclareExerciseTagging{AFB}
\DeclareExerciseEnvironmentTemplate{myexam}
{\par\vspace{\baselineskip}\Needspace*{3\baselineskip}\noindent}
\GetExerciseProperty{counter}.
\GetExercisePropertyT{subtitle}{\quad\textit{#1}}

1. \textbf{Aufgabe 1.} Eine Frage
Schwierigkeit: 1 3 P.
Das ist eine sehr tolle Frage.

2. \textbf{Aufgabe 2.}
Schwierigkeit: 2 3 P.
Das ist eine sehr tolle Frage.

3. \textbf{Aufgabe 3.}
Das ist eine sehr tolle Frage.

4. \textbf{Aufgabe 4.} Eine andere Frage
Schwierigkeit: 4 3 P.
Das ist eine sehr tolle Frage.

5. \textbf{Aufgabe 5.} Eine Frage
Schwierigkeit: 2
Das ist eine sehr tolle Frage.

Example 35: Long and short solutions

\NewDocumentEnvironment{shortsolution}{+b}
{\edef\ExerciseType{\csname g_xsim_exercise_type_tl\endcsname}}
{\edef\ExerciseID{\csname g_xsim_exercise_id_tl\endcsname}}
{\SetExerciseProperty{shortsolution}{#1}}

Exercise 2 \textit{Another \textbf{1}}
This is the second problem.

Exercise 3 \textit{Yet Another \textbf{1}}
This is the third problem.

\textbf{2} Shortsolutions

Example 36: Different versions for students and teachers

\newlength{breite}
\setlength{breite}{160mm}
\newlength{hoehe}
\setlength{hoehe}{80mm}
\usepackage[hdivide={3.0cm,\breite,},
vdivide={2.2cm,2.2cm}]{geometry}
\usepackage{bitstream-charter,mathdesign}

Für die Schülerausgabe sollen Häuschen (Grid) mit Seitenlänge 4 mm gesetzt werden.
Für die Lehrerausgabe sollen statt Häuschen die Lösung in z. B. einer Box geschrieben werden. Dafür soll die Lösung (bezogen auf dieses Beispiel) auch in einer Box mit der exakten Breite 160 mm und der exakten Höhe 80 mm gesetzt werden. Weiter soll natürlich die Position der Lösungsbox und der Häuschenbox exakt identisch sein.

Lösung:
Hier soll die Lösung stehen:

\[ E = m \cdot c^2. \]
1. Wellenausbreitung im Vakuum und in Materie

1.1 Maxwellsche Gleichungen

\[ \nabla \cdot \vec{E}(\vec{r}, t) = \rho(\vec{r}, t) \frac{1}{\varepsilon_0} \]

Aufgabe 1.1

2.2 Empirischer Zugang zu Wellengleichungen

Aufgabe 2.2

Eine weitere Aufgabe

G. References

url: https://www.ctan.org/pkg/babel/.

url: https://www.ctan.org/pkg/polyglossia/.

url: https://www.ctan.org/pkg/booktabs/.

[ Flo ] Bruno Le Floch. Cunning (La)TeX tricks.
url: http://tex.stackexchange.com/a/19769/ (visited on 03/02/2017).

url: https://www.ctan.org/pkg/l3kernel/.
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