

The `physics2` package

Zhang Tingxuan

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Abstract

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

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

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

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1 Introduction

1.1 The purpose of this package

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

1.2 Packages required

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

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

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

1.3 Loading `physics2` and its modules

Just like loading any package, write

```
\usepackage{physics2}
```

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

`physics2` itself doesn't provide many features. You need to load different modules of `physics2` to have different features applied to your document.

1.4 Loading a module of `physics2`

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

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

Note: If you had heard version 0.x.y of `physics2`, you might know the `common` module. Now the `common` module is included in `physics2.sty` – the source file of `common` module is deleted but all the features of `common` are reserved. Those commands above used to be provided by `common` module, but now they are provided by `physics2`.

2.2 The `ab` module – automatic braces

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

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

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

[2.2.1] `\[\ab (\frac{1}{2}) \quad` $\left(\frac{1}{2}\right)$ `\quad` $\left[\frac{1}{2}\right]$ `\quad` $\left\{\frac{1}{2}\right\}$

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

`\ab\{ \frac{1}{2} \} \quad`

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

[2.2.2] `\[\ab <\frac{1}{2}> \quad` $\left\langle\frac{1}{2}\right\rangle$ `\quad` $\left|\frac{1}{2}\right|$ `\quad` $\left\|\frac{1}{2}\right\|$

`\ab\biggg|\frac{1}{2}| \quad`

`\ab* \|\frac{1}{2}\| \quad`



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



Important Note: The `ab` module uses “document commands” module of \LaTeX_{ϵ} kernel (source file: `lcmd.dtx`). This \LaTeX_{ϵ} kernel module provides a

document-level command parser. `\ab` is a complex encapsulation of some internal document-level commands. Take an example, if you define a document-level command like this:

```
\NewDocumentCommand \foo { r() } {:#1::}
```

You can write `\foo(bar)` legally, but `\foo()` will be regarded illegal when you write another document-level command or end the paragraph. Similarly, things like `\ab()` will also cause errors.

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

[2.2.3]

```
\def\0{\frac12}
\[ \pab{\0} \bab{\0} \Bab{\0} \]
\[ \aab{\0} \vab{\0} \Vab{\0} \]
```

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

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

These `\Xab` commands can take an optional star and an optional [*biggg*] argument. Star stands for using the default sizes. For example,

[2.2.4]

```
\def\0{n+\frac12}
\[ \pab[Big]{\0} \quad \bab*{\0} \]
```

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

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

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

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

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

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

For example,

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

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

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

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

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

`\ket | <subformula> >`

For example,

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

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

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

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



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

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

`\braket < <subformula> >`

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

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

$$\langle \phi \rangle$$

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

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

[2.3.4] `\def\0{\frac\phi2}`
`\[\braket < \0 | \psi > \]`
`\[\braket* < \0 | \psi > \]`
`\[\braket\Big < \0 | \psi > \]`

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

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

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

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

$$\backslash\text{ketbra } | \langle \textit{subformula}_1 \rangle > \langle \textit{optional} \rangle < \langle \textit{subformula}_2 \rangle |$$

For example,

[2.3.5]

```
\def\0{\frac\phi2}
\[\ \ketbra      | \0 >> \psi | \]
\[\ \ketbra*    | \0 >> \psi | \]
\[\ \ketbra\Big| \0 >> \psi | \]
```

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

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

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

[2.3.6]

```
\def\0{\frac\phi2}
\[\ \ketbra| \0 >_x^y < \psi | \]
```

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



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



Important Notes: Commands provided by `ab.braket` should NOT be placed barely in `\langle \textit{subformula} \rangle` of `\ab| \langle \textit{subformula} \rangle |`. Errors will arise if you write such code. To avoid the errors, you can write like this:

[2.3.7]

```
\[
\ab| { \braket<\psi|\hat H|\psi> } |
\]
```

$$\langle \psi | \hat{H} | \psi \rangle$$

Just add the braces.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

[2.4.1] `\def\0{\frac\phi2}`
`\[\bra {\0} \quad \bra* {\0}`
`\quad \bra[Big] {\0} \]`
`\[\ket {\0} \quad \ket* {\0}`
`\quad \ket[Big] {\0} \]`

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

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

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

[2.4.2] `\def\0{\frac\phi2}`
`\[\braket {\0} {\psi} \quad`
`\braket*{\0} {\psi} \quad`
`\braket[big] {\0} {\psi} \]`

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

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

[2.4.3] `\def\0{\frac\phi2}`
`\[\braket [1] {\0} \quad`
`\braket*[1] {\0} \]`
`\[\braket [3] {\0}{A}{\psi} \quad`
`\[\braket[3,big] {\0}{A}{\psi}`
`\quad`
`\braket[Big,3] {\0}{A}{\psi} \]`

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

2.5 The **diagmat** module — simple diagonal matrices

This module provides `\diagmat` command:

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

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

[2.5.1]
$$\backslash[\backslash\text{diagmat} \{ 1, \sqrt{2}, \sqrt[3]{4} \} \backslash]$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \sqrt{2} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \sqrt[3]{4} \end{pmatrix}$$

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

[2.5.2]
$$\backslash[\backslash\text{pdiagmat} [\text{empty} = \{ \}] \{ a, b, c, d \} \backslash]$$

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

This module requires `amsmath`.

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

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

2.6 The **doubleprod** module — tensors' double product operator

Take an example of this module:

[2.6.1]
$$\$ A \backslash\text{doublecross} B \backslash\text{doubledot} C \$$$

$$A \times B : C$$

`\doublecross` and `\doubledot` are regarded as binary operators by $\text{T}_{\text{E}}\text{X}$.

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

$$\backslash\text{usephysicsmodule}[\text{crossscale} = 0.75, \text{dotscale} = 1.2] \{ \text{doubleprod} \}$$

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

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

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

2.7 The `xmat` module — matrices with formatted entries

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

```
\xmat[⟨options⟩]{⟨entry⟩}{⟨rows shown⟩}{⟨cols shown⟩}
```

If `⟨rows shown⟩` and `⟨cols shown⟩` are digits, the value of them must be less at least 2 than the value of `amsmath`'s `MaxMatrixCols` counter. For example,

[2.7.1]

```
\[
\xmat{a}{2}{3}
\]
```

$$\begin{array}{ccc} a_{11} & a_{12} & a_{13} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & a_{23} \end{array}$$

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

[2.7.2]

```
\[
\pxmat{M}{3}{3}
\]
```

$$\begin{pmatrix} M_{11} & M_{12} & M_{13} \\ M_{21} & M_{22} & M_{23} \\ M_{31} & M_{32} & M_{33} \end{pmatrix}$$

If `⟨rows shown⟩` and `⟨cols shown⟩` contain non-digit characters, extra dots will be added. For example,

[2.7.3]

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

This module requires [amsmath](#).

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

3 The “legacy” modules

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

3.1 The `ab.legacy` module

This module provides the following commands:

`\abs` `\norm` `\eval` (`\peval` `\beval`) `\order`

They share the same syntax as `<cmd>*[<biggg>]{<subformula>}`. Star and `<biggg>` are optional. Star stands for “use the default size”. For example,

[3.1.1] `\def\0{1+\frac{1}{2}}` `\[\abs{\0} \quad \quad \bigg|1 + \frac{1}{2}\bigg| \quad \bigg\|1 + \frac{1}{2}\bigg\| \quad \mathcal{O}(1 + \frac{1}{2})`
`\norm[Big]{\0} \quad \quad \backslash`

[3.1.2] `\def\0{1+\frac{1}{2}x}` `\[\eval{\0}_a^b \quad \quad 1 + \frac{1}{2}x \Big|_a^b \quad (1 + \frac{1}{2}x \Big|_a^b \quad [1 + \frac{1}{2}x \Big|_a^b`
`\peval*{\0}_a^b \quad \quad \backslash`
`\beval[big]{\0}_a^b \quad \quad \backslash`

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

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

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

3.2 The `bm-um.legacy` module

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

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

[3.2.1] `\bm{0}\bm{A}\bm{z}`
`\bm{\alpha}\bm{\Omega}` $0Az\alpha\Omega$

3.3 The `nabla.legacy` module

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

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

[3.3.1] `\[\grad V \]`
`\[\div (x,y,z) \]`
`\[\curl(x,y,z) \]`
$$\nabla V$$
$$\nabla \cdot (x, y, z)$$
$$\nabla \times (x, y, z)$$

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

3.4 The `op.legacy` module

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

```
\asin \acos \atan
\acsc \asec \acot
\Tr \tr \rank
\erf \Res \res
\PV \pv
\Re \Im
```

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

[3.4.1] `\asin x$ \quad \rank A$`

`asin x` `rank A`

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

[3.4.2] `\PV f(z)$ \quad \pv f(z)$`

`$\mathcal{P}f(z)$` `p.v. $f(z)$`

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

This module *does not* require `amsmath`.

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

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

3.5 The `qtext.legacy` module

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