Babel support for the German language
(pre-1996 orthography)

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Abstract

This manual documents babel language support for German (pre-1996 orthography),
including support for the Austrian and Swiss (standard) varieties of German. The
manual is part of the babel-german bundle.

1 Aim and usage

The babel 'language definition file' \texttt{germanb.ldf} documented in this manual provides the
babel package with all language specific strings, settings and commands needed for writ-
ing German texts, including texts in the Austrian and Swiss (standard) varieties of Ger-
man, in traditional (1901–1996) spelling.\footnote{The file \texttt{germanb.ldf} started as a re-implementation of the package \texttt{german.sty} (v. 2.5b), which was orig-
inally developed by Hubert Partl (cf. \cite{partl}) and later maintained by Bernd Raichle (cf. \cite{raichle}). Johannes Braams did
the initial re-implementation.} As for support for contemporary ('reformed',
i. e., post-1996) German orthography, please refer to the complementary manual for the
\texttt{ngermanb.ldf} language definition file. The 'language definition file' also assures that the
correct hyphenation patterns for the respective language or variety are used (see sec. 3
for details).

In order to use the language definitions provided here, you need to use the babel
package and pass the respective language/variety name as an option, either of

\begin{itemize}
\item \texttt{\usepackage[german]{babel}}
\item \texttt{\usepackage[austrian]{babel}}
\item \texttt{\usepackage[swissgerman]{babel}}
\item \texttt{\usepackage[swissgerman.toss]{babel}}\footnote{See sec. 4 on the \texttt{toss} modifier.}
\end{itemize}

Using multiple varieties in parallel is possible; consult the babel manual \cite{babelmanual} for details.

2 Shorthands

For all three varieties of German, the character " is made active in order to provide
some shorthand macros. Some of these shorthands address a peculiarity of pre-1996

\begin{itemize}
\item \texttt{\usepackage[german]{babel}}
\item \texttt{\usepackage[austrian]{babel}}
\item \texttt{\usepackage[swissgerman]{babel}}
\item \texttt{\usepackage[swissgerman.toss]{babel}}\footnote{Current maintainer. Please report issues via \url{https://github.com/jspitz/babel-german}.}
\end{itemize}
German spelling: consonantal character combinations that change in the context of
hyphenations. Other shorthands are provided for frequently used special characters as
well as for better control of hyphenation, line breaks and ligatures.

Table 1 provides an overview of the shorthands that are provided by babel-german
for german, austrian and swissgerman.

Table 1: Shorthands provided by germanb.lfd

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Shorthand</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&quot;a&quot;</td>
<td>Umlaut (ä) (shorthand for \a). Similar shorthands are available for all other lower- and uppercase vowels (umlauts: &quot;a&quot;, &quot;o&quot;, &quot;A&quot;, &quot;O&quot;, &quot;u&quot;, &quot;U&quot;; tremata: &quot;e&quot;, &quot;E&quot;, &quot;I&quot;).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;s&quot;</td>
<td>German ⟨ß⟩ (shorthand for \ss{}{ }).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;z&quot;</td>
<td>German ⟨ß⟩ (shorthand for \ss{}{ }). The difference to &quot;s&quot; is the uppercase version; but cf. sec. 4.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;ck&quot;</td>
<td>⟨ck⟩, hyphenated as ⟨k-k⟩.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;ff&quot;</td>
<td>⟨ff⟩, hyphenated as ⟨ff-f⟩; this is also implemented for ⟨l⟩, ⟨m⟩, ⟨n⟩, ⟨p⟩, ⟨r⟩ and ⟨t⟩. Please refer to sec. 4 for why this does not include ⟨s⟩.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;S&quot;</td>
<td>\uppercase{}{ } \langle SS \rangle, typeset as ⟨SS⟩[or ⟨SZ⟩, see below] in uppercase writing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;Z&quot;</td>
<td>\uppercase{}{ } \langle SZ \rangle, typeset as ⟨SZ⟩[or ⟨SS⟩, see above] in uppercase writing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;=&quot;</td>
<td>An additional breakpoint that does still allow for hyphenation at the breakpoints preset in the hyphenation patterns (as opposed to -).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;=&quot;</td>
<td>An explicit hyphen with a breakpoint, allowing for hyphenation at the other points preset in the hyphenation patterns (as opposed to plain -); useful for long compounds such as IT= Dienstleisterinnen.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;-&quot;</td>
<td>An explicit hyphen without a breakpoint. Useful for cases where the hyphen should stick at the following syllable, e.g., bergauf und &quot;-ab.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;=&quot;</td>
<td>A breakpoint that does not output a hyphen if the line break is performed (consider parenthetical extensions as in (pseudo&quot;-&quot;=&quot;wissenschaftlich)).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;/&quot;</td>
<td>A slash that allows for a linebreak. As opposed to \slash{}, hyphenation at the breakpoints preset in the hyphenation patterns is still allowed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;*&quot;</td>
<td>An asterisk which assures the word can still be hyphenated at its defined breakpoints. Useful if you want to employ gender-sensitive writing (gender star'). Similar shorthands are available for the alternative gender-sensitive spellings, &quot;_&quot; and &quot;_&quot;.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;x&quot;</td>
<td>Inserts a gender mark which assures the word can still be hyphenated at its defined breakpoints. This is predefined to * but can be globally redefined by redefining the macro \def\mkgender{*}.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;'&quot;</td>
<td>German left double quotes ⟨,⟩.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;'&quot;</td>
<td>German right double quotes ⟨⟩.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;&lt;&quot;</td>
<td>French/Swiss left double quotes ⟨⟨⟩⟩.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;&gt;&quot;</td>
<td>French/Swiss right double quotes ⟨⟩⟨⟩.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2 lists some babel macros for quotation marks that might be used as an alternative to the quotation mark shorthands listed above.

3 Hyphenation patterns

The question which hyphenation patterns are used by Babel in case of the varieties of
German needs some elaboration. There is a set of established hyphenation patterns for pre- and post-1996 German orthography that has been available with \TeX distributions
Table 2: Alternative commands for quotation marks (provided by babel)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Command</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>\glqq</td>
<td>German left double quotes („).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>\grqq</td>
<td>German right double quotes (“).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>\glq</td>
<td>German left single quotes (‘).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>\grq</td>
<td>German right single quotes (‘).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>\flqq</td>
<td>French/Swiss left double quotes («).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>\frqq</td>
<td>French/Swiss right double quotes (»).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>\flq</td>
<td>French/Swiss left single quotes (‹).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>\frq</td>
<td>French/Swiss right single quotes (›).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>\dq</td>
<td>The straight quotation mark character (‘).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

for a long time (currently, these are shipped in form of the dehypht and dehyphtn files). These patterns, though, have many flaws (they produce wrong hyphenations, and not much is known about their construction). Therefore, a group of people developed completely new patterns that do much better, the so-called ‘experimental’ new hyphenation patterns of German, distributed in the dehypht-exptl package [3]. As opposed to the old patterns, the new ones undergo constant improvement. The price for this, however, is that hyphenation and thus the typeset document is subject to change with, and only due to, pattern updates.

Modern engines (i.e., xetex and luatex) have already embraced those new patterns, i.e., they are activated on these engines by default. The classic \TeX engines (\texttt{tex/pdftex}), however, haven’t: they continue to use the old patterns. The reason for this is one of \TeX’s quality standards: refrain, if ever possible, from changing the output of user’s documents in the wake of software updates. An exception is (pre-1996) Swiss Standard German: here, the classic engines use the ‘experimental’ patterns by default (since there were no patterns available previously anyway).

So you need to explicitly activate the new patterns for a given document (except for \texttt{swissgerman}) with the classic engines, should you want to use them instead of the old ones. With Babel, this can be done easily by means of the \texttt{\babelprovide} command and the hyphenrules option:

\begin{verbatim}
\babelprovide[hyphenrules=german-x-latest]{german}
\end{verbatim}

For \texttt{austrian}, use a respectively adapted version of the above.

4 Variety-specific options

In Swiss (and Liechtensteinian) German writing, the use of \langle b \rangle is rather uncommon. Swiss writers would normally use \langle ss \rangle where German or Austrian writers use the \langle b \rangle character (e.g., Bu\ss e vs. Busse). When texts (or names) from other German speaking areas are quoted, however, the spelling and hence the \langle b \rangle is often maintained (particularly in scholarly writing where the spelling of quoted text is not supposed to be touched).

We assume that Swiss writers will normally input \langle ss \rangle directly when they mean \langle ss \rangle, and we assume furthermore that the \langle b \rangle-related shorthands "s and "z are useful also for Swiss writers when they actually need \langle b \rangle, the more so since the \langle b \rangle is not as directly accessible on Swiss keyboards as it is on German and Austrian ones. On the other hand, there might be occasions where writers want to transfer a text from German or Austrian Standard into Swiss Standard German and adapt the spelling on the fly, i.e., transform all \langle b \rangle into \langle ss \rangle.

\newfeature{New feature in v.2.10!}{In Swiss (and Liechtensteinian) German writing, the use of \langle b \rangle is rather uncommon. Swiss writers would normally use \langle ss \rangle where German or Austrian writers use the \langle b \rangle character (e.g., Bu\ss e vs. Busse). When texts (or names) from other German speaking areas are quoted, however, the spelling and hence the \langle b \rangle is often maintained (particularly in scholarly writing where the spelling of quoted text is not supposed to be touched). We assume that Swiss writers will normally input \langle ss \rangle directly when they mean \langle ss \rangle, and we assume furthermore that the \langle b \rangle-related shorthands "s and "z are useful also for Swiss writers when they actually need \langle b \rangle, the more so since the \langle b \rangle is not as directly accessible on Swiss keyboards as it is on German and Austrian ones. On the other hand, there might be occasions where writers want to transfer a text from German or Austrian Standard into Swiss Standard German and adapt the spelling on the fly, i.e., transform all \langle b \rangle into \langle ss \rangle.
For this special case, we provide an option to make the \langle\beta\rangle-related shorthands "s and "z expand to the respective digraphs, \langle ss\rangle and \langle sz\rangle, rather than to \langle\beta\rangle. This is not the default behavior with swissgerman since, as mentioned, there are situations when the \langle\beta\rangle is (and has to be) used in Swiss writing, and normally, no shorthand is needed to input (or output) two simple \langle s\rangle characters. You can opt-in (and out) digraphical expansion of "s and "z on a global and local level:

- To globally switch on the digraphical expansion, use the Babel modifier toss (read: ‘to \langle ss\rangle’) with swissgerman. I. e., pass swissgerman.toss (rather than swissgerman) as babel option.
- To switch on the digraphical expansion only locally, you can use the boolean switch \tosstrue. Likewise, \tossfalse switches off (both locally and globally set) digraphical expansion.

Both these changes result in the following deviant behavior of two shorthands:

- "s Expands to digraph \langle ss\rangle
- "z Expands to digraph \langle sz\rangle

One further note related to the use of \langle ss\rangle in Swiss Standard German. As opposed to other consonantal letters, the \langle s\rangle is excluded from the three consonant rule (Dreikonsonantenergel) of traditional German spelling which prescribes that one of three identical consonants has to be omitted if a vowel follows the three consonants (i. e., Schiffahrt, not Schifffahrt), except if the word is hyphenated (Schiff-fahrt); the shorthands "ff etc. account for that. This does not apply to \langle s\rangle! In that case, always all three consonants are spelled out (e. g., Kongresssaal, not Kongressaal). This is why we don’t provide a shorthand for the \langle sss\rangle case.

5 Implementation

5.1 General settings

If germanb.ldf is read via the deprecated babel option germanb, we make it behave as if german was specified.

\def\tmpa{germanb}
\let\SaveCurrentOption\CurrentOption
\ifx\CurrentOption\tmpa
\def\CurrentOption{german}
\fi

The macro \LdfInit takes care of preventing that this file is loaded more than once with the same option, checking the category code of the @ sign, etc.

\LdfInit\CurrentOption{captions\CurrentOption}

We define some helper macros that help us to identify later on which variety of German we are currently dealing with.

\def\bbl@opt@german{german}
\def\bbl@opt@germanb{germanb}
\def\bbl@opt@austrian{austrian}
\def\bbl@opt@swissgerman{swissgerman}

3In graphematics, the term digraph denotes two characters that make a functional pair (which means, depending on the theoretical assumptions: they represent a single sound or they are semantically distinctive).
Some more work to make germanb behave like german.

\ifx\SaveCurrentOption\bbl@opt@germanb
  \ifx\l@german\@undefined
    \@nopatterns{German (trad. orthography)}
    \adddialect\l@german0
  \fi
  \let\l@germanb\l@german
  \AtBeginDocument{%
    \let\captionsgermanb\captionsgerman
    \let\dategermanb\dategerman
    \let\extrasgermanb\extrasgerman
    \let\noextrasgermanb\noextrasgerman
  }
  \fi

If germanb.ldf is read as an option, i.e. via \usepackage command, german could be an 'unknown' language, so we have to make it known. We check for the existence of \l@german and issue a warning if it is unknown.

\ifx\l@german\@undefined
  \@nopatterns{German (trad. orthography)}
  \adddialect\l@german0
  \fi

We set austrian as a dialect of german, since the Austrian variety uses the same hyphenation patterns as Germany's Standard German. If no German patterns are found, we issue a warning.

\ifx\CurrentOption\bbl@opt@austrian
  \ifx\l@austrian\@undefined
    \@nopatterns{German (trad. orthography), needed by Austrian (trad. orthography)}
    \adddialect\l@austrian0
    \else
    \adddialect\l@austrian\l@german
  \fi
  \fi

For the Swiss variety, we attempt to load the specific swissgerman hyphenation patterns and fall back to german if those are not available. If no patterns are found, we issue a warning.

\ifx\CurrentOption\bbl@opt@swissgerman
  \ifx\l@swissgerman\@undefined
    \ifx\l@german\@undefined
      \@nopatterns{Swiss Standard German (trad. orthography) and German (trad. orthography)}
      \adddialect\l@swissgerman0
      \else
      \@nopatterns{Swiss Standard German (trad. orthography)}
      \adddialect\l@swissgerman\l@german
    \fi
  \fi
\fi

\fi
\fi

5.2 Language-specific strings (captions)

The next step consists of defining macros that provide language specific strings and settings.
The macro \@captionsgerman defines all strings used in the four standard document classes provided with \texttt{LATEX} for German. This is an internal macro that is inherited and modified by the following macros for the respective language varieties.

\begin{verbatim}
47 \@namedef{captionsgerman}{%
48 \def\prefacename{Vorwort}%
49 \def\refname{Literatur}%
50 \def\absname{Zusammenfassung}%
51 \def\bname{Literaturverzeichnis}%
52 \def\cchaptername{Kapitel}%
53 \def\appendixname{Anhang}%
54 \def\contentsname{Inhaltsverzeichnis}%
55 \def\listfigurename{Abbildungsverzeichnis}%
56 \def\listtablename{Tabellenverzeichnis}%
57 \def\indexname{Index}%
58 \def\figurename{Abbildung}%
59 \def\tablename{Tabelle}%
60 \def\partname{Teil}%
61 \def\enclname{Anlage(n)}%
62 \def\ccname{Verteiler}%
63 \def\headtoname{An}%
64 \def\pagename{Seite}%
65 \def\seename{siehe}%
66 \def\alsoname{siehe auch}%
67 \def\proofname{Beweis}%
68 \def\glossaryname{Glossar}%
69 }
\end{verbatim}

\begin{verbatim}
\captionsgerman The macro \captionsgerman is identical to \@captionsgerman, but only defined if german is requested.
\begin{verbatim}
70 \ifx\CurrentOption\bbl@opt@german
71 \@namedef{captionsgerman}{%
72 \@nameuse{@captionsgerman}%
73 }
74 \fi
\end{verbatim}
\end{verbatim}

\begin{verbatim}
\captionsaustrian The macro \captionsaustrian builds on \@captionsgerman, but redefines some strings following Austrian conventions (for the respective variants, cf. \cite{1}). It is only defined if austrian is requested.
\begin{verbatim}
75 \ifx\CurrentOption\bbl@opt@austrian
76 \@namedef{captionsaustrian}{%
77 \@nameuse{@captionsgerman}%
78 \def\enclname{Beilage(n)}%
79 }
80 \fi
\end{verbatim}
\end{verbatim}

\begin{verbatim}
\captionsswissgerman The macro \captionsswissgerman builds on \@captionsgerman, but redefines some strings following Swiss conventions (for the respective variants, cf. \cite{1}). It is only defined if swissgerman is requested.
\begin{verbatim}
81 \ifx\CurrentOption\bbl@opt@swissgerman
82 \@namedef{captionsswissgerman}{%
83 \@nameuse{@captionsgerman}%
84 \def\enclname{Beilage(n)}%
85 }
86 \fi
\end{verbatim}
\end{verbatim}
5.3 Date localizations

The macro \%month@german defines German month names for all varieties.
\begin{verbatim}
\def\%month@german{\ifcase\month\or January\or Februar\or März\or April\or Mai\or Juni\or Juli\or August\or September\or Oktober\or November\or Dezember\fi}
\end{verbatim}

The macro \%dategerman redefines the command \today to produce German dates. It is only defined if german is requested.
\begin{verbatim}
\ifx\CurrentOption\bbl@opt@german
   \def\dategerman{\def\today{\number\day.~\%month@german \space \number\year}}
\fi
\end{verbatim}

The macro \%dateswissgerman does the same for Swiss Standard German dates. It is only defined if swissgerman is requested. The result is identical to German.
\begin{verbatim}
\ifx\CurrentOption\bbl@opt@swissgerman
   \def\dateswissgerman{\def\today{\number\day.~\%month@german \space \number\year}}
\fi
\end{verbatim}

The macro \%dateaustrian redefines the command \today to produce Austrian versions of the German dates. Here, the naming of January ("Jänner") differs from the other German varieties. The macro is only defined if austrian is requested.
\begin{verbatim}
\ifx\CurrentOption\bbl@opt@austrian
   \def\dateaustrian{\def\today{\number\day.~\ifnum1=\month Jänner\else \%month@german\fi \space \number\year}}
\fi
\end{verbatim}

5.4 Extras

The macros \%extrasgerman, \%extrasaustrian and \%extrasswissgerman, respectively, will perform all the extra definitions needed for the German language or the respective variety. The macro \%noextrasgerman is used to cancel the actions of \%extrasgerman. \%noextrasaustrian and \%noextrasswissgerman behave analoguously.

First, the character " is declared active for all German varieties. This is done once, later on its definition may vary.
\begin{verbatim}
\initiate@active@char{"}
\end{verbatim}

Depending on the option with which the language definition file has been loaded, the macro \%extrasgerman, \%extrasaustrian or \%extrasswissgerman is defined. Each of those is identical: they load the shorthands defined below and activate the " character.
\begin{verbatim}
\@namedef{extras\CurrentOption}{%\languageshorthands{german}}
\expandafter\addto\csname extras\CurrentOption\endcsname{%\bbl@activate{"}}
\end{verbatim}

For Swiss Standard German, we allow optionally to expand the ⟨ß⟩-related shorthands the Swiss way, i.e. as ⟨ss⟩ (globally, if the modifier \tosstrue is used or locally if \tossfalse).
\begin{verbatim}
\newif\toss\tossfalse\newif\bbl@toss\bbl@tossfalse\newif\bbl@mod\bbl@modfalse\newif\bbl@undefined\bbl@undefinedfalse
\end{verbatim}
Next, again depending on the option with which the language definition file has been loaded, the macro `\noextrasgerman`, `\noextrasaustrian` or `\noextrasswissgerman` is defined. These deactivate the " character and thus turn the shorthands off again outside of the respective variety.

In order for \TeX{} to be able to hyphenate German words which contain 'ß' (in the OT1 position `^^Y`) we have to give the character a nonzero \lccode{} (see Appendix H, the \TeX{}book).

The umlaut accent macro `\"` is changed to lower the umlaut dots. The redefinition is done with the help of `\umlautlow`.

The German hyphenation patterns can be used with `\lefthyphenmin` and `\righthyphenmin` set to 2.

For German texts we need to assure that `\frenchspacing` is turned on.

5.5 Active characters, macros & shorthands

The following code is necessary because we need an extra active character. This character is then used as indicated in table 1.

In order to be able to define the function of ", we first define a couple of 'support' macros.

We save the original double quotation mark character in `\dq` to keep it available, the math accent `\"` can now be typed as ".

Furthermore, we define some helper macros for contextual (ß) handling.
Since we need to add special cases for hyperref which needs hyperref's \textorpdfstring, we provide a dummy command for the case that hyperref is not loaded.

Now we can define the doublequote shorthands: the umlauts,
\begin{verbatim}
\DeclareShorthand{german}{"a}{\textordmasculine\bbl{allowhyphens}\{dddot a\}}
\DeclareShorthand{german}{"o}{\textordmasculine\bbl{allowhyphens}\{dddot o\}}
\DeclareShorthand{german}{"u}{\textordmasculine\bbl{allowhyphens}\{dddot u\}}
\DeclareShorthand{german}{"A}{\textordmasculine\bbl{allowhyphens}\{dddot A\}}
\DeclareShorthand{german}{"O}{\textordmasculine\bbl{allowhyphens}\{dddot O\}}
\DeclareShorthand{german}{"U}{\textordmasculine\bbl{allowhyphens}\{dddot U\}}
\end{verbatim}
tremata,
\begin{verbatim}
\DeclareShorthand{german}{"e}{\textordmasculine\bbl{allowhyphens}\{dddot e\}}
\DeclareShorthand{german}{"E}{\textordmasculine\bbl{allowhyphens}\{dddot E\}}
\DeclareShorthand{german}{"i}{\textordmasculine\bbl{allowhyphens}\{dddot i\}}
\DeclareShorthand{german}{"I}{\textordmasculine\bbl{allowhyphens}\{dddot I\}}
\end{verbatim}
German ß,
\begin{verbatim}
\DeclareShorthand{german}{"s}{\textordmasculine\bbl{allowhyphens}\{dddot s\}}
\DeclareShorthand{german}{"S}{\textordmasculine\bbl{allowhyphens}\{dddot S\}}
\end{verbatim}
German and French/Swiss quotation marks,
\begin{verbatim}
\DeclareShorthand{german}{{'}\{\glqq\}}
\DeclareShorthand{german}{{'}\{\grqq\}}
\DeclareShorthand{german}{"<\{\flqq\}}
\DeclareShorthand{german}{">\{\frqq\}}
\end{verbatim}
discretionary commands
\begin{verbatim}
\DeclareShorthand{german}{"c\{\textordmasculine\bbl{disc} \{ck\}\{c\}}
\DeclareShorthand{german}{"C\{\textordmasculine\bbl{disc} \{CK\}\{C\}}
\DeclareShorthand{german}{"F\{\textordmasculine\bbl{disc} \{FF\}\{F\}}
\DeclareShorthand{german}{"L\{\textordmasculine\bbl{disc} \{LL\}\{L\}}
\DeclareShorthand{german}{"M\{\textordmasculine\bbl{disc} \{MM\}\{M\}}
\DeclareShorthand{german}{"N\{\textordmasculine\bbl{disc} \{NN\}\{N\}}
\DeclareShorthand{german}{"P\{\textordmasculine\bbl{disc} \{PP\}\{P\}}
\DeclareShorthand{german}{"R\{\textordmasculine\bbl{disc} \{RR\}\{R\}}
\end{verbatim}
(we need to treat "f a bit differently in order to preserve the ff-ligature)

and some additional commands (hyphenation, line breaking and ligature control):

and some shorthands to support gender-sensitive spelling:

All that’s left to do now is to define a couple of commands for reasons of compatibility with german.sty.

The macro \ldf@finish takes care of looking for a configuration file, setting the main language to be switched on at \begin{document} and resetting the category code of @ to its original value.

5.6 aUSTRIAN.LDF, GERMAN.LDF AND SWISSGERMAN.LDF

Babel expects a ⟨lang⟩.ldf file for each ⟨lang⟩. So we create portmanteau ldf files for aUSTRIAN, GERMAN and SWISSGERMAN. These files themselves only load germanb.efd, which

For aUSTRIAN and GERMAN, this is not strictly necessary, since babel provides aliases for these languages (pointing to german). However, since babel does not officially support these aliases anymore after the language
does the real work:

\input germanb.ldf

\relax

Change History

Version 1.0a
General: Incorporated Nico’s comments ................... 1

Version 1.0b
General: fixed typo in definition for austrian language found by Werenfried Spitz nspit@fys.ruu.nl 1

Version 1.0c
General: Fixed some typos ................... 1

Version 1.1
General: When using PostScript fonts with the Adobe fontencoding, the dieresis-accent is located elsewhere, modified germanb ..... 1
\xnoextrasgerman: Added \dieresis ..... 7

Version 1.1a
General: Modified the documentation somewhat ................... 1

Version 2.0
General: Modified for babel 3.0 ..... 1
Now use \adddialect for austrian 5
Now use \adddialect if language undefined ................... 5

Version 2.0a
General: Removed some problems in change log ................... 1

Version 2.0b
\extrasgerman: added some comment chars to prevent white space ..... 7
\xnoextrasgerman: added some comment chars to prevent white space ................... 7

Version 2.1
General: Removed bug found by van der Meer ................... 1

Version 2.2
General: Removed global assignments, brought uptodate with german.tex v2.3d .......................... 1
\@captionsgerman: \pagename should be \headpagename .......................... 6
Removed \global definitions .......................... 6
\extrasgerman: Save all redefined macros .......................... 7

Characteristic files have been separated from the core, we provide the whole range of ldf files for the sake of completeness.
Moved the identification to the top of the file.  
Rewrote the code that handles the active double quote character.  
Use \ddot instead of \@MATHUMLAUT.  
\noextrasgerman: All the code to handle the active double quote has been moved to babel.def.  
Removed \3 as it is no longer in germanb.ldf.  
use \germanhyphenmins to store the correct values.  

Version 2.6b  
\@captionsgerman: Added \proofname for AMS-\LaTeX.  

Version 2.6c  
General: added the \allowhyphens.  
Moved \german@dq@disc to babel.def, calling it \bbl@disc.  
\noextrasgerman: Use decimal number instead of hat-notation as the hat may be activated.  

Version 2.6d  
General: Moved the definition of \atcatcode right to the beginning.  
Now use \ldf@finish to wrap up.  
Now use \ldf@Init to perform initial checks.  
Replaced \undefined with \@undefined and \empty with \@empty for consistency with \LaTeX.  
\@captionsgerman: Construct control sequence on the fly.  
\noextrasgerman: Construct control sequence \extrasgerman or \extrasswissgerman on the fly.  

Version 2.6f  
General: Copied the coding for "f from german.dtx version 2.5d.  
use \SS instead of SS, removed braces after \SS.  
\ck: Now use \shorthandoff.  
\dateaustrian: use \def instead of \edef.  
Use \edef to define \today to save memory.  
\dategerman: use \def instead of \edef.  
Use \edef to define \today to save memory.  

Version 2.6i  
\noextrasgerman: Deactivate shorthands outside of German.  

Version 2.6j  
\@captionsgerman: Added \glossaryname.  
\noextrasgerman: Now use \providehyphenmins to provide a default value.  

Version 2.6k  
\noextrasgerman: Turn frenchspacing on, as in german.sty.  

Version 2.6l  
General: Making germanb behave like german needs some more work besides defining \CurrentOption.  

Version 2.6m  
General: Corrected a typo.  

Version 2.7  
General: Added support for variety swissgerman.  
Generate portmanteau files austrian.ldf, german.ldf and swissgerman.ldf.  
Revised austrian support.  
Revised documentation: Turn the babel manual chapter into a self-enclosed manual.  
\@captionsgerman: Changed \enclname in austrian to Beilage(n).  
Split \captionsgerman from \captionsaustrian and \captionsswissgerman.  
\dateswissgerman: Added \dateswissgerman.  
\extrasswissgerman: Added \extrasswissgerman.  
\noextrasgerman: Deactivate shorthands also outside of austrian and swissgerman.  
Do not use \@namedef when \noextras is already defined and should not be overwritten.  
\noextrasswissgerman: Added \noextrasswissgerman.  

Version 2.7b  
General: Do not warn about missing swissgerman patterns if swissgerman is not loaded.  

Version 2.8  
General: Only add Austrian dialect if austrian is loaded.  
\@captionsgerman: Define trans-variational base captions which are loaded and modified by the varieties.
\captionsaustrian: Only define \captionsaustrian if austrian is requested. .......................... 6
\captionsgerman: Only define \captionsgerman if german is requested. .......................... 6
\captionsswissgerman: Only define \captionsswissgerman if swissgerman is requested. .......... 6
\dateaustrian: Only define \dateaustrian if austrian is requested. .............................. 7
\dategerman: Only define \dategerman if german is requested. ................................. 7
\dateswissgerman: Only define \dateswissgerman if swissgerman is requested. ............. 7

Version 2.9
General: Add */ shortcut for breakable slash (taken from dutch.ldf) ......................... 10
Do not attempt to load \laustrian, which does not exist .......................................... 5

Version 2.10
General: Add helper macros to identify the current option. ................................. 4
Improvements to the manual ........................................... 1

\noextrasgerman: Implement boolean switch \tosstrue/\tossfalse to customize (ß)-related shorthands in Swiss Standard German context. 7
Implement modifier toss to customize (ß)-related shorthands in Swiss Standard German context. 7

Version 2.11
General: Fix old hyphenation regression introduced with babel 3.7 (2002) in a number of shorthands (change of meaning of \allowhyphens vs. \bbl@allowhyphens) ................................. 10

Version 2.12
General: Properly handle shorthands in hyperref pdf strings ................................. 9

Version 2.13
General: Move option helper macros after \LdfInit to fix plain tex usage. ......................... 4

Version 2.14
General: Add ",", ";", ..., and "x" shorthands to support gender-sensitive writing .............................. 10

References