The \texttt{ltcaption} package\footnote{This package has version number v1.4.}

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Abstract

This package fixes caption problems with other-than-centered aligned longtables. (solves \LaTeX{} PR tools/3387)

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1 The user interface

The content of \caption in longtables is usually centered to the content of the longtable itself. This is sufficient for centered longtables, but for left or right aligned longtables this results in captions moved into the left or right page margin.

To solve this problem just include this package after the longtable package[1], e.g.:

\usepackage{longtable,ltcaption}

Afterwards the captions of all longtables should be aligned as expected, even for not-centered longtables.

1.1 Further justification

\LTcapskip
This length is controlling the skip between the caption and the contents below the caption (which is usually the longtable contents if you place the caption above the longtable), and it can be altered with \setlength{LTcapskip}{...}. When the ltcaption package is loaded it will be set to abovecaptionskip which usually represents the skip between caption and contents in floating environments. (Without this package, the longtable package uses \baselineskip here.)

\LTcapleft\LTcapright
You can alter the centering of the caption box (of width \LTcapwidth) by setting the lengths \LTcapleft & \LTcapright to appropriate values. These are set to \fill by default, just like the values \LTleft & \LTright.

\LTcapmarginfalse
Another option is the usage of the command \LTcapmarginfalse which makes the ltcaption package using the values \LTleft & \LTright instead of \LTcapleft & \LTcapright.

\LTcapmarginfalse

\LTcaptype
As a bonus feature this package patches the longtable package so \LTcaptype will be used internally instead of the fixed caption type ‘table’. So for example this code snipped:

\renewcommand{\LTcaptype{figure} \begin{longtable}{ll} \caption{An example longtable} \end{longtable} will result in a longtable like this:

Figure 7: An example longtable

...
Another bonus feature is the addition of the environment `longtable*` which does not increment the `table` counter. (As a consequence, `\caption` is not available for such longtables, but `\caption*` still is.)

## 2 Spot the difference

Without the `ltcaption` package:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 1: Left aligned</th>
<th>Longtable left aligned</th>
<th>Longtable left aligned</th>
<th>Longtable left aligned</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>This is only a test</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 2: Right aligned</th>
<th>Longtable right aligned</th>
<th>Longtable right aligned</th>
<th>Longtable right aligned</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>This is only a test</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 3: Centered</th>
<th>Longtable centered</th>
<th>Longtable centered</th>
<th>Longtable centered</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>This is only a test</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

With the `ltcaption` package (and the default value of `\LTcapwidth`):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 4: Left aligned</th>
<th>Longtable left aligned</th>
<th>Longtable left aligned</th>
<th>Longtable left aligned</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>This is only a test</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 5: Right aligned</th>
<th>Longtable right aligned</th>
<th>Longtable right aligned</th>
<th>Longtable right aligned</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>This is only a test</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 6: Centered</th>
<th>Longtable centered</th>
<th>Longtable centered</th>
<th>Longtable centered</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>This is only a test</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
With the `longcaption` package and `\LTcapwidth=\linewidth`:

Table 7: Left aligned longtable left aligned longtable left aligned longtable left aligned longtable

This is only a test

Table 8: Right aligned longtable right aligned longtable right aligned longtable right aligned longtable

This is only a test

Table 9: Centered longtable centered longtable centered longtable centered longtable

This is only a test

With the `longcaption` package and `\LTcapleft=0pt` resp. `\LTcapright=0pt`:

Table 10: Left aligned longtable left aligned longtable left aligned longtable

This is only a test

Table 11: Right aligned longtable right aligned longtable right aligned longtable right aligned longtable

This is only a test

With the `longcaption` package and `\LTcapleft=\tabcolsep` resp. `\LTcapright=\tabcolsep`:

Table 12: Left aligned longtable left aligned longtable left aligned longtable left aligned longtable

This is only a test

Table 13: Right aligned longtable right aligned longtable right aligned longtable right aligned longtable

This is only a test
With the \texttt{ltcaption} package and \texttt{LTcapmarginsfalse}:

Table 14: Left aligned longtable

This is only a test

Table 15: Right aligned longtable

This is only a test

Table 16: Centered longtable

This is only a test

References

[1] David Carlisle: \textit{The longtable package}, 2004/02/01