

The `l3tl-build` package: building token lists*

The L^AT_EX3 Project[†]

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1 `l3tl-build` documentation

This module provides no user function: it is meant for kernel use only.

There are two main ways of building token lists from individual tokens. Either in one go within an `x`-expanding assignment, or by repeatedly using `\tl_put_right:Nn`. The first method takes a linear time, but only allows expandable operations. The second method takes a time quadratic in the length of the token list, but allows expandable and non-expandable operations.

The goal of this module is to provide functions to build a token list piece by piece in linear time, while allowing non-expandable operations. This is achieved by abusing `\toks`: adding some tokens to the token list is done by storing them in a free token register (time $O(1)$ for each such operation). Those token registers are only put together at the end, within an `x`-expanding assignment, which takes a linear time.¹ Of course, all this must be done in a group: we can't go and clobber the values of legitimate `\toks` used by L^AT_EX 2_ε.

Since none of the current applications need the ability to insert material on the left of the token list, I have not implemented that. This could be done for instance by using odd-numbered `\toks` for the left part, and even-numbered `\toks` for the right part.

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¹If we run out of token registers, then the currently filled-up `\toks` are put together in a temporary token list, and cleared, and we ultimately use `\tl_put_right:Nx` to put those chunks together. Hence the true asymptotic is quadratic, with a very small constant.

1.1 Internal functions

<code>__tl_build:Nw</code>	<code>__tl_build:Nw <tl var> ...</code>
<code>__tl_gbuild:Nw</code>	<code>__tl_build_one:n {\tokens₁} ...</code>
<code>__tl_build_x:Nw</code>	<code>__tl_build_one:n {\tokens₂} ...</code>
<code>__tl_gbuild_x:Nw</code>	<code>...</code>

Defines the `<tl var>` to contain the contents of `<tokens1>` followed by `<tokens2>`, etc. This is built in such a way to be more efficient than repeatedly using `\tl_put_right:Nn`. The code in “...” does not need to be expandable. The commands `__tl_build:Nw` and `__tl_build_end:` start and end a group. The assignment to the `<tl var>` occurs just after the end of that group, using `\tl_set:Nn`, `\tl_gset:Nn`, `\tl_set:Nx`, or `\tl_gset:Nx`.

<code>__tl_build_one:n</code>	<code>__tl_build_one:n {\tokens}</code>
<code>__tl_build_one:(o x)</code>	

This function may only be used within the scope of a `__tl_build:Nw` function. It adds the `<tokens>` on the right of the current token list.

<code>__tl_build_end:</code>	Ends the scope started by <code>__tl_build:Nw</code> , and performs the relevant assignment.
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2 l3tl-build implementation

```

1 <*initex | package>
2 <@@=tlbuild>
3 \ProvidesExplPackage
4   {\ExplFileName}{\ExplFileDate}{\ExplFileVersion}{\ExplFileDescription}

```

2.1 Variables and helper functions

<code>\l__tl_build_start_index_int</code>	Integers pointing to the starting index (currently always starts at zero), and the current
<code>\l__tl_build_index_int</code>	index. The corresponding <code>\toks</code> are accessed directly by number.

```

5 \int_new:N \l__tl_build_start_index_int
6 \int_new:N \l__tl_build_index_int

```

(End definition for `\l__tl_build_start_index_int` and `\l__tl_build_index_int` These variables are documented on page ??.)

<code>\l__tl_build_result_tl</code>	The resulting token list is normally built in one go by unpacking all <code>\toks</code> in some range. In the rare cases where there are too many <code>__tl_build_one:n</code> commands, leading to the depletion of registers, the contents of the current set of <code>\toks</code> is unpacked into <code>\l__tl_build_result_tl</code> . This prevents overflow from affecting the end-user (beyond an obvious performance hit).
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```

7 \tl_new:N \l__tl_build_result_tl

```

(End definition for `\l__tl_build_result_tl` This variable is documented on page ??.)

`__tl_build_unpack:` The various pieces of the token list are built in `\toks` from the `start_index` (inclusive) to the (current) `index` (excluded). Those `\toks` are unpacked and stored in order in the `result` token list. Optimizations would be possible here, for instance, unpacking 10 `\toks` at a time with a macro expanding to `\the\toks#10...\the\toks#19`, but this should be kept for much later.

```

8 \cs_new_protected_nopar:Npn \__tl_build_unpack:
9 {
10   \tl_put_right:Nx \l__tl_build_result_tl
11   {
12     \exp_after:wN \__tl_build_unpack_loop:w
13     \int_use:N \l__tl_build_start_index_int ;
14     \__prg_break_point:
15   }
16 }
17 \cs_new:Npn \__tl_build_unpack_loop:w #1 ;
18 {
19   \if_int_compare:w #1 = \l__tl_build_index_int
20   \exp_after:wN \__prg_break:
21   \fi:
22   \tex_the:D \tex_toks:D #1 \exp_stop_f:
23   \exp_after:wN \__tl_build_unpack_loop:w
24   \int_use:N \__int_eval:w #1 + \c_one ;
25 }

```

(End definition for `__tl_build_unpack:` This function is documented on page ??.)

2.2 Building the token list

`__tl_build:Nw` Similar to what is done for coffins: redefine some command, here `__tl_build_end_`
`__tl_build_x:Nw` `aux:n` to hold the relevant assignment (see `__tl_build_end:` for details). Then initial-
`__tl_gbuild:Nw` ize the start index and the current index at zero, and empty the `result` token list.
`__tl_gbuild_x:Nw`

```

26 \cs_new_protected_nopar:Npn \__tl_build:Nw
27 { \__tl_build_aux:NNw \tl_set:Nn }
28 \cs_new_protected_nopar:Npn \__tl_build_x:Nw
29 { \__tl_build_aux:NNw \tl_set:Nx }
30 \cs_new_protected_nopar:Npn \__tl_gbuild:Nw
31 { \__tl_build_aux:NNw \tl_gset:Nn }
32 \cs_new_protected_nopar:Npn \__tl_gbuild_x:Nw
33 { \__tl_build_aux:NNw \tl_gset:Nx }
34 \cs_new_protected:Npn \__tl_build_aux:NNw #1#2
35 {
36   \group_begin:
37   \cs_set_nopar:Npn \__tl_build_end_assignment:n
38   { \group_end: #1 #2 }
39   \int_zero:N \l__tl_build_start_index_int
40   \int_zero:N \l__tl_build_index_int
41   \tl_clear:N \l__tl_build_result_tl
42 }

```

(End definition for `__tl_build:Nw` and others. These functions are documented on page 2.)

`_tl_build_end:` When we are done building a token list, unpack all `\toks` into the `result` token list, and expand this list before closing the group. The `_tl_build_end_assignment:n` function is defined by `_tl_build_aux:NNw` to end the group and hold the relevant assignment. Its value outside is irrelevant, but just in case, we set it to a function which would clean up the contents of `\l_tl_build_result_tl`.

`_tl_build_end_assignment:n`

```

43 \cs_new_protected_nopar:Npn \_tl\_build\_end:
44 {
45     \_tl\_build\_unpack:
46     \exp_args:No
47     \_tl\_build\_end\_assignment:n \l\_tl\_build\_result\_tl
48 }
49 \cs_new_eq:NN \_tl\_build\_end\_assignment:n \use\_none:n

```

(End definition for `_tl_build_end`: This function is documented on page 2.)

`_tl_build_one:n` Store the tokens in a free `\toks`, then move the pointer to the next one. If we overflow, unpack the current `\toks`, and reset the current index, preparing to fill more `\toks`. This could be optimized by avoiding to read `#1`, using `\afterassignment`.

`_tl_build_one:o`

`_tl_build_one:x`

```

50 \cs_new_protected:Npn \_tl\_build\_one:n #1
51 {
52     \tex\_toks:D \l\_tl\_build\_index\_int {#1}
53     \tex\_advance:D \l\_tl\_build\_index\_int \c\_one
54     \if\_int\_compare:w \l\_tl\_build\_index\_int > \c\_max\_register\_int
55         \_tl\_build\_unpack:
56         \l\_tl\_build\_index\_int \l\_tl\_build\_start\_index\_int
57     \fi:
58 }
59 \cs_new_protected:Npn \_tl\_build\_one:o #1
60 {
61     \tex\_toks:D \l\_tl\_build\_index\_int \exp\_after:wN {#1}
62     \tex\_advance:D \l\_tl\_build\_index\_int \c\_one
63     \if\_int\_compare:w \l\_tl\_build\_index\_int > \c\_max\_register\_int
64         \_tl\_build\_unpack:
65         \l\_tl\_build\_index\_int \l\_tl\_build\_start\_index\_int
66     \fi:
67 }
68 \cs_new_protected:Npn \_tl\_build\_one:x #1
69 { \use:x { \_tl\_build\_one:n {#1} } }

```

(End definition for `_tl_build_one:n`, `_tl_build_one:o`, and `_tl_build_one:x` These functions are documented on page ??.)

70 `</initex | package>`

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