

# The `calc` package

## Infix notation arithmetic in $\text{\LaTeX}^*$

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### Abstract

The `calc` package reimplements the  $\text{\LaTeX}$  commands `\setcounter`, `\addtocounter`, `\setlength`, and `\addtolength`. Instead of a simple value, these commands now accept an infix notation expression.

## 1 Introduction

Arithmetic in  $\text{\TeX}$  is done using low-level operations such as `\advance` and `\multiply`. This may be acceptable when developing a macro package, but it is not an acceptable interface for the end-user.

This package introduces proper infix notation arithmetic which is much more familiar to most people. The infix notation is more readable and easier to modify than the alternative: a sequence of assignment and arithmetic instructions. One of the arithmetic instructions (`\divide`) does not even have an equivalent in standard  $\text{\LaTeX}$ .

The infix expressions can be used in arguments to macros (the `calc` package doesn't employ category code changes to achieve its goals).<sup>1</sup>

## 2 Informal description

Standard  $\text{\LaTeX}$  provides the following set of commands to manipulate counters and lengths [2, pages 194 and 216].

`\setcounter{ctr}{num}` sets the value of the counter *ctr* equal to (the value of) *num*. (Fragile)

`\addtocounter{ctr}{num}` increments the value of the counter *ctr* by (the value of) *num*. (Fragile)

`\setlength{cmd}{len}` sets the value of the length command *cmd* equal to (the value of) *len*. (Robust)

`\addtolength{cmd}{len}` sets the value of the length command *cmd* equal to its current value plus (the value of) *len*. (Robust)

(The `\setcounter` and `\addtocounter` commands have global effect, while the `\setlength` and `\addtolength` commands obey the normal scoping rules.) In standard  $\text{\LaTeX}$ , the arguments to these commands must be simple values. The `calc` package extends these commands to accept infix notation expressions, denoting values of appropriate types. Using the `calc` package, *num* is replaced by

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\*We thank Frank Mittelbach for his valuable comments and suggestions which have greatly improved this package.

<sup>1</sup>However, it therefore assumes that the category codes of the special characters, such as `(*/)` in its syntax do not change.

$\langle$ integer expression $\rangle$ , and *len* is replaced by  $\langle$ glue expression $\rangle$ . The formal syntax of  $\langle$ integer expression $\rangle$  and  $\langle$ glue expression $\rangle$  is given below.

In addition to these commands to explicitly set a length, many L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X commands take a length argument. After loading this package, most of these commands will accept a  $\langle$ glue expression $\rangle$ . This includes the optional width argument of `\makebox`, the width argument of `\parbox`, `minipage`, and a `tabular p`-column, and many similar constructions. (This package does not redefine any of these commands, but they are defined by default to read their arguments by `\setlength` and so automatically benefit from the enhanced `\setlength` command provided by this package.)

In the following, we shall use standard T<sub>E</sub>X terminology. The correspondence between T<sub>E</sub>X and L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X terminology is as follows: L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X counters correspond to T<sub>E</sub>X's count registers; they hold quantities of type  $\langle$ number $\rangle$ . L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X length commands correspond to T<sub>E</sub>X's *dimen* (for rigid lengths) and *skip* (for rubber lengths) registers; they hold quantities of types  $\langle$ dimen $\rangle$  and  $\langle$ glue $\rangle$ , respectively.

T<sub>E</sub>X gives us primitive operations to perform arithmetic on registers as follows:

- addition and subtraction on all types of quantities without restrictions;
- multiplication and division by an *integer* can be performed on a register of any type;
- multiplication by a *real* number (i.e., a number with a fractional part) can be performed on a register of any type, but the stretch and shrink components of a glue quantity are discarded.

The `calc` package uses these T<sub>E</sub>X primitives but provides a more user-friendly notation for expressing the arithmetic.

An expression is formed of numerical quantities (such as explicit constants and L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X counters and length commands) and binary operators (the tokens '+', '-', '\*', and '/' with their usual meaning) using the familiar infix notation; parentheses may be used to override the usual precedences (that multiplication/division have higher precedence than addition/subtraction).

Expressions must be properly typed. This means, e.g., that a *dimen* expression must be a sum of *dimen* terms: i.e., you cannot say '2cm+4' but '2cm+4pt' is valid.

In a *dimen* term, the dimension part must come first; the same holds for glue terms. Also, multiplication and division by non-integer quantities require a special syntax; see below.

Evaluation of subexpressions at the same level of precedence proceeds from left to right. Consider a *dimen* term such as "4cm\*3\*4". First, the value of the factor 4cm is assigned to a *dimen* register, then this register is multiplied by 3 (using `\multiply`), and, finally, the register is multiplied by 4 (again using `\multiply`). This also explains why the dimension part (i.e., the part with the unit designation) must come first; T<sub>E</sub>X simply doesn't allow untyped constants to be assigned to a *dimen* register.

The `calc` package also allows multiplication and division by real numbers. However, a special syntax is required: you must use `\real{<decimal constant>}`<sup>2</sup> or `\ratio{<dimen expression>}{<dimen expression>}` to denote a real value to be used for multiplication/division. The first form has the obvious meaning, and the second form denotes the number obtained by dividing the value of the first expression by the value of the second expression.

A later addition to the package (in June 1998) allows an additional method of specifying a factor of type *dimen* by setting some text (in LR-mode) and measuring its dimensions: these are denoted as follows.

`\widthof{<text>}`   `\heightof{<text>}`   `\depthof{<text>}`

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<sup>2</sup>Actually, instead of  $\langle$ decimal constant $\rangle$ , the more general  $\langle$ optional signs $\rangle$  $\langle$ factor $\rangle$  can be used. However, that doesn't add any extra expressive power to the language of infix expressions.

These calculate the natural sizes of the  $\langle\text{text}\rangle$  in exactly the same way as is done for the commands `\settowidth` etc. on Page 216 of the manual [2]. In August 2005 the package was further extended to provide the command

```
\totalheightof{<text>}
```

This command does exactly what you'd expect from its name. Additionally the package also provides the command

```
\settototalheight{<cmd>}{<text>}
```

Note that there is a small difference in the usage of these two methods of accessing text dimensions. After `\settowidth{<txtwd>}{Some text}` you can use:

```
\setlength{\parskip}{0.68\textwd}
```

whereas using the more direct access to the width of the text requires the longer form for multiplication, thus:

```
\setlength{\parskip}{\widthof{Some text} * \real{0.68}}
```

TeX discards the stretch and shrink components of glue when glue is multiplied by a real number. So, for example,

```
\setlength{\parskip}{3pt plus 3pt * \real{1.5}}
```

will set the paragraph separation to 4.5pt with no stretch or shrink. Incidentally, note how spaces can be used to enhance readability. When TeX is scanning for a  $\langle\text{number}\rangle$  etc. it is common to terminate the scanning with a space token or by inserting `\relax`. As of version 4.3 calc allows `\relax` tokens to appear in places where they would usually be used for terminating TeX's scanning. In short this is just before any of `+-*/` or at the end of the expression being evaluated.

When TeX performs arithmetic on integers, any fractional part of the results are discarded. For example,

```
\setcounter{x}{7/2}
\setcounter{y}{3*\real{1.6}}
\setcounter{z}{3*\real{1.7}}
```

will assign the value 3 to the counter `x`, the value 4 to `y`, and the value 5 to `z`. This truncation also applies to *intermediate* results in the sequential computation of a composite expression; thus, the following command

```
\setcounter{x}{3 * \real{1.6} * \real{1.7}}
```

will assign 6 to `x`.

As an example of the use of `\ratio`, consider the problem of scaling a figure to occupy the full width (i.e., `\textwidth`) of the body of a page. Assume that the original dimensions of the figure are given by the *dimen* (length) variables, `\Xsize` and `\Ysize`. The height of the scaled figure can then be expressed by

```
\setlength{\newYsize}{\Ysize*\ratio{\textwidth}{\Xsize}}
```

Another new feature introduced in August 2005 was max and min operations with associated macros

```
\maxof{<type expression>}{<type expression>}
\minof{<type expression>}{<type expression>}
```

When *type* is either  $\langle\text{glue}\rangle$  or  $\langle\text{dimen}\rangle$  these macros are allowed only as part of addition or subtraction but when *type* is  $\langle\text{integer}\rangle$  they can also be used when multiplying and dividing. In the latter case they follow the same syntax rules as `\ratio` and `\real` which means they must come after the `*` or the `/`. Thus

```
\setcounter{x}{3*\maxof{4+5}{3*4}+\minof{2*\real{1.6}}{5-1}}
```

will assign  $3 \times \max(9, 12) + \min(3, 4) = 39$  to `x`. Similarly

```
\setlength{\parindent}{%
\minof{3pt}{\parskip}*\real{1.5}*\maxof{2*\real{1.6}}{2-1}}
```

will assign  $\min(13.5\text{pt}, 4.5\text{\parskip})$  to `\parindent`

### 3 Formal syntax

The syntax is described by the following set of rules. Note that the definitions of  $\langle \text{number} \rangle$ ,  $\langle \text{dimen} \rangle$ ,  $\langle \text{glue} \rangle$ ,  $\langle \text{decimal constant} \rangle$ , and  $\langle \text{plus or minus} \rangle$  are as in Chapter 24 of The  $\text{\TeX}$ book [1]; and  $\langle \text{text} \rangle$  is LR-mode material, as in the manual [2]. We use *type* as a meta-variable, standing for ‘integer’, ‘dimen’, and ‘glue’.<sup>3</sup>

$$\begin{aligned}
 \langle \text{type expression} \rangle &\longrightarrow \langle \text{type term} \rangle \\
 &\quad | \langle \text{type expression} \rangle \langle \text{plus or minus} \rangle \langle \text{type term} \rangle \\
 \langle \text{type term} \rangle &\longrightarrow \langle \text{type term} \rangle \langle \text{type scan stop} \rangle \quad | \langle \text{type factor} \rangle \\
 &\quad | \langle \text{type term} \rangle \langle \text{multiply or divide} \rangle \langle \text{integer} \rangle \\
 &\quad | \langle \text{type term} \rangle \langle \text{multiply or divide} \rangle \langle \text{real number} \rangle \\
 &\quad | \langle \text{type term} \rangle \langle \text{multiply or divide} \rangle \langle \text{max or min integer} \rangle \\
 \langle \text{type scan stop} \rangle &\longrightarrow \langle \text{empty} \rangle \quad | \langle \text{optional space} \rangle \quad | \text{\relax} \\
 \langle \text{type factor} \rangle &\longrightarrow \langle \text{type} \rangle \quad | \langle \text{text dimen factor} \rangle \quad | \langle \text{max or min type} \rangle \\
 &\quad | (_{12} \langle \text{type expression} \rangle)_{12} \\
 \langle \text{integer} \rangle &\longrightarrow \langle \text{number} \rangle \\
 \langle \text{max or min type} \rangle &\longrightarrow \langle \text{max or min command} \rangle \{ \langle \text{type expression} \rangle \} \{ \langle \text{type expression} \rangle \} \\
 \langle \text{max or min command} \rangle &\longrightarrow \text{\maxof} \quad | \text{\minof} \\
 \langle \text{text dimen factor} \rangle &\longrightarrow \langle \text{text dimen command} \rangle \{ \langle \text{text} \rangle \} \\
 \langle \text{text dimen command} \rangle &\longrightarrow \text{\widthof} \quad | \text{\heightof} \quad | \text{\depthof} \\
 &\quad | \text{\totalheightof} \\
 \langle \text{multiply or divide} \rangle &\longrightarrow *_{12} \quad | /_{12} \\
 \langle \text{real number} \rangle &\longrightarrow \text{\ratio} \{ \langle \text{dimen expression} \rangle \} \{ \langle \text{dimen expression} \rangle \} \\
 &\quad | \text{\real} \{ \langle \text{optional signs} \rangle \langle \text{decimal constant} \rangle \} \\
 \langle \text{plus or minus} \rangle &\longrightarrow +_{12} \quad | -_{12} \\
 \langle \text{decimal constant} \rangle &\longrightarrow ._{12} \quad | ,_{12} \quad | \langle \text{digit} \rangle \langle \text{decimal constant} \rangle \\
 &\quad | \langle \text{decimal constant} \rangle \langle \text{digit} \rangle \\
 \langle \text{digit} \rangle &\longrightarrow 0_{12} \quad | 1_{12} \quad | 2_{12} \quad | 3_{12} \quad | 4_{12} \quad | 5_{12} \quad | 6_{12} \quad | 7_{12} \quad | 8_{12} \quad | 9_{12} \\
 \langle \text{optional signs} \rangle &\longrightarrow \langle \text{optional spaces} \rangle \\
 &\quad | \langle \text{optional signs} \rangle \langle \text{plus or minus} \rangle \langle \text{optional spaces} \rangle
 \end{aligned}$$

Relying heavily on  $\text{\TeX}$  to do the underlying assignments, it is only natural for `calc` to simulate  $\text{\TeX}$ ’s parsing machinery for these quantities. Therefore it a) imposes the same restrictions on the catcode of syntax characters as  $\text{\TeX}$  and b) tries to expand its argument fully. a) means that implicit characters for the tokens  $*_{12}$ ,  $/_{12}$ ,  $(_{12}$ , and  $)_{12}$  will not work<sup>4</sup> but because of b), the expansion should allow you to use macros that expand to explicit syntax characters.

### 4 The evaluation scheme

In this section, we shall for simplicity consider only expressions containing ‘+’ (addition) and ‘\*’ (multiplication) operators. It is trivial to add subtraction and division.

An expression  $E$  is a sum of terms:  $T_1 + \dots + T_n$ ; a term is a product of factors:  $F_1 * \dots * F_m$ ; a factor is either a simple numeric quantity  $f$  (like  $\langle \text{number} \rangle$  as described in the  $\text{\TeX}$ book), or a parenthesized expression ( $E'$ ).

<sup>3</sup>This version of the `calc` package doesn’t support evaluation of `muglue` expressions.

<sup>4</sup> $\text{\TeX}$  also assumes these catcodes when parsing a `\numexpr`, `\dimexpr`, `\glueexpr`, or `\muglueexpr` and does not allow implicit characters.

Since the  $\text{\TeX}$  engine can only execute arithmetic operations in a machine-code like manner, we have to find a way to translate the infix notation into this ‘instruction set’.

Our goal is to design a translation scheme that translates  $X$  (an expression, a term, or a factor) into a sequence of  $\text{\TeX}$  instructions that does the following [Invariance Property]: correctly evaluates  $X$ , leaves the result in a global register  $A$  (using a global assignment), and does not perform global assignments to the scratch register  $B$ ; moreover, the code sequence must be balanced with respect to  $\text{\TeX}$  groups. We shall denote the code sequence corresponding to  $X$  by  $\llbracket X \rrbracket$ .

In the replacement code specified below, we use the following conventions:

- $A$  and  $B$  denote registers; all assignments to  $A$  will be global, and all assignments to  $B$  will be local.
- “ $\Leftarrow$ ” means global assignment to the register on the lhs.
- “ $\leftarrow$ ” means local assignment to the register on the lhs.
- “ $\hookrightarrow[C]$ ” means “save the code  $C$  until the current group (scope) ends, then execute it.” This corresponds to the  $\text{\TeX}$ -primitive `\aftergroup`.
- “ $\{$ ” denotes the start of a new group, and “ $\}$ ” denotes the end of a group.

Let us consider an expression  $T_1 + T_2 + \dots + T_n$ . Assuming that  $\llbracket T_k \rrbracket$  ( $1 \leq k \leq n$ ) attains the stated goal, the following code clearly attains the stated goal for their sum:

$$\begin{aligned} \llbracket T_1 + T_2 + \dots + T_n \rrbracket \implies & \{ \llbracket T_1 \rrbracket \} B \leftarrow A \quad \{ \llbracket T_2 \rrbracket \} B \leftarrow B + A \\ & \dots \quad \{ \llbracket T_n \rrbracket \} B \leftarrow B + A \quad A \Leftarrow B \end{aligned}$$

Note the extra level of grouping enclosing each of  $\llbracket T_1 \rrbracket$ ,  $\llbracket T_2 \rrbracket$ , ...,  $\llbracket T_n \rrbracket$ . This will ensure that register  $B$ , used to compute the sum of the terms, is not clobbered by the intermediate computations of the individual terms. Actually, the group enclosing  $\llbracket T_1 \rrbracket$  is unnecessary, but it turns out to be simpler if all terms are treated the same way.

The code sequence “ $\{ \llbracket T_2 \rrbracket \} B \leftarrow B + A$ ” can be translated into the following equivalent code sequence: “ $\{ \hookrightarrow[B \leftarrow B + A] \llbracket T_2 \rrbracket \}$ ”. This observation turns out to be the key to the implementation: The “ $\hookrightarrow[B \leftarrow B + A]$ ” is generated *before*  $T_2$  is translated, at the same time as the ‘+’ operator between  $T_1$  and  $T_2$  is seen.

Now, the specification of the translation scheme is straightforward:

$$\begin{aligned} \llbracket f \rrbracket & \implies A \Leftarrow f \\ \llbracket (E') \rrbracket & \implies \llbracket E' \rrbracket \\ \llbracket T_1 + T_2 + \dots + T_n \rrbracket & \implies \{ \hookrightarrow[B \leftarrow A] \llbracket T_1 \rrbracket \} \quad \{ \hookrightarrow[B \leftarrow B + A] \llbracket T_2 \rrbracket \} \\ & \dots \quad \{ \hookrightarrow[B \leftarrow B + A] \llbracket T_n \rrbracket \} \quad A \Leftarrow B \\ \llbracket F_1 * F_2 * \dots * F_m \rrbracket & \implies \{ \hookrightarrow[B \leftarrow A] \llbracket F_1 \rrbracket \} \quad \{ \hookrightarrow[B \leftarrow B * A] \llbracket F_2 \rrbracket \} \\ & \dots \quad \{ \hookrightarrow[B \leftarrow B * A] \llbracket F_m \rrbracket \} \quad A \Leftarrow B \end{aligned}$$

By structural induction, it is easily seen that the stated property is attained.

By inspection of this translation scheme, we see that we have to generate the following code:

- we must generate “ $\{ \hookrightarrow[B \leftarrow A] \{ \hookrightarrow[B \leftarrow A]$ ” at the left border of an expression (i.e., for each left parenthesis and the implicit left parenthesis at the beginning of the whole expression);
- we must generate “ $\} A \Leftarrow B \} A \Leftarrow B$ ” at the right border of an expression (i.e., each right parenthesis and the implicit right parenthesis at the end of the full expression);

- ‘\*’ is replaced by “ $\}\{\hookrightarrow[B\leftarrow B*A]$ ”;
- ‘+’ is replaced by “ $\}A \leftarrow B\}\{\hookrightarrow[B\leftarrow B+A]\{\hookrightarrow[B\leftarrow A]$ ”;
- when we see (expect) a numeric quantity, we insert the assignment code “ $A \leftarrow$ ” in front of the quantity and let TeX parse it.

## 5 Implementation

For brevity define

$$\langle \text{numeric} \rangle \longrightarrow \langle \text{number} \rangle \mid \langle \text{dimen} \rangle \mid \langle \text{glue} \rangle \mid \langle \text{muglue} \rangle$$

So far we have ignored the question of how to determine the type of register to be used in the code. However, it is easy to see that (1) ‘\*’ always initiates an  $\langle \text{integer factor} \rangle$ , (2) all  $\langle \text{numeric} \rangle$ s in an expression, except those which are part of an  $\langle \text{integer factor} \rangle$ , are of the same type as the whole expression, and all  $\langle \text{numeric} \rangle$ s in an  $\langle \text{integer factor} \rangle$  are  $\langle \text{number} \rangle$ s.

We have to ensure that  $A$  and  $B$  always have an appropriate type for the  $\langle \text{numeric} \rangle$ s they manipulate. We can achieve this by having an instance of  $A$  and  $B$  for each type. Initially,  $A$  and  $B$  refer to registers of the proper type for the whole expression. When an  $\langle \text{integer factor} \rangle$  is expected, we must change  $A$  and  $B$  to refer to integer type registers. We can accomplish this by including instructions to change the type of  $A$  and  $B$  to integer type as part of the replacement code for ‘\*’; if we append such instructions to the replacement code described above, we also ensure that the type-change is local (provided that the type-changing instructions only have local effect). However, note that the instance of  $A$  referred to in  $\hookrightarrow[B\leftarrow B*A]$  is the integer instance of  $A$ .

We shall use `\begingroup` and `\endgroup` for the open-group and close-group characters. This avoids problems with spacing in math (as pointed out to us by Frank Mittelbach).

### 5.1 Getting started

Now we have enough insight to do the actual implementation in TeX. First, we announce the macro package.<sup>5</sup>

```
1 \*package
2 %\NeedsTeXFormat{LaTeX2e}
3 %\ProvidesPackage{calc}[\filedate\space\fileversion]
```

### 5.2 Assignment macros

`\calc@assign@generic` The `\calc@assign@generic` macro takes four arguments: (1 and 2) the registers to be used for global and local manipulations, respectively; (3) the lvalue part; (4) the expression to be evaluated.

The third argument (the lvalue) will be used as a prefix to a register that contains the value of the specified expression (the fourth argument).

In general, an lvalue is anything that may be followed by a variable of the appropriate type. As an example, `\linepenalty` and `\global\advance\linepenalty` may both be followed by an  $\langle \text{integer variable} \rangle$ .

The macros described below refer to the registers by the names `\calc@A` and `\calc@B`; this is accomplished by `\let`-assignments.

As discovered in Section 4, we have to generate code as if the expression is parenthesized. As described below, `\calc@open` is the macro that replaces a left parenthesis by its corresponding TeX code sequence. When the scanning process sees the exclamation point, it generates an `\endgroup` and stops. As we recall from Section 4, the correct expansion of a right parenthesis is “ $\}A \leftarrow B\}A \leftarrow$ ”

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<sup>5</sup>Code moved to top of file

$B$ ". The remaining tokens of this expansion are inserted explicitly, except that the last assignment has been replaced by the lvalue part (i.e., argument #3 of `\calc@assign@generic`) followed by `\calc@B`.

```

4 \def\calc@assign@generic#1#2#3#4{\let\calc@A#1\let\calc@B#2%
5   \calc@open{#4!%
6   \global\calc@A\calc@B\endgroup#3\calc@B}
```

`\calc@assign@count` We need three instances of the `\calc@assign@generic` macro, corresponding to the types `<integer>`, `<dimen>`, and `<glue>`.

```

\calc@assign@dimen
\calc@assign@skip
7 \def\calc@assign@count{\calc@assign@generic\calc@Acount\calc@Bcount}
8 \def\calc@assign@dimen{\calc@assign@generic\calc@Adimen\calc@Bdimen}
9 \def\calc@assign@skip{\calc@assign@generic\calc@Askip\calc@Bskip}
```

These macros each refer to two registers, one to be used globally and one to be used locally. We must allocate these registers.

```

10 \newcount\calc@Acount   \newcount\calc@Bcount
11 \newdimen\calc@Adimen   \newdimen\calc@Bdimen
12 \newskip\calc@Askip     \newskip\calc@Bskip
```

### 5.3 The L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X interface

`\setcounter` As promised, we redefine the following standard L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X commands: `\setcounter`, `\addtocounter`, `\setlength`, and `\addtolength`.

```

\addtocounter
\steptocounter
\setlength
\addtolength
13 \def\setcounter#1#2{\@ifundefined{c@#1}{\@nocounterr{#1}}%
14   {\calc@assign@count{\global\csname c@#1\endcsname}{#2}}}%
15 \def\addtocounter#1#2{\@ifundefined{c@#1}{\@nocounterr{#1}}%
16   {\calc@assign@count{\global\advance\csname c@#1\endcsname}{#2}}}%
17 \def\steptocounter#1{\@ifundefined{c@#1}%
18   {\@nocounterr{#1}}%
19   {\global\advance\csname c@#1\endcsname \@ne
20     \begingroup
21       \let\@elt\@stpelt \csname cl@#1\endcsname
22       \endgroup}}}%
23 \def\setlength#1#2{\@ifundefined{l@#1}{\@notolerr{#1}}%
24   {\calc@assign@length{\global\csname l@#1\endcsname}{#2}}}%
25 \def\addtolength#1#2{\@ifundefined{l@#1}{\@notolerr{#1}}%
26   {\calc@assign@length{\global\advance\csname l@#1\endcsname}{#2}}}%
27 }
```

We also fix `\stepcounter` to not go through the whole `calc` process.

```

17 \def\stepcounter#1{\@ifundefined{c@#1}%
18   {\@nocounterr{#1}}%
19   {\global\advance\csname c@#1\endcsname \@ne
20     \begingroup
21       \let\@elt\@stpelt \csname cl@#1\endcsname
22       \endgroup}}}%
23 \def\setlength#1#2{\@ifundefined{l@#1}{\@notolerr{#1}}%
24   {\calc@assign@length{\global\csname l@#1\endcsname}{#2}}}%
25 \def\addtolength#1#2{\@ifundefined{l@#1}{\@notolerr{#1}}%
26   {\calc@assign@length{\global\advance\csname l@#1\endcsname}{#2}}}%
27 }
```

If the `amstext` package is loaded we must add the `\iffirstchoice@` switch as well. We patch the commands this way since it's good practice when we know how many arguments they take.

```

23 \@ifpackageloaded{amstext}{%
24   \expandafter\def\expandafter\stepcounter
25     \expandafter#\expandafter1\expandafter{%
26       \expandafter\iffirstchoice@\stepcounter{#1}\fi
27   }
28   \expandafter\def\expandafter\addtocounter
29     \expandafter#\expandafter1\expandafter#\expandafter2\expandafter{%
30       \expandafter\iffirstchoice@\addtocounter{#1}{#2}\fi
31   }
32 }{}
33 \DeclareRobustCommand\setlength{\calc@assign@skip}
34 \DeclareRobustCommand\addtolength[1]{\calc@assign@skip{\advance#1}}
```

(`\setlength` and `\addtolength` are robust according to [2].)

### 5.4 The scanner

We evaluate expressions by explicit scanning of characters. We do not rely on active characters for this.

The scanner consists of two parts, `\calc@pre@scan` and `\calc@post@scan`; `\calc@pre@scan` consumes left parentheses, and `\calc@post@scan` consumes binary operator, `\real`, `\ratio`, and right parenthesis tokens.

`\calc@pre@scan` Note that this is called at least once on every use of `calc` processing, even when  
`\@calc@pre@scan` none of the extended syntax is present; it therefore needs to be made very efficient.

It reads the initial part of expressions, until some `<text dimen factor>` or `<numeric>` is seen; in fact, anything not explicitly recognized here is taken to be a `<numeric>` of some sort as this allows unary `+` and unary `-` to be treated easily and correctly<sup>6</sup> but means that anything illegal will simply generate a `TEX`-level error, often a reasonably comprehensible one!

The `\romannumeral-`a` part is a little trick which forces expansion in case `#1` is a normal macro, something that occurs from time to time. A conditional test inside will possibly leave a trailing `\fi` but this remnant is removed later when `\calc@post@scan` performs the same trick.

The many `\expandafter`s are needed to efficiently end the nested conditionals so that `\calc@textsize` and `\calc@maxmin@addsub` can process their argument.

```

35 \def\calc@pre@scan#1{%
36   \expandafter\@calc@pre@scan\romannumeral-`a#1}
37 \def\@calc@pre@scan#1{%
38   \ifx{#1%
39     \expandafter\calc@open
40   \else
41     \ifx\widthof#1%
42       \expandafter\expandafter\expandafter\calc@textsize
43     \else
44       \ifx\maxof#1%
45         \expandafter\expandafter\expandafter\expandafter
46         \expandafter\expandafter\expandafter\calc@maxmin@addsub
47       \else
48         \calc@numeric% no \expandafter needed for this one.
49       \fi
50     \fi
51   \fi
52   #1}

```

`\calc@open` `\calc@open` is used when there is a left parenthesis right ahead. This parenthesis  
`\calc@initB` is replaced by `TEX` code corresponding to the code sequence “ $\{ \hookrightarrow [B \leftarrow A] \{ \hookrightarrow [B \leftarrow A] \}$ ” derived in Section 4. Finally, `\calc@pre@scan` is called again.

```

53 \def\calc@open({\begingroup\aftergroup\calc@initB
54   \begingroup\aftergroup\calc@initB
55   \calc@pre@scan}
56 \def\calc@initB{\calc@B\calc@A}

```

`\calc@numeric` `\calc@numeric` assigns the following value to `\calc@A` and then transfers control  
to `\calc@post@scan`.

```

57 \def\calc@numeric{\afterassignment\calc@post@scan \global\calc@A}

```

`\widthof` These do not need any particular definition when they are scanned so, for effi-  
`\heightof` ciency and robustness, we make them all equivalent to the same harmless (I hope)  
`\depthof` unexpandable command.<sup>7</sup> Thus the test in `\@calc@pre@scan` finds any of them.

`\totalheightof` As we have to check for these commands explicitly we must ensure that our  
definition wins. Using `\newcommand` gives an error when loading `calc` and may  
be mildly surprising. This should be a little more informative.

```

58 \@for\reserved@a:=widthof,heightof,depthof,totalheightof,maxof,minof\do
59 {\@ifundefined{reserved@a}{-}{%
60   \PackageError{calc}{%
61     The\space calc\space package\space reserves\space the\space
62     command\space name\space ``\backslashchar{reserved@a}'\MessageBreak
63     but\space it\space has\space already\space been\space defined\space
64     with\space the\space meaning\space meaning\space \MessageBreak

```

<sup>6</sup>In the few contexts where signs are allowed: this could, I think, be extended (CAR).

<sup>7</sup>If this level of safety is not needed then the code can be speeded up: CAR.



```

65  \expandafter\meaning\csname\reserved@a\endcsname'.\MessageBreak
66  This\space original\space definition\space will\space be\space lost}%
67  {If\space you\space need\space a\space command\space with\space
68  this\space definition,\space you\space must\space use\space a\space
69  different\space name.}}%
70 }
71 \let\widthof\ignorespaces
72 \let\heightof\ignorespaces
73 \let\depthof\ignorespaces
74 \let\totalheightof\ignorespaces

```

`\calc@textsize` The presence of the above four commands invokes this code, where we must distinguish them from each other. This implementation is somewhat optimized by using low-level code from the commands `\settowidth`, etc.<sup>8</sup>

Within the text argument we must restore the normal meanings of the four user-level commands since arbitrary material can appear in here, including further uses of `calc`.

```

75 \def\calc@textsize #1#2{%
76   \begingroup
77   \let\widthof\wd
78   \let\heightof\ht
79   \let\depthof\dp
80   \def\totalheightof{\ht\dp}%

```

We must expand the argument one level if it's `\totalheightof` and it doesn't hurt the other three.

```

81   \expandafter\@settodim\expandafter{#1}%
82   {\global\calc@A}%
83   {%
84     \let\widthof\ignorespaces
85     \let\heightof\ignorespaces
86     \let\depthof\ignorespaces
87     \let\totalheightof\ignorespaces
88     #2}%
89   \endgroup
90   \calc@post@scan}

```

`\calc@post@scan` The macro `\calc@post@scan` is called right after a value has been read. At this point, a binary operator, a sequence of right parentheses, an optional `\relax`, and the end-of-expression mark (`'!`) is allowed.<sup>9</sup> Depending on our findings, we call a suitable macro to generate the corresponding TeX code (except when we detect the end-of-expression marker: then scanning ends, and control is returned to `\calc@assign@generic`).

This macro may be optimized by selecting a different order of `\ifx`-tests. The test for `'!` (end-of-expression) is placed first as it will always be performed: this is the only test to be performed if the expression consists of a single  $\langle$ numeric $\rangle$ . This ensures that documents that do not use the extra expressive power provided by the `calc` package only suffer a minimum slowdown in processing time.

```

91 \def\calc@post@scan#1{%
92   \expandafter\@calc@post@scan\romannumeral-`a#1}
93 \def\@calc@post@scan#1{%
94   \ifx#1!\let\calc@next\endgroup \else
95     \ifx#1+\let\calc@next\calc@add \else
96       \ifx#1-\let\calc@next\calc@subtract \else
97         \ifx#1*\let\calc@next\calc@multiply \else
98           \ifx#1/\let\calc@next\calc@dividex \else
99             \ifx#1)\let\calc@next\calc@close \else
100               \ifx#1\relax\let\calc@next\calc@post@scan \else
101                 \def\calc@next{\calc@error#1}%

```

<sup>8</sup>It is based on suggestions by Donald Arseneau and David Carlisle.

<sup>9</sup>Is `!` a good choice, CAR?

```

102         \fi
103     \fi
104     \fi
105     \fi
106     \fi
107     \fi
108 \fi
109 \calc@next}

```

`\calc@add` The replacement code for the binary operators ‘+’ and ‘-’ follow a common pattern; the only difference is the token that is stored away by `\aftergroup`. After this replacement code, control is transferred to `\calc@pre@scan`.

```

\calc@subtract
\calc@generic@add
\calc@addAtoB
\calc@subtractAfromB
110 \def\calc@add{\calc@generic@add\calc@addAtoB}
111 \def\calc@subtract{\calc@generic@add\calc@subtractAfromB}
112 \def\calc@generic@add#1{\endgroup\global\calc@A\calc@B\endgroup
113     \begingroup\aftergroup#1\begingroup\aftergroup\calc@initB
114     \calc@pre@scan}
115 \def\calc@addAtoB{\advance\calc@B\calc@A}
116 \def\calc@subtractAfromB{\advance\calc@B-\calc@A}

```

`\real` The multiplicative operators, ‘\*’ and ‘/’, may be followed by a `\real`, `\ratio`, `\minof`, or `\maxof` token. The last two of these control sequences are defined by `calc` as they are needed by the scanner for addition or subtraction while the first two are not defined (at least not by the `calc` package); this, unfortunately, leaves them highly non-robust. We therefore equate them to `\relax` but only if they have not already been defined<sup>10</sup> (by some other package: dangerous but possible!); this will also make them appear to be undefined to a L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X user (also possibly dangerous).

```

117 \ifx\real\@undefined\let\real\relax\fi
118 \ifx\ratio\@undefined\let\ratio\relax\fi

```

In order to test for `\real` or `\ratio`, we define these two.<sup>11</sup>

```

119 \def\calc@ratio@x{\ratio}
120 \def\calc@real@x{\real}

```

`\calc@multiplyx` Test which operator followed \* or /. If none followed it’s just a standard multiplication or division.

`\calc@dividex`

```

121 \def\calc@multiplyx#1{\def\calc@tmp{#1}%
122     \ifx\calc@tmp\calc@ratio@x \let\calc@next\calc@ratio@multiply \else
123     \ifx\calc@tmp\calc@real@x \let\calc@next\calc@real@multiply \else
124     \ifx\maxof#1\let\calc@next\calc@maxmin@multiply \else
125     \let\calc@next\calc@multiply
126     \fi
127     \fi
128     \fi
129     \calc@next#1}
130 \def\calc@dividex#1{\def\calc@tmp{#1}%
131     \ifx\calc@tmp\calc@ratio@x \let\calc@next\calc@ratio@divide \else
132     \ifx\calc@tmp\calc@real@x \let\calc@next\calc@real@divide \else
133     \ifx\maxof#1\let\calc@next\calc@maxmin@divide \else
134     \let\calc@next\calc@divide
135     \fi
136     \fi
137     \fi
138     \calc@next#1}

```

`\calc@multiply` The binary operators ‘\*’ and ‘/’ also insert code as determined above. Moreover, the meaning of `\calc@A` and `\calc@B` is changed as factors following a multiplication and division operator always have integer type; the original meaning of these macros will be restored when the factor has been read and evaluated.

`\calc@divideBbyA`

<sup>10</sup>Suggested code from David Carlisle.

<sup>11</sup>May not need the extra names, CAR?

```

139 \def\calc@multiply{\calc@generic@multiply\calc@multiplyBbyA}
140 \def\calc@divide{\calc@generic@multiply\calc@divideBbyA}
141 \def\calc@generic@multiply#1{\endgroup\begin group
142   \let\calc@A\calc@Acount \let\calc@B\calc@Bcount
143   \aftergroup#1\calc@pre@scan}
144 \def\calc@multiplyBbyA{\multiply\calc@B\calc@Acount}
145 \def\calc@divideBbyA{\divide\calc@B\calc@Acount}

```

Since the value to use in the multiplication/division operation is stored in the `\calc@Acount` register, the `\calc@multiplyBbyA` and `\calc@divideBbyA` macros use this register.

`\calc@close` `\calc@close` generates code for a right parenthesis (which was derived to be “ $\}A \leftarrow B\}A \leftarrow B$ ” in Section 4). After this code, the control is returned to `\calc@post@scan` in order to look for another right parenthesis or a binary operator.

```

146 \def\calc@close
147   {\endgroup\global\calc@A\calc@B
148   \endgroup\global\calc@A\calc@B
149   \calc@post@scan}

```

## 5.5 Calculating a ratio

`\calc@ratio@multiply` `\calc@ratio@divide` When `\calc@post@scan` encounters a `\ratio` control sequence, it hands control to one of the macros `\calc@ratio@multiply` or `\calc@ratio@divide`, depending on the preceding character. Those macros both forward the control to the macro `\calc@ratio@evaluate`, which performs two steps: (1) it calculates the ratio, which is saved in the global macro token `\calc@the@ratio`; (2) it makes sure that the value of `\calc@B` will be multiplied by the ratio as soon as the current group ends.

The following macros call `\calc@ratio@evaluate` which multiplies `\calc@B` by the ratio, but `\calc@ratio@divide` flips the arguments so that the ‘opposite’ fraction is actually evaluated.

```

150 \def\calc@ratio@multiply\ratio{\calc@ratio@evaluate}
151 \def\calc@ratio@divide\ratio#1#2{\calc@ratio@evaluate{#2}{#1}}

```

`\calc@Ccount` `\calc@numerator` `\calc@denominator` We shall need two registers for temporary usage in the calculations. We can save one register since we can reuse `\calc@Bcount`.

```

152 \newcount\calc@Ccount
153 \let\calc@numerator=\calc@Bcount
154 \let\calc@denominator=\calc@Ccount

```

`\calc@ratio@evaluate` Here is the macro that handles the actual evaluation of ratios. The procedure is this: First, the two expressions are evaluated and coerced to integers. The whole procedure is enclosed in a group to be able to use the registers `\calc@numerator` and `\calc@denominator` for temporary manipulations.

```

155 \def\calc@ratio@evaluate#1#2{%
156   \endgroup\begin group
157     \calc@assign@dimen\calc@numerator{#1}%
158     \calc@assign@dimen\calc@denominator{#2}%

```

Here we calculate the ratio. First, we check for negative numerator and/or denominator; note that  $\text{\TeX}$  interprets two minus signs the same as a plus sign. Then, we calculate the integer part. The minus sign(s), the integer part, and a decimal point, form the initial expansion of the `\calc@the@ratio` macro.

```

159   \gdef\calc@the@ratio{}%
160   \ifnum\calc@numerator<0 \calc@numerator-\calc@numerator
161   \gdef\calc@the@ratio{-}%
162   \fi
163   \ifnum\calc@denominator<0 \calc@denominator-\calc@denominator
164   \xdef\calc@the@ratio{\calc@the@ratio-}%

```

```

165      \fi
166      \calc@Account\calc@numerator
167      \divide\calc@Account\calc@denominator
168      \xdef\calc@the@ratio{\calc@the@ratio\number\calc@Account.}%

```

Now we generate the digits after the decimal point, one at a time. When  $\text{\TeX}$  scans these digits (in the actual multiplication operation), it forms a fixed-point number with 16 bits for the fractional part. We hope that six digits is sufficient, even though the last digit may not be rounded correctly.

```

169      \calc@next@digit \calc@next@digit \calc@next@digit
170      \calc@next@digit \calc@next@digit \calc@next@digit
171  \endgroup

```

Now we have the ratio represented (as the expansion of the global macro  $\text{\calc@the@ratio}$ ) in the syntax  $\langle\text{decimal constant}\rangle$  [1, page 270]. This is fed to  $\text{\calc@multiply@by@real}$  that will perform the actual multiplication. It is important that the multiplication takes place at the correct grouping level so that the correct instance of the  $B$  register will be used. Also note that we do not need the  $\text{\aftergroup}$  mechanism in this case.

```

172  \calc@multiply@by@real\calc@the@ratio
173  \begingroup
174  \calc@post@scan}

```

The  $\text{\begingroup}$  inserted before the  $\text{\calc@post@scan}$  will be matched by the  $\text{\endgroup}$  generated as part of the replacement of a subsequent binary operator or right parenthesis.

$\text{\calc@next@digit}$

```

175 \def\calc@next@digit{%
176     \multiply\calc@Account\calc@denominator
177     \advance\calc@numerator -\calc@Account
178     \multiply\calc@numerator 10
179     \calc@Account\calc@numerator
180     \divide\calc@Account\calc@denominator
181     \xdef\calc@the@ratio{\calc@the@ratio\number\calc@Account}}

```

$\text{\calc@multiply@by@real}$

In the following code, it is important that we first assign the result to a  $\text{dimen}$  register. Otherwise,  $\text{\TeX}$  won't allow us to multiply with a real number.

```

182 \def\calc@multiply@by@real#1{\calc@Bdimen #1\calc@B \calc@B\calc@Bdimen}

```

(Note that this code wouldn't work if  $\text{\calc@B}$  were a  $\text{muglue}$  register. This is the real reason why the  $\text{calc}$  package doesn't support  $\text{muglue}$  expressions. To support  $\text{muglue}$  expressions in full, the  $\text{\calc@multiply@by@real}$  macro must use a  $\text{muglue}$  register instead of  $\text{\calc@Bdimen}$  when  $\text{\calc@B}$  is a  $\text{muglue}$  register; otherwise, a  $\text{dimen}$  register should be used. Since integer expressions can appear as part of a  $\text{muglue}$  expression, it would be necessary to determine the correct register to use each time a multiplication is made.)

## 5.6 Multiplication by real numbers

$\text{\calc@real@multiply}$   
 $\text{\calc@real@divide}$

This is similar to the  $\text{\calc@ratio@evaluate}$  macro above, except that it is considerably simplified since we don't need to calculate the factor explicitly.

```

183 \def\calc@real@multiply\real#1{\endgroup
184     \calc@multiply@by@real{#1}\begingroup
185     \calc@post@scan}
186 \def\calc@real@divide\real#1{\calc@ratio@evaluate{1pt}{#1pt}}

```

## 5.7 max and min operations

$\text{\maxof}$   
 $\text{\minof}$

With version 4.2, the  $\text{max}$  and  $\text{min}$  operators were added to  $\text{calc}$ . The user functions for them are  $\text{\maxof}$  and  $\text{\minof}$  respectively. These macros are internally

similar to `\widthof` etc. in that they are unexpandable and easily recognizable by the scanner.

```
187 \let\maxof\@italiccorr
188 \let\minof\@italiccorr
```

`\calc@Cskip` The max and min operations take two arguments so we need an extra `<skip>` register. We also add a switch for determining when to perform a `<skip>` or a `<count>` assignment.

```
189 \newskip\calc@Cskip
190 \newif\ifcalc@count@
```

`\calc@maxmin@addsub` When doing addition or subtraction with a max or min operator, we first check if `\calc@A` is a `<count>` register or not and then set the switch. Then call the real function which sets `\calc@A` to the desired value and continue as usual with `\calc@post@scan`.

```
191 \def\calc@maxmin@addsub#1#2#3{\begingroup
192   \ifx\calc@A\calc@Acount%
193     \calc@count@true
194   \else
195     \calc@count@false
196   \fi
197   \calc@maxmin@generic#1#2#3}%
198 \endgroup
199 \calc@post@scan
200 }
```

Check the switch and do either `<count>` or `<skip>` assignments. Note that `\maxof` and `\minof` are not set to `>` and `<` until after the assignments, which ensures we can nest them without problems. Then set `\calc@A` to the correct one.

```
201 \def\calc@maxmin@generic#1#2#3{%
202   \begingroup
203   \ifcalc@count@
204     \calc@assign@count\calc@Ccount{#2}%
205     \calc@assign@count\calc@Bcount{#3}%
206     \def\minof{<}\def\maxof{>}%
207     \global\calc@A\ifnum\calc@Ccount#1\calc@Bcount
208       \calc@Ccount\else\calc@Bcount\fi
209   \else
210     \calc@assign@skip\calc@Cskip{#2}%
211     \calc@assign@skip\calc@Bskip{#3}%
212     \def\minof{<}\def\maxof{>}%
213     \global\calc@A\ifdim\calc@Cskip#1\calc@Bskip
214       \calc@Cskip\else\calc@Bskip\fi
215   \fi
216 \endgroup
217 }
```

`\calc@maxmin@divmul` When doing division or multiplication we must be using `<count>` registers so we set the switch. Other than that it is almost business as usual when multiplying or dividing. #1 is the instruction to either multiply or divide `\calc@B` by `\calc@A`, #2 is either `\maxof` or `\minof` which is waiting in the input stream and #3 and #4 are the calc expressions. We end it all as usual by calling `\calc@post@scan`.

```
218 \def\calc@maxmin@divmul#1#2#3#4{%
219   \endgroup\begingroup
220   \calc@count@true
221   \aftergroup#1%
222   \calc@maxmin@generic#2#3#4}%
223 \endgroup\begingroup
224 \calc@post@scan
225 }
```

The two functions called when seeing a `*` or a `/`.

```
226 \def\calc@maxmin@multiply{\calc@maxmin@divmul\calc@multiplyBbyA}
227 \def\calc@maxmin@divide {\calc@maxmin@divmul\calc@divideBbyA}
```

## 6 Reporting errors

`\calc@error` If `\calc@post@scan` reads a character that is not one of `'+' , '-' , '*' , '/' , or ' )' , an error has occurred, and this is reported to the user. Violations in the syntax of <numeric>s will be detected and reported by TEX.`

```
228 \def\calc@error#1{%
229   \PackageError{calc}%
230     {'#1' invalid at this point}%
231     {I expected to see one of: + - * / }}
```

## 7 Other additions

`\@settodim` The kernel macro `\@settodim` is changed so that it runs through a list containing  
`\settototalheight` `\ht` , `\wd` , and `\dp` and than advance the length one step at a time. We just have to use a scratch register in case the user decides to put in a `\global` prefix on the length register. A search on the internet confirmed that some people do that kind of thing.

```
232 \def\@settodim#1#2#3{%
233   \setbox\@tempboxa\hbox{#{#3}}%
234   \dimen@ii=\z@
235   \@tf@r\reserved@a #1\do{%
236     \advance\dimen@ii\reserved@a\@tempboxa}%
237   #2=\dimen@ii
238   \setbox\@tempboxa\box\voidb@x}
```

Now the user level macro is straightforward.

```
239 \def\settototalheight{\@settodim{\ht\dp}}
```

That's the end of the package.

```
240 \end{package}
```

## References

- [1] D. E. KNUTH. *The TEXbook* (Computers & Typesetting Volume A). Addison-Wesley, Reading, Massachusetts, 1986.
- [2] L. LAMPORT. *L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, A Document Preparation System*. Addison-Wesley, Reading, Massachusetts, Second edition 1994/1985.

## Change History

v4.0d	General: Added text sizes: CAR . . . 1
General: Contributed to tools distribution . . . . . 1	Attempt to make user-syntax robust: CAR . . . . . 1
<code>\calc@error</code> : Use <code>\PackageError</code> for error messages (DPC) . . . . 14	<code>\calc@error</code> : Improved, I hope, error message: CAR . . . . . 14
v4.0e	<code>\calc@real@x</code> : Added macro setups to make them robust but undefined: CAR . . . . . 10
v4.1a	<code>\calc@textsize</code> : Added macro: CAR . . . . . 9
<code>\calc@pre@scan</code> : Added code for text sizes: CAR . . . . . 8	

\depthof: Added macros: CAR ..	8	\calc@maxmin@divide: Macros	
v4.1b		added .....	13
\@calc@pre@scan: Correction to ifx		\calc@maxmin@generic: Macros	
true case .....	8	added .....	13
v4.2		\calc@multiplyx: Added max and	
\@calc@post@scan: Added macro		min operations .....	10
and force expansion .....	9	\calc@textsize: Extended macro	
\@calc@pre@scan: Added \maxof		with \totalheightof .....	9
and \minof operations .....	8	\minof: Added macros .....	12
Added macro and force expan-		\setttotalheight: Added macro	14
sion .....	8	\steptocounter: Avoid redundant	
\@settodim: Changed kernel macro	14	processing. PR/3795 .....	7
\addtocounter: Fix to make		\totalheightof: Added infor-	
\addtocounter work with		mative message for reserved	
amstext .....	7	macros .....	8
\calc@assign@generic: Re-		Added macro .....	8
moved a few redundant		v4.3	
\expandafers .....	6	\@calc@post@scan: Discard ter-	
\calc@dividex: Added max and		minating \relax tokens and	
min operations .....	10	avoid extra error message from	
		\calc@next .....	9