

The `suffix` Package

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1 Basics

The `suffix` package has the purpose of making it easy to define and maintain command variants like `\macro*` and even `\macro\` or similar. It requires eTeX version 2 for its work. The suffixes are fetched with `\futurelet`, so things like `\bgroup` and `{` can't be distinguished. In addition, the efficiency depends on the complexity of the suffix' definition, so you should preferably use characters or short commands as a suffix. A suffixed command itself counts as short for this purpose. How does a suffix definition look like?

`\WithSuffix` The general form is

```
\WithSuffix<prefixed definition><macro><suffix>...
```

where `<prefixed definition>` is something like `\xdef`, `\global\let` or similar. Recognised prefixes are `\global`, `\long`, `\protected` (the latter is rarely useful, as the original definition already is robust), and `\expandafter` (with its 'natural' meaning), specially recognized commands are `\gdef` and `\xdef`. Other commands can be used as long as they are suitable as an undelimited macro argument. This means they must either be a single token like `\newcommand` or brace-enclosed like `{\newcommand*}`. `<macro>` can be a macro or an active character. It should be a single token suitable for assignment with `\let`. `<suffix>` can be something like a single letter such as `*` or `[`.

For example, assume that a command `\snarf` already exists and we want to define a variant `\snarf[<optarg>]`. Then we can do this with

```
\WithSuffix\long\def\snarf[#1]{<Definition using #1>}
```

That's pretty much it. Oh, only when a command is recognised as having a prefix `\global` or being `\xdef` or `\gdef` will the corresponding redefinitions be done globally. This is rarely a concern.

`\SuffixName` In case you need to refer to the control sequence name used to refer to the suffixed macro, you can access it as

```
\csname\SuffixName<macro><suffix>\endcsname
```

`\NoSuffixName` and if you need to refer to the original unsuffixed macro, you can access it as

```
\csname\NoSuffixName<macro>\endcsname
```

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