

The tokglobalstack Package

Version 1.0

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Abstract

This package offers two stack’s implementations. Those stacks can be used to, for instance, preserve some tokens beyond a variable number of nested groups, or to implement recursive commands without relying on local groups.

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1 Introduction

When it’s necessary to preserve the value of some tokens beyond a local group, it’s enough, in simple cases, to use `\group_insert_after:N` or `\aftergroup`.

But, sometimes you don’t have (or can’t use) this information, see [1], for instance. For those cases, this package deploys a strategy (presented and compared in [2]) based on stacks.

These stacks can also be used to write recursive commands (preserving variables) without having to rely on local group scoping.

2 Stack Variable

<code>\globalstack_new:N</code>	<code>\globalstack_new:N {⟨stack-var⟩}</code>
<code>\globalstack_gpush:Nn</code>	<code>\globalstack_gpush:Nn {⟨stack-var⟩}{⟨tokens⟩}</code>
<code>\globalstack_gput_right:Nn</code>	<code>\globalstack_gput_right:Nn {⟨stack-var⟩}{⟨tokens⟩}</code>
<code>\globalstack_gput_left:Nn</code>	<code>\globalstack_gput_left:Nn {⟨stack-var⟩}{⟨tokens⟩}</code>
<code>\globalstack_gpop:N</code>	<code>\globalstack_gpop:N {⟨stack-var⟩}</code>

`\globalstack_new:N` will globally create a stack variable named `⟨stack-var⟩` (a specialized token list variable). Once created it is possible to push tokens into it (`\globalstack_gpush:Nn`), amend tokens to the top (`\globalstack_gput_right:Nn` and `\globalstack_gput_left:Nn`) and pop those tokens (`\globalstack_gpop:N`) into the input stream. All assignments being global.

Note: An error will be raised if `⟨stack-var⟩` is already defined.

*<https://github.com/alceu-frigeri/tokglobalstack>

3 Custom Stack Commands

```
\globalstack_csnew:n \globalstack_csnew:n {(stack-prefix)}
```

This will globally create a set of commands, named after `<stack-prefix>`, to push, put and pop items from a private global stack. All assignments to/from that stack will be global, and the stack itself will be unique to the command's set.

Note: An error will be raised if `<stack-prefix>` is already used.

```
\<stack-prefix>_gpush:n \<stack-prefix>_gpush:n {(tokens)}
\<stack-prefix>_gput_right:n \<stack-prefix>_gput_right:n {(tokens)}
\<stack-prefix>_gput_left:n \<stack-prefix>_gput_left:n {(tokens)}
\<stack-prefix>_gpop: \<stack-prefix>_gput_gpop:
```

The `\<stack-prefix>_gpush:n` will push `<tokens>` (can be any number of tokens) into a global, private, stack. `\<stack-prefix>_gput_right:n` and `\<stack-prefix>_gput_left:n` will amend tokens to it, and `\<stack-prefix>_gpop:`, as the name implies, will insert the top of the stack into the input stream. That way it is possible to have a very fine control of what, where and when the items are collected and used.

4 Examples of Use

In the following examples, two stacks will be used, `<myStackA>` and `<myStackB>` (one of each kind).

```
\ExplSyntaxOn
% Just a set of booleans for testing
\bool_new:N \l_mytest_tmpa_bool
\bool_new:N \l_mytest_tmpb_bool
\bool_new:N \l_mytest_tmpc_bool
\cs_new:Npn \mytest_show_bools:n #1
{ \underline{#1:}\par
  \bool_if:NTF \l_mytest_tmpa_bool {{\color{red}a-true}}{a-false} ---
  \bool_if:NTF \l_mytest_tmpb_bool {{\color{red}b-true}}{b-false} ---
  \bool_if:NTF \l_mytest_tmpc_bool {{\color{red}c-true}}{c-false} \par
}

\globalstack_csnew:n {myStackA}
\globalstack_new:N \g_myStackB_stack
\ExplSyntaxOff
```

4.1 Using a Stack Variable

Using just one position (of the stack) and restoring all tokens in a single point.

```
\ExplSyntaxOn
\group_begin:
{{ \globalstack_gpush:Nn \g_myStackB_stack
  {\bool_set_true:N \l_mytest_tmpa_bool}
{{ \globalstack_gput_right:Nn \g_myStackB_stack
  {\bool_set_true:N \l_mytest_tmpb_bool}
  \mytest_show_bools:n {T1}
}} \mytest_show_bools:n {T2}
}} \globalstack_gpop:N \g_myStackB_stack
  \mytest_show_bools:n {T3}
\group_end:
\ExplSyntaxOff
```

T1:
a false - b false - c false

T2:
a false - b false - c false

T3:
a true - b true - c false

Using two positions (of the stack) and restoring the tokens in separated points.

<pre> \ExplSyntaxOn \group_begin: {{ \globalstack_gpush:Nn \g_myStackB_stack {\bool_set_true:N \l__mytest_tmpa_bool} }} {{ \globalstack_gpush:Nn \g_myStackB_stack {\bool_set_true:N \l__mytest_tmpb_bool} \mytest_show_bools:n {T1} }} {{ \globalstack_gpop:N \g_myStackB_stack \mytest_show_bools:n {T2} }} {{ \globalstack_gpop:N \g_myStackB_stack \mytest_show_bools:n {T3} }} \group_end: \ExplSyntaxOff </pre>	<pre> <u>T1:</u> a false - b false - c false <u>T2:</u> a false - b true - c false <u>T3:</u> a true - b false - c false </pre>
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4.2 Using Custom Stack Commands

Using just one position (of the stack) and restoring all tokens in a single point.

<pre> \ExplSyntaxOn \group_begin: {{ \myStackA_gpush:n {\bool_set_true:N \l__mytest_tmpa_bool} }} {{ \myStackA_gput_right:n {\bool_set_true:N \l__mytest_tmpb_bool} \mytest_show_bools:n {T1} }} {{ \mytest_show_bools:n {T2} }} {{ \myStackA_gpop: \mytest_show_bools:n {T3} }} \group_end: \ExplSyntaxOff </pre>	<pre> <u>T1:</u> a false - b false - c false <u>T2:</u> a false - b false - c false <u>T3:</u> a true - b true - c false </pre>
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Using two positions (of the stack) and restoring the tokens in separated points.

<pre> \ExplSyntaxOn \group_begin: {{ \myStackA_gpush:n {\bool_set_true:N \l__mytest_tmpa_bool} }} {{ \myStackA_gpush:n {\bool_set_true:N \l__mytest_tmpb_bool} \mytest_show_bools:n {T1} }} {{ \myStackA_gpop: \mytest_show_bools:n {T2} }} {{ \myStackA_gpop: \mytest_show_bools:n {T3} }} \group_end: \ExplSyntaxOff </pre>	<pre> <u>T1:</u> a false - b false - c false <u>T2:</u> a false - b true - c false <u>T3:</u> a true - b false - c false </pre>
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References

- [1] David Carlisle. *Stackexchange about grouping*. 2026. URL: https://tex.stackexchange.com/questions/757755/coffins-scope-groups#comment1889872_757755 (visited on 01/01/2026).
- [2] Alceu Frigeri. *The xstacks package*. 2026. URL: <https://ctan.org/pkg/xstacks> (visited on 02/18/2026).