The \texttt{ltcaption} package\textsuperscript{*}

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\textbf{Abstract}

This package fixes caption problems with other-than-centered aligned longtables.

(solves \LaTeX\ PR tools/3387)

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\textsuperscript{*}This package has version number v1.4.
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 \caption 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 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 \texttt{fill} by default, just like the values \LTleft & \LTright.

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

\textit{Note:} If the \caption package will be used with one of the NTG document classes[2], \CaptionLabelFont & \CaptionTextFont will not only be used for figure \& table captions, but for longtable captions as well.

\textit{Note:} These lengths \& commands do not work when the \caption package is used with one of the KOMA-Script document classes \texttt{scrartcl}, \texttt{screprt}, or \texttt{scrbook} [3], or used with the \texttt{memoir} document class [4]. The KOMA-Script or \texttt{memoir} settings for captions are used instead. Same with the caption package which also uses its own options and settings.

1.2 Bonus features

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

\renewcommand{\LTcaptive}{figure}
\begin{longtable}{ll}
\caption{An example longtable}\nn A & B \\
\end{longtable}

will result in a longtable like this:
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 1: Left aligned longtable left aligned longtable left aligned longtable

This is only a test

Table 2: Right aligned longtable right aligned longtable right aligned longtable

This is only a test

Table 3: Centered longtable centered longtable centered longtable centered longtable

This is only a test
With the `ltcaption` package (and the default value of `\LTcapwidth`):

Table 4: Left aligned longtable left aligned longtable left aligned longtable
This is only a test

Table 5: Right aligned longtable right aligned longtable right aligned longtable
This is only a test

Table 6: Centered longtable centered longtable centered longtable
This is only a test

With the `ltcaption` 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 `ltcaption` package and \LTcapleft=0pt or \LTcapright=0pt:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 10: Left aligned longtable left aligned longtable left aligned longtable</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>This is only a test</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 11: Right aligned longtable right aligned longtable right aligned longtable</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>This is only a test</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

With the `ltcaption` package and \LTcapleft=\tabcolsep or \LTcapright=\tabcolsep:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 12: Left aligned longtable left aligned longtable left aligned longtable</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>This is only a test</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 13: Right aligned longtable right aligned longtable right aligned longtable</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>This is only a test</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
With the \texttt{ltcaption} package and \texttt{\LTcapmarginsfalse}:

Table 14: Left aligned longtable left aligned longtable left aligned longtable

This is only a test

Table 15: Right aligned longtable right aligned longtable right aligned longtable

This is only a test

Table 16: Centered longtable centered longtable centered longtable centered longtable

This is only a test

References

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


