swungdash:
A package for a swung dash

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1 Overview

The ‘swung dash’ (∼) is a rare but very useful mark of punctuation used in typesetting dictionaries and reference works as a stand in to avoid repeating the defined term in examples or definitions, and thus to save space. For example, a quoted example of the term ‘extraterritoriality’ might save space by omitting repeating the long word:

∼, in this as in every other case, is a fiction only, for diplomatic envoys are in reality not without, but within, the territories of the receiving States. The term ‘∼’ is nevertheless valuable because it demonstrates clearly the fact that envoys must, in most respects, be treated as though they were not within the territory of the receiving States. ¹

Although the swung dash is included in Unicode as U+2053, few typefaces include it. This package turns a tilde in any given typeface into a swung dash of 1 m width, and then, using the accsup package, overwrites this extended tilde into the Unicode character so that it will be read as a swung dash.

2 Usage

In your preamble put:

\usepackage{swungdash}

To typeset a swung dash, simply use the command:

\swungdash

3 Development

Bugs, feature requests, etc, should be submitted to the project’s official GitHub page: (github.com/ezgranet/swungdash).

¹Sir H Lauterpacht QC (ed) Oppenheim on International Law, vol 1 (8th edn, Longmans, Green & Co 1955), 793
4 Licence

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5 Implementation
6 Version History

6.6.1 1.0.0

24 August 2022: Package creation