A New Implementation of LaTeX's `verbatim` and `verbatim*` Environments.

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Abstract

This package reimplements the LaTeX `verbatim` and `verbatim*` environments. In addition it provides a `comment` environment that skips any commands or text between `\begin{comment}` and the next `\end{comment}`. It also defines the command `verbatiminput` to input a whole file verbatim.

1 Usage notes

LaTeX's `verbatim` and `verbatim*` environments have a few features that may give rise to problems. These are:

- Due to the method used to detect the closing `\end{verbatim}` (i.e. macro parameter delimiting) you cannot leave spaces between the `\end` token and `{verbatim}`.
- Since TeX has to read all the text between the `\begin{verbatim}` and the `\end{verbatim}` before it can output anything, long verbatim listings may overflow TeX's memory.

Whereas the first of these points can be considered only a minor nuisance the other one is a real limitation.

This package file contains a reimplementation of the `verbatim` and `verbatim*` environments which overcomes these restrictions. There is, however, one incompatibility

between the old and the new implementations of these environments: the old version would treat text on the same line as the `\end{verbatim}` command as if it were on a line by itself.

This new version will simply ignore it.

(This is the price one has to pay for the removal of the old `verbatim` environment's size limitations.) It will, however, issue a warning message of the form

```
LaTeX warning: Characters dropped after \end{verbatim*}!
```

This is not a real problem since this text can easily be put on the next line without affecting the output.

This new implementation also solves the second problem mentioned above: it is possible to leave spaces (but *not* begin a new line) between the `\end` and the `{verbatim}` or `{verbatim*}`:

```
\begin {verbatim*}
   test
   test
\end {verbatim*}
```

Additionally we introduce a `comment` environment, with the effect that the text between `\begin{comment}` and `\end{comment}` is simply ignored, regardless of what it looks like. At first sight this seems to be quite different from the purpose of verbatim listing, but actually the implementation of these two concepts turns out to be very similar. Both rely on the fact that the text between `\begin{...}` and `\end{...}` is read by TEX without interpreting any commands or special characters. The remaining difference between `verbatim` and `comment` is only that the text is to be typeset in the first case and to be thrown away in the latter. Note that these environments cannot be nested.

`\verbatiminput` is a command with one argument that inputs a file verbatim, i.e. the command `verbatiminput{xx.yy}` has the same effect as

```
\begin{verbatim}
⟨Contents of the file xx.yy⟩
\end{verbatim}
```

This command has also a `*`-variant that prints spaces as ␣.