Package innerscript v. 1.4a User Guide

Conrad Kosowsky May 2025

kosowsky.latex@gmail.com

For easy, off-the-shelf use, type the following in your document preamble and compile using LuaLATEX:

\usepackage{innerscript}

Overview

The innerscript package optionally modifies four aspects of TFX's automatic math formatting to improve typesetting: (1) it adds extra space around relation and operation symbols in superscripts and subscripts; (2) it removes extra space around \left-\right delimiter pairs; (3) it adds extra space after right delimiters in certain situations; and (4) it forces \left and \right delimiters to completely cover their contents. Using LuaLATEX is required.

For several years before the first release of innerscript, I wondered whether it was possible to adjust two features of T_FX's automatic mathematics spacing, namely adding more space in superscripts and subscripts and removing the extra space around \left-\right delimiter pairs. LuaTFX's extra math-mode primitives make these changes possible, and innerscript grew out of my desire to implement them in my documents. For example, compare the next two lines:

$$\sum_{i=1}^{n} x_i^{1+a} \qquad f(x) = g\left(\frac{1}{x}\right) \qquad x(t)y(t) \qquad \left(\frac{x}{2}\right) \qquad (1)$$

$$\sum_{i=1}^{n} x_i^{1+a} \qquad f(x) = g\left(\frac{1}{x}\right) \qquad x(t)y(t) \qquad \left(\frac{x}{2}\right) \qquad (2)$$

$$\sum_{i=1}^{n} x_i^{1+a} \qquad f(x) = g\left(\frac{1}{x}\right) \qquad x(t)y(t) \qquad \left(\frac{x}{2}\right)$$
 (2)

Equation (1) uses traditional T_FX formatting, and equation (2) incorporates the small tweaks characteristic of innerscript. If you like equation (2) more than equation (1), then innerscript is the package for you! This file explains how to load innerscript and enable whichever adjustments you want to use. For version history and documentation of the code, see innerscriptcode.pdf, which is included with the package installation and is available on CTAN.

Table 1 explains which parts of equation (2) show different aspects of innerscript's behavior. At far left, the subscript under the summation symbol and the superscript of x_i have small amounts of extra space around the = and + signs respectively, and at center-left, the gis directly next to the parenthesis. At center-right, the closing parenthesis is offset from the following y, and on the right, the parentheses cover the entire fraction instead of covering

Acknowledgements: Thanks to Sheldon Axler and Clea F. Rees for pointing a bug in a previous version of innerscript.

Table 1: Package Behavior Shown in Equation (2)

Part of equation (2)	Summation	Functions	Product	Fraction
Option shown	script	inner	close	cover

Table 2: Package Options for innerscript

Package Option	Meaning
script	Change \scriptstyle (and cramped style) spacing
scriptscript	Change \scriptscriptstyle (and cramped style) spacing
inner	Use \mathord spacing for \mathinner subformulas
close	Extra space between \mathclose\mathord pairs
cover	Resizable delimiters (i.e. \left and \right) fully cover contents
no-script	No changes to \scriptstyle spacing
no-scriptscript	No changes to \scriptscriptstyle spacing
no-inner	No changes to treatment of \mathinner subformulas
no-close	No changes to \mathclose atoms
no-cover	No changes to resizable delimiters

Table 3: Usual Space Inserted by T_EX between Atoms

Consecutive Atom Types	Space Added	Consecutive Atom Types	Space Added	
<pre>\mathord\mathop \mathord\mathbin \mathord\mathrel \mathord\mathinner</pre>	\thinmuskip \medmuskip \thickmuskip \thinmuskip	\mathclose\mathop \mathclose\mathbin \mathclose\mathrel \mathclose\mathinner	\thinmuskip \medmuskip \thickmuskip \thinmuskip	
<pre>\mathop\mathord \mathop\mathop \mathop\mathrel \mathop\mathinner</pre>	\thinmuskip \thickmuskip \thickmuskip \thickmuskip	<pre>\mathpunct\mathord \mathpunct\mathrel \mathpunct\mathopen \mathpunct\mathclose</pre>	<pre>\thinmuskip \thinmuskip \thinmuskip \thinmuskip \thinmuskip</pre>	
<pre>\mathbin\mathord \medmuskip \mathbin\mathop \medmuskip \mathbin\mathinner \medmuskip</pre>	-	\mathpunct\mathpunct \mathpunct\mathinner	\thinmuskip \thinmuskip	
	-	\mathinner\mathord \mathinner\mathop	\thinmuskip	
\mathrel\mathord \mathrel\mathop \mathrel\mathopen \mathrel\mathinner	\thickmuskip \thickmuskip \thickmuskip \thickmuskip	<pre>\mathinner\mathbin \mathinner\mathrel \mathinner\mathopen \mathinner\mathpunct \mathinner\mathinner</pre>	<pre>\medmuskip \thickmuskip \thinmuskip \thinmuskip \thinmuskip</pre>	

only most of it. Using this package will automate some or all of these changes.

Users can load innerscript with the standard \usepackage syntax, and to do so, you must typeset with LuaTeX. If it detects a different engine, innerscript will raise an error and stop loading, so you will not see any changes to the math in your document. The package provides no user-level commands—rather, you control its functionality through the ten options in Table 2. Options script, and no-script determine how innerscript treats superscripts and subscripts, and options scriptscript, and no-scriptscript are the same except that they deal with second-order superscripts and subscripts. The inner option tells TeX to avoid placing some extra spaces around \mathinner subformulas. Specifically, with this option, TeX treats the left side of a \mathinner subformula like a left parenthesis and treats the right side like a right parenthesis for spacing purposes. The close option adds a small amount of space after a closing grouping symbol, such as a right parenthesis, when it comes before a regular variable or number, and cover tells TeX to make sure that resizable delimiters fully cover their contents. The no- variants disable formatting adjustments, and by default, innerscript enables all space adjustments described here.

The inner, close, and cover options are straightforward, but the options script and scriptscript warrant more explanation. With its usual math formatting, T_EX adds small amounts of space between different math-mode characters depending on what types of symbols they represent, and T_EX's fine-tuned math spacing is part of what makes it a great program for typesetting equations.² However, some spacing additions from inline and display math don't appear inside superscripts and subscripts. The script and scriptscript options address this situation by setting the interatom space in superscripts and subscripts to scaled-down versions of the standard spacing rules. Table 3 lists the space that T_EX inserts between atoms of different types in display or inline math. With option script, innerscript sets the interatom spacing in superscripts and subscripts to be 60% of the amounts in Table 3, and with option scriptscript, innerscript sets the interatom space to be 40% of the amounts in Table 3.³ Atom pairs that do not appear in Table 3 do not by default receive extra space from T_EX or innerscript.

Finally, you are of course welcome to change the size of \thinmuskip, \medmuskip, or \thickmuskip, but I encourage you to do so before you load innerscript. If you do so after loading the package, some of your changes will not show up in TeX's automatic interatom spacing.

¹Version 1.2 of innerscript provided legacy- options for superscripts and subscripts with slightly different spacing. As of version 1.4, those options are officially deprecated. For backwards compatibility, innerscript still accepts legacy-script and legacy-scriptscript options, but they now produce the same space adjustments as script and scriptscript.

²TEX classifies math symbols into eight categories: \mathord (ordinary), \mathop (big operator), \mathbin (binary operation), \mathrel (relation), \mathopen (opening delimiter), \mathclose (closing delimiter), \mathpunct (punctuation), and \mathinner ("inner" subformula). As part of its definition, every mathmode character is assigned a math class. See Donald Knuth, The TeXbook (Addison Wesley, 1986), 170; David Salomon, The Advanced TeXbook (Springer, 1995), 256–258.

³Technically, innerscript scales down the standard spacing twice because the exact length of a \muskip register varies proportionally with the surrounding font size. For example, a \thinmuskip inside a superscript or subscript will be about two-thirds the size of a \thinmuskip in regular inline math. If innerscript inserted the same \muskip amounts from Table 3 in superscripts and subscripts, the spacing would be exactly proportional to inline and display spacing. However, doing so produces math where the symbols appear too far apart visually, so before using them, innerscript scales down the \muskip amounts in Table 3.