1 The Portuguese language

The file `portuges.dtx`[1] defines all the language-specific macros for the Portuguese language as well as for the Brasilian version of this language.

For this language the character `"` is made active. In table 1 an overview is given of its purpose.

`"|`	disable ligature at this position.
`"-`	an explicit hyphen sign, allowing hyphenation in the rest of the word.
`""`	like `"-`, but producing no hyphen sign (for words that should break at some sign such as “entrada/salida.”
`"<`	for French left double quotes (similar to <<).
`">`	for French right double quotes (similar to >>).
`\-`	like the old `\-`, but allowing hyphenation in the rest of the word.

Table 1: The extra definitions made by `portuges.ldf`

The macro `\LdfInit` takes care of preventing that this file is loaded more than once, checking the category code of the `@` sign, etc.

```
⟨*code⟩
\LdfInit\CurrentOption{captions\CurrentOption}
```

When this file is read as an option, i.e. by the `\usepackage` command, `portuges` will be an ‘unknown’ language in which case we have to make it known. So we check for the existence of `\l@portuges` to see whether we have to do something here. Since it is possible to load this file with any of the following four options to babel: portuges, portuguese, brazil and brazilian we also allow that the hyphenation patterns are loaded under any of these four names. We just have to find out which one was used.

```
\ifx\l@portuges\@undefined
  \ifx\l@portuguese\@undefined
    \ifx\l@brazil\@undefined
      \ifx\l@brazilian\@undefined
        \@nopatterns{Portuguese}
        \adddialect\l@portuges0
      \else
        \let\l@portuges\l@brazilian
      \fi
    \else
      \let\l@portuges\l@brazil
    \fi
  \else
    \let\l@portuges\l@portuguese
  \fi
\fi
```

By now `\l@portuges` is defined. When the language definition file was loaded under a different name we make sure that the hyphenation patterns can be found.

[1] The file described in this section has version number v1.2u and was last revised on 2026/01/24. Contributions were made by Jose Pedro Ramalhete Arnaldo Viegas de Lima and João M. Lourenço.

```
\expandafter\ifx\csname l@\CurrentOption\endcsname\relax
  \expandafter\let\csname l@\CurrentOption\endcsname\l@portuges
\fi
```

Now we have to decide whether this language definition file was loaded for Portuguese or Brasilian use. This can be done by checking the contents of `\CurrentOption`. When it doesn't contain either 'portuges' or 'portuguese' we make `\bbl@tempb` empty.

```
\def\bbl@tempa{portuguese}
\ifx\CurrentOption\bbl@tempa
  \let\bbl@tempb\@empty
\else
  \def\bbl@tempa{portuges}
  \ifx\CurrentOption\bbl@tempa
    \let\bbl@tempb\@empty
  \else
    \def\bbl@tempb{brazil}
  \fi
\fi
\ifx\bbl@tempb\@empty
```

The next step consists of defining commands to switch to (and from) the Portuguese language.

`\captionsportuges` The macro `\captionsportuges` defines all strings used in the four standard documentclasses provided with LaTeX.

```
  \@namedef{captions\CurrentOption}{%
    \def\prefacename{Pref\'acio}%
    \def\refname{Refer\^encias}%
    \def\abstractname{Resumo}%
    \def\bibname{Bibliografia}%
    \def\chaptername{Cap\'{\i}tulo}%
    \def\appendixname{Ap\^endice}%
    \def\contentsname{\'Indice}%
    \def\listfigurename{Lista de Figuras}%
    \def\listtablename{Lista de Tabelas}%
    \def\indexname{\'Indice Remissivo}%
    \def\figurename{Figura}%
    \def\tablename{Tabela}%
    \def\partname{Parte}%
    \def\enclname{Anexo}%
    \def\ccname{Com c\'opia a}%
    \def\headtoname{Para}%
    \def\pagename{P\'agina}%
    \def\seename{ver}%
    \def\alsoname{ver tamb\'em}%
```

An alternate term for 'Proof' could be 'Prova'.

```
    \def\proofname{Demonstra\c{c}\~ao}%
    \def\glossaryname{Gloss\'ario}%
    }
```

`\dateportuges` The macro `\dateportuges` redefines the command `\today` to produce Portuguese dates.

```
  \@namedef{date\CurrentOption}{%
```

```
    \def\today{\number\day\space de\space\ifcase\month\or
      janeiro\or fevereiro\or mar\c{c}o\or abril\or maio\or junho\or
      julho\or agosto\or setembro\or outubro\or novembro\or dezembro%
      \fi
      \space de\space\number\year}}
\else
```

For the Brasilian version of these definitions we just add a "dialect".

```
  \expandafter
    \adddialect\csname l@\CurrentOption\endcsname\l@portuges
```

`\captionsbrazil` The "captions" are different for both versions of the language, so we define the macro `\captionsbrazil` here.

```
  \@namedef{captions\CurrentOption}{%
    \def\prefacename{Pref\'acio}%
    \def\refname{Refer\^encias}%
    \def\abstractname{Resumo}%
    \def\bibname{Refer\^encias Bibliogr\'aficas}%
    \def\chaptername{Cap\'{\i}tulo}%
    \def\appendixname{Ap\^endice}%
    \def\contentsname{Sum\'ario}%
    \def\listfigurename{Lista de Figuras}%
    \def\listtablename{Lista de Tabelas}%
    \def\indexname{\'Indice Remissivo}%
    \def\figurename{Figura}%
    \def\tablename{Tabela}%
    \def\partname{Parte}%
    \def\enclname{Anexo}%
    \def\ccname{C\'opia para}%
    \def\headtoname{Para}%
    \def\pagename{P\'agina}%
    \def\seename{veja}%
    \def\alsoname{veja tamb\'em}%
    \def\proofname{Demonstra\c{c}\~ao}%
    \def\glossaryname{Gloss\'ario}%
    }
```

`\datebrazil` The macro `\datebrazil` redefines the command `\today` to produce Brasilian dates, for which the names of the months are not capitalized.

```
  \@namedef{date\CurrentOption}{%
    \def\today{\number\day\space de\space\ifcase\month\or
      janeiro\or fevereiro\or mar\c{c}o\or abril\or maio\or junho\or
      julho\or agosto\or setembro\or outubro\or novembro\or dezembro%
      \fi
      \space de\space\number\year}}
\fi
```

`\portugeshyphenmins` Set correct values for `\lefthyphenmin` and `\righthyphenmin`.

```
\providehyphenmins{\CurrentOption}{\tw@\thr@@}
```

`\extrasportuges` `\noextrasportuges` The macro `\extrasportuges` will perform all the extra definitions needed for the Portuguese language. The macro `\noextrasportuges` is used to cancel the actions of `\extrasportuges`.

For Portuguese the " character is made active. This is done once, later on its definition may vary. Other languages in the same document may also use the " character for shorthands; we specify that the portuguese group of shorthands should be used.

```
\initiate@active@char{"}
\@namedef{extras\CurrentOption}{\languageshorthands{portuges}}
\expandafter\addto\csname extras\CurrentOption\endcsname{%
  \bbl@activate{"}}
```

Don't forget to turn the shorthands off again.

```
\addto\noextrasportuges{\bbl@deactivate{"}}
```

First we define access to the guillemets for quotations,

```
\declare@shorthand{portuges}{"<}{%
  \textormath{\guillemotleft}{\mbox{\guillemotleft}}}
\declare@shorthand{portuges}{">}{%
  \textormath{\guillemotright}{\mbox{\guillemotright}}}
```

then we define two shorthands to be able to specify hyphenation breakpoints that behave a little different from \-.

```
\declare@shorthand{portuges}{"-}{\nobreak-\bbl@allowhyphens}
\declare@shorthand{portuges}{""}{\hskip\z@skip}
```

And we want to have a shorthand for disabling a ligature. To avoid problems in bookmarks the shorthand should be hyperref aware.

```
\providecommand\texorpdfstring[2]{#1}
\declare@shorthand{portuges}{"|}{%
  \texorpdfstring{\textormath{\discretionary{-}{}{\kern.03em}}{}}{}}
```

\- All that is left now is the redefinition of \-. The new version of \- should indicate an extra hyphenation position, while allowing other hyphenation positions to be generated automatically. The standard behaviour of TEX in this respect is very unfortunate for languages such as Dutch and German, where long compound words are quite normal and all one needs is a means to indicate an extra hyphenation position on top of the ones that TEX can generate from the hyphenation patterns.

```
\expandafter\addto\csname extras\CurrentOption\endcsname{%
  \babel@save\-}
\expandafter\addto\csname extras\CurrentOption\endcsname{%
  \def\-{\allowhyphens\discretionary{-}{}{}\allowhyphens}}
```

\ord \ro We also provide an easy way to typeset ordinals, both in the male (\ord or \ro) and the female (orda or \ra) form.

\orda \ra

```
\def\ord{$^{\mathrm o}$}
\def\orda{$^{\mathrm a}$}
\let\ro\ord\let\ra\orda
```

The macro \ldf@finish takes care of looking for a configuration file, setting the main language to be switched on at \begin{document} and resetting the category code of @ to its original value.

```
\ldf@finish\CurrentOption
```

⟨/code⟩