

AcroTeX.Net

The ran_toks Package
Randomizing the order of tokens

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1. Introduction

This is a short package for randomizing the order of tokens. The package is long overdue; users of **AeB** and of `eqexam` have long asked for a way to randomize the order of the problems in a test or quiz, or anything for that matter.

 The `examples` folder contains nine demonstration files:

1. `ran-toks.tex` reproduces the sample code of this manual.
2. `rt-tst-eqe.tex` shows how to use `ran_toks` to randomize the *questions* of an exam document created by the `eqexam` package.
3. `rt-tst-qz.tex` shows how to randomize choices of a multiple choice field in a quiz environment of the `exerquiz` package, when the choices contain verbatim text.
4. `rt-cb.tex` is a demonstration of how to use the `collectbox` package to place verbatim content into a token list (see `\ranToks`, [Section 3.1](#)).

The next five files concern the DB application and require the `usedbapp` option, they are discussed in [Section 5](#).

5. `mc-db.tex` is an `eqexam` file, draws from the database files `db1.tex`, `db2.tex`, `db3.tex`, and `db4.tex`, to construct the questions of the exam. The questions are drawn at random from the DB files. Refer to [Section 5](#) for a few more details.
6. `mc-dbu.tex` is an `eqexam` file that draws from the database test file, draws from the database files `db1.tex`, `db2.tex`, `db3.tex`, and `db4.tex`, to construct the questions of the exam. However, `mc-dbu.tex` differs from `mc-db.tex` for it selects unique questions cross the four versions of the document. Refer to [Section 5](#) for a few more details.
7. `viewDB.tex` A demo file of how to view the DB files for the purpose of reviewing the questions, modifying them, or adding to them.
8. `mc-dbu-ctrl.d.tex` is a variation on `mc-dbu.tex`, it is not meant to be compiled directly, but by the file `ctrl-build.tex`.
9. `ctrl-build.tex` is a simple TEX file that controls the compilation of a targeted file (`mc-dbu-ctrl.d.tex` in this example) over the various versions supported by the targeted file. Try it, you'll like it. Uses the `shellesc` package to control the process.

2. The Preamble and Package Options

The preamble for this package is

```
\usepackage[<options>]{ran_toks}
```

usedbapp
option

The one option of `ran_toks` is `usedbapp`, which brings in specialized code to support a

database test application. This option is discussed in [Section 5](#), beginning on page 11.

The requirements for `ran_toks` are the `verbatim` package (part of the standard \LaTeX distribution, and the macro file `random.tex` by Donald Arseneau.

3. The main commands and environments

There are two styles for defining a series of tokens to be randomized, using either the `\ranToks` command or the `\bRTVToks/\eRTVToks` pair. Each of these is discussed in the next two subsections.

3.1. The `\ranToks` command

The `\ranToks` command was the original concept; declare a series of tokens to be randomized.

```
\ranToks{<name>}{%
  {<token1>}
  {<token2>}
  ...
  {<tokenn>}
}
```

where `<tokenk>` is any non-verbatim content;¹ each token is enclosed in braces (`{}`), this is required. The `<name>` parameter is required, and must be unique for the document; it is used to build the names of internal macros. Of course several such `\ranToks` can be used in the document, either in the preamble or in the body of the document. Multiple `\ranToks` commands must have a different `<name>` parameter.

After a `\ranToks` command has been executed, the number of tokens counted is accessible through the `\nToksFor` command,

```
\nToksFor{<name>}
```

The one argument is `<name>`, and will expand to the total number of tokens listing as argument in the `\ranToks` command by the same name.

The `\ranToks` command does not display the randomized tokens, for that the command `\useRanTok` is used.

```
\useRanTok{<num>}
\useRTName{<name>}
```

The argument of `\useRanTok` is a positive integer between 1 and `\nToksFor{<name>}`, the number of tokens declared by `\ranToks`, inclusive. There is no space created following the `\useRanTok` command, so if these are to be used “inline”, enclose them in braces (`{}`), for example, `{\useRanTok{1}}`. The use of `\useRTName` is optional unless the listing of the `\useRanTok` commands is separated from the `\ranToks` command

¹However, for workarounds, see `rt-cb.tex` and `rt-tst-qz.tex`.

that defined them by another `\ranToks` command of a different name. That should be clear!

Consider this example.

```
\ranToks{myPals}{%
  {Jim}{Richard}{Don}
  {Alex}{Tom}{J\"{u}rgen}
}
```

I have 6 pals, they are Alex, Jim, Tom, Jürgen, Don and Richard. (Listed in the order of best friend to least best friend.) The verbatim listing is,

```
I have {\nToksFor{myPals}} pals, they are \useRanTok{1},
\useRanTok{2}, \useRanTok{3}, \useRanTok{4}, {\useRanTok{5}}
and \useRanTok{6}.
```

Notice that `\useRanToks` are not enclosed in braces for 1–4 because they are each followed by a comma; the fifth token, `{\useRanTok{5}}`, is enclosed in braces to generate a space following the insertion of the text.

Repeating the sentence yields, “I have 6 pals, they are Alex, Jim, Tom, Jürgen, Don and Richard”, which is the exact same random order. To obtain a different order, re-execute the `\ranToks` command with the same arguments.² Doing just that, we obtain, “I have 6 pals, they are Jürgen, Alex, Don, Tom, Jim and Richard.” A new order? An alternative to re-executing `\ranToks` is to use the `\reorderRanToks` command:

```
\reorderRanToks{<name>}
```

Now, executing `\reorderRanToks{myPals}` and compiling the sentence again yields, “I have 6 pals, they are Jürgen, Alex, Don, Tom, Jim and Richard.” For most applications, re-randomizing the same token list in the same document is not very likely something you need to do.

The `\reorderRanToks{<name>}` rearranges the list of tokens associated with `<name>`, which may not be what you want; the `\copyRanToks` command, on the other hand, makes a (randomized) copy of its first required argument `<name1>` and saves it as `<name2>`, without effecting the order of `<name1>`.

```
\copyRanToks{<name1>}{<name2>}
```

Thus, if `\copyRanToks{myPals}{myPals1}` is executed, the token list name `myPals1` contains the names of my pals in another randomized order, while maintaining the same order of `myPals`.

My original application for this, the one that motivated writing this package at long last, was the need to arrange several form buttons randomly on the page. My point is that the listing given in the argument of `\ranToks` can pretty much be anything that is allowed to be an argument of a macro; this would exclude verbatim text created by `\verb` and verbatim environments.

²`\ranToks{myPals}{\{Jim\}{Richard\}{Don\}{Alex\}{Tom\}{J\"{u}rgen\}}` in this example.

3.2. The `\bRTVToks`/`\eRTVToks` pair of commands

Sometimes the content to be randomized is quite large or contains verbatim text. For this, it may be more convenient to use the `\bRTVToks`/`\eRTVToks` command pair. The syntax is

```
\bRTVToks{<name>} % <-Begin token listing
\begin{rtVW}
  <content1>
\end{rtVW}
...
...
\begin{rtVW}
  <contentn>
\end{rtVW}
\eRTVToks % <-End token listing
```

The `\bRTVToks{<name>}` command begins the (pseudo) environment and is ended by `\eRTVToks`. Between these two are a series of `rtVW` (random toks verbatim write) environments. When the document is compiled, the contents (`<contenti>`) of each of these environments are written to the computer hard drive and saved under a different name (based on the parameter `<name>`). Later, using the `\useRanTok` commands, they are input back into the document in a random order.

`\RTVWHook` The `rtVW` environment also writes the command `\RTVWHook` to the top of the file. Its initial value is `\relax`. It can be redefined with `\rtVWHook{<arg>}`, which expands to `\def\RTVWHook{<arg>}`.

The use of `\useRTName` and `\useRanTok` were explained and illustrated in the previous section. Let's go to the examples,

```
\bRTVToks{myThoughts}
\begin{rtVW}
\begin{minipage}[t]{.67\linewidth}
Roses are red and violets are blue,
I've forgotten the rest, have you too?
\end{minipage}
\end{rtVW}
\begin{rtVW}
\begin{minipage}[t]{.67\linewidth}
I gave up saying bad things like
\verb!$#%^^*%&#@$! when I was just a teenager.
\end{minipage}
\end{rtVW}
\begin{rtVW}
\begin{minipage}[t]{.67\linewidth}
I am a good guy, pass it on! The code for this last sentence is,
\begin{verbatim}
%#%$ I am a good guy, pass it on! ^&*&^*
```

```

\end{verbatim}
How did that other stuff get in there?
\end{minipage}
\end{rtVW}
\eRTVToks

```

OK, now, let's display these three in random order. Here we place them in an `enumerate` environment.

1. I gave up saying bad things like `$#%^^*%^&#$@#` when I was just a teenager.
2. I am a good guy, pass it on! The code for this last sentence is,

```

%#$$ I am a good guy, pass it on! ^&*&^*

```

How did that other stuff get in there?
3. Roses are red and violets are blue, I've forgotten the rest, have you too?

The verbatim listing of the example above is

```

\begin{enumerate}
  \item \useRanTok{1}
  \item \useRanTok{2}
  \item \useRanTok{3}
\end{enumerate}

```

The `\reorderRanToks` works for lists created by the `\bRTVToks/\bRTVToks` construct. If we say `\reorderRanToks{myThoughts}` and reissue the above list, we obtain,

1. I am a good guy, pass it on! The code for this last sentence is,

```

%#$$ I am a good guy, pass it on! ^&*&^*

```

How did that other stuff get in there?
2. Roses are red and violets are blue, I've forgotten the rest, have you too?
3. I gave up saying bad things like `$#%^^*%^&#$@#` when I was just a teenager.

The command `\copyRanToks` works for list created by `\bRTVToks/\bRTVToks` as well.

On the `\displayListRandomly` command. In the `enumerate` example immediately above, the items in the list are explicitly listed as `\item \useRanTok{1}` and so on; an alternate approach is to use the command `\displayListRandomly`, like so,

```
\begin{enumerate}
  \displayListRandomly[\item]{myThoughts}
\end{enumerate}
```

The full syntax for `\displayListRandomly` is displayed next.

```
\displayListRandomly[⟨prior⟩][⟨post⟩]{⟨name⟩}
```

The action of `\displayListRandomly` is to expand all tokens that are listed in the `⟨name⟩` token list, each entry is displayed as `⟨prior⟩\useRanTok{i}⟨post⟩`, where `i` goes from 1 to `\nToksFor{⟨name⟩}`. In the example above, `⟨prior⟩` is `\item`, but normally, its default is empty. The defaults for `⟨prior⟩` and `⟨post⟩` are both empty.

The optional arguments. When only one optional argument is present, it is interpreted as `⟨prior⟩`. To obtain a `⟨post⟩` with no `⟨prior⟩` use the syntax,

```
\displayListRandomly[][⟨post⟩]{⟨name⟩}
```

Within *each optional argument*, the four commands `\i`, `\first`, `\last`, and `\lessone` are (locally) defined. The `\i` command is the index counter of the token currently being typeset; `\first` is the index of the first item; `\last` is the index of the last item; and `\lessone` is one less than `\last`. The two optional arguments and the four commands may use to perform logic on the token as it is being typeset. For example:

```
List of pals: \displayListRandomly
  [\ifnum\i=\last and \fi]
  [\ifnum\i=\last.\else, \fi]{myPals}
```

yields,

```
List of pals: Jürgen, Alex, Don, Tom, Jim, and Richard.
```

The optional arguments are wrapped to the next line to keep them within the margins, cool.

The example above shows the list of my pals with an Oxford comma. How would you modify the optional argument to get the same listing without the Oxford comma? (Jürgen, Alex, Don, Tom, Jim and Richard.) Hint: a solution involves the other command `\lessone`.

4. Additional arguments and commands

The syntax given earlier for `\useRanTok` was not completely specified. It is,

```
\useRanTok[⟨name⟩]{⟨num⟩}
```

The optional first parameter specifies the `⟨name⟩` of the list from which to draw a random token; `⟨num⟩` is the number of the token in the range of 1 and `\nToksFor{⟨name⟩}`, inclusive. The optional argument is useful in special circumstances when you want to mix two random lists together.

To illustrate: Jürgen, Roses are red and violets are blue, I've forgotten the rest,
have you too?

The verbatim listing is

```
To illustrate: \useRanTok[myPals]{1}, \useRanTok[myThoughts]{2}
```

The typeset version looks a little strange, but recall, the text of `myThoughts` were each put in a `minipage` of width `.67\linewidth`. Without the `minipage`, the text would wrap around normally.

Accessing the original order. The original order of the list of tokens is not lost, you can retrieve them using the command `\rtTokByNum`,

```
\rtTokByNum[⟨name⟩]{⟨num⟩}
```

This command expands to the token declared in the list named `⟨name⟩` that appears at the `⟨num⟩` place in the list. (Rather awkwardly written.) For example, my really best pals are Don and Alex, but don't tell them. The listing is,

```
For example, my really best pals are {\rtTokByNum[myPals]{3}}
and \rtTokByNum[myPals]{4}, but don't tell them.
```

In some sense, `\rtTokByNum[⟨name⟩]` acts like a simple array, the length of which is `\nToksFor{⟨name⟩}`, and whose k^{th} element is `\rtTokByNum[⟨name⟩]{⟨k⟩}`.

Turning off randomization. The randomization may be turned off using `\ranToksOff` or turned back on with `\ranToksOn`.

```
\ranToksOff \ranToksOn
```

This can be done globally in the preamble for the whole of the document, or in the body of the document just prior to either `\ranToks` or `\bRTVToks`. For example,

```
\ranToksOff
\ranToks{integers}{ {1}{2}{3}{4} }
\ranToksOn
```

As a check, executing `"\useRanTok{3} = \rtTokByNum{3} = 3"` yields `'3 = 3 = 3'`? As anticipated.

To create a non-randomized list of tokens that already have been created (and randomized), use `\copyRanToks`:

```
\ranToksOff\copyRanToks{myPals}{myOriginalPals}\ranToksOn
```

Then, using `\displayListRandomly` in a clever way,

```
\displayListRandomly[\ifnum\i=\last\space and \fi(\the\i)~]
[\ifnum\i=\last.\else,\fi\space]{myOriginalPals}
```

we obtain: (1) Jim, (2) Richard, (3) Don, (4) Alex, (5) Tom, and (6) Jürgen. The original list for `myPa1s` remains unchanged: (1) Jürgen, (2) Alex, (3) Don, (4) Tom, (5) Jim, and (6) Richard.

The `\useRanTok` command—whether it operates on a randomized token list or not—behaves similarly to an array. Thus, if we wanted to extract the third entry of the non-randomized token list (array) `myOriginalPa1s`, we do so by expanding the command `\useRanTok[myOriginalPa1s]{3}` to produce Don.

Document preparation. The command `\ranToksOff` is probably best in the preamble to turn off all randomization while the rest of the document is being composed.

The `ran_toks` auxiliary file. The package writes to a file named `\jobname_rt.sav`, below represents two typical lines in this file.

```
1604051353 % initializing seed value
5747283528 % last random number used
```

The first line is the initializing seed value used for the last compilation of the document; the second line is the last value of the pseudo-random number generator used in the document.

Normally, the pseudo-random number generator provided by `random.tex` produces a new initial seed value every minute. So if you recompile again before another minute, you'll get the same initial seed value.

Controlling the initial seed value. To obtain a new initial seed value each time you compile, place `\useLastAsSeed` in the preamble.

```
\useLastAsSeed
```

When the document is compiled, the initial seed value taken as the second line in the `\jobname_rt.sav` file, as seen in the above example. With this command in the preamble, a new set of random numbers is generated on each compile. If the file `\jobname_rt.sav` does not exist, the generator will be initialized by its usual method, using the time and date.

The command `\useThisSeed` allows you to reproduce a previous pseudo-random sequence.

```
\useThisSeed{<init_seed_value>}
```

This command needs to be placed in the preamble. The value of `<init_seed_value>` is an integer, normally taken from the first line of the `\jobname_rt.sav` file.

When creating tests (possibly using `eqexam`), the problems, or contiguous collections of problems, can be randomly ordered using the `\bRTVToks/\eRTVToks` command pair paradigm. For example, suppose there are two classes and you want a random order (some of) the problems for each of the two classes. Proceed as follows:

1. Compile the document, open `\jobname_rt.sav`, and copy the first line (in the above example, that would be 1604051353).

2. Place `\useThisSeed{1604051353}` in the preamble. Compiling will bring back the same pseudo-random sequence very time.
3. Comment this line out, and repeat the process (use `\useLastAsSeed` to generate new random sequences at each compile) until you get another distinct randomization, open `\jobname_rt.sav`, and copy the first line again, say its 735794511.
4. Place `\useThisSeed{735794511}` in the preamble.
5. Label each

```
%\useThisSeed{1604051353} % 11:00 class
%\useThisSeed{735794511} % 12:30 class
```

To reproduce the random sequence for the class, just uncomment the random seed used for that class.

If you are using `eqexam`, the process can be automated as follows:

```
\vA{\useThisSeed{1604051353}} % 11:00 class
\vB{\useThisSeed{735794511}} % 12:30 class
```

Again, this goes in the preamble.

5. Commands to support a DB application

The commands described in this section are only available with the `usedbapp` option,

```
\usepackage[usedbapp]{ran_toks}
```

This option was designed for an `eqexam` document.

5.1. Basic functionality

The premise here is that you have an `eqexam` document (a test) and you have a series of standard questions you ask students. Over the years, you have accumulated questions of a similar type that you like to pose to your students. The questions of a similar type are placed in a DB test file. For example, you have a file named `db1.tex` containing questions on a certain narrow topic. The format for this file is,

```
%
% Questions on some narrow topic
%
\bRTVToks{DB1} %<-DB <name>
\begin{rtVW}
% an eqexam question is contained in this rtVW environment
\end{rtVW}
\begin{rtVW}
% an eqexam question is contained in this rtVW environment
\end{rtVW}
...
\eRTVToks
```

Refer to the file `db1.tex`, `db2.tex`, ..., `db4.tex` for more specific examples. The DB $\langle name \rangle$ must be unique among all the DB test files used.

The next step is to input your DB files. To do this, execute either of the commands `\useTheseDBs` or `\useProbDBs` prior to the opening of an exam environment (eexam), or perhaps in the preamble. The syntax is,

$\begin{array}{l} \backslash\text{useTheseDBs}\{\langle db_1 \rangle, \langle db_2 \rangle, \dots, \langle db_n \rangle\} \\ \backslash\text{useProbDBs}\{\langle db_1 \rangle, \langle db_2 \rangle, \dots, \langle db_n \rangle\} \end{array}$	(An alias for <code>\useTheseDBs</code>)
--	---

The argument of `\useTheseDBs` is a comma-delimited list of file names. Each file name contains a `\brTVTok`/`\eRTVTok` construct. Within this pair are `rtVW` environments, as described in [Section 3.2](#). The `\useTheseDBs` command inputs the files listed in its comma-delimited argument; a warning is emitted if one or more of the files are not found. The default extension is `.tex`, `\useTheseDBs{db1,db2}` inputs the files `db1.tex` and `db2.tex`, if they exist, while `\useTheseDBs{db1.def,db2.db}` inputs the files `db1.def` and `db2.db`, if they exist. The command `\useProbDBs` is an alias for `\useTheseDBs`.

Once the database files have been input, in the body of the document you can extract questions using `\useRanTok`; for example, `\useRanTok[DB1]{1}` extracts the question with an index of 1 from the database file DB1;³ `\useRanTok[DB2]{2}` extracts the question with an index of 2 from the database file DB2, and so on.

Refer to the demonstration file `mc-db.tex` for an example.

5.2. Striving for uniqueness of choices

By default, when you expand `\useRanTok{1}` and later you expand `\useRanTok{1}` again you get the exact same result;⁴ this is the normal behavior. However, in the context of posing questions from a database of questions, repeating the questions is not what is wanted necessarily. In the next two subsections, we speak to the problem, first within a single-version document, and secondly, within a multi-version document.

• For documents with a single version

The issue of not wanting to repeat a question from a database comes up when you want to pose several questions from a given database file. We illustrate using the demo file `mc-db.tex` found in the `examples` folder. In that file, the exam has two parts, as shown in [Figure 1](#).⁵ For Part1, we take two problems (at random) from DB1. In Part2, we take two problems again from DB1; these two will be the *same* as the ones chosen from Part1. To get two *different* questions the natural approach is to write `\useRanTok[DB1]{3}` and `\useRanTok[DB1]{4}`, as shown on the right in [Figure 1](#). Now, returning to the First approach, there is a way of forcing `ran_toks` to choose two different question even though the indexes used are the same.

³It is assumed that DB1 is the $\langle name \rangle$ is the required argument of `\brTVTok`, which is declared in the `db1.tex` file.

⁴Here, we are assuming the $\langle name \rangle$ of the token list is the same for both expansions of `\useRanTok{1}`.

⁵The verbatim listing here has been simplified.

```

\begin{Part1}
\useRanTok[DB1]{1}
\useRanTok[DB1]{2}
\end{Part1}

% First approach      % An alternate approach
\begin{Part2}        % \begin{Part2}
\useRanTok[DB1]{1}   % \useRanTok[DB1]{3}
\useRanTok[DB1]{2}   % \useRanTok[DB1]{4}
\end{Part2}          % \end{Part2}

```

Figure 1: Simplified two-part exam

To have different questions appear when you specify `\useRanTok[DB1]{1}` and `\useRanTok[DB1]{2}`, first expand the command `\uniqueXDBChoicesOn`, perhaps between parts or in the preamble. When `\uniqueXDBChoicesOn` is expanded, `\useRanTok` tries to find an “unused” choice.

```

\uniqueXDBChoicesOn
\begin{document}
...
\begin{Part1}
\useRanTok[DB1]{1}
\useRanTok[DB1]{2}
\end{Part1}

%\uniqueXDBChoicesOn

\begin{Part2}
\useRanTok[DB1]{1}
\useRanTok[DB1]{2}
\end{Part2}

```

The command `\uniqueXDBChoicesOff` turns off the feature of striving to find “unused” choices. Additional discussion on `\uniqueXDBChoicesOn` is found in the next section; the command `\InputUsedIDs`, discussed in the next section, is not needed when the `eqexam` document *does not have* multiple versions. You can experiment with striving to find unused questions in the demo file `mc-db.tex`.

- **For documents with multiple versions**

The scheme outlined in [Section 5.1](#) works well for an `eqexam` document that only has one version in the source file. The way `ran_toks` works, it will not repeat random choices — unless you sample from a same DB file more times than there are problems in that file; for example, suppose `db1.tex` has two questions in it, if you execute `\useRanTok[DB1]{1}`, `\useRanTok[DB1]{2}`, and `\useRanTok[DB1]{3}`, then the problem selected by `\useRanTok[DB1]{3}` is the same as `\useRanTok[DB1]{1}`. This latter situation is not likely, is it?

One of the very powerful features of eqexam is that a single source file can have multiple versions in it.

```

\examNum{1}
\numVersions{4}
\forVersion{a} % a, b, c, d
\VA{\useThisSeed{54356}}
\VB{\useThisSeed{577867}}
\VC{\useThisSeed{6746788}}
\VD{\useThisSeed{856785}}

```

The above shows how to set up a multi-version eqexam document, see the eqexam documentation for more details. Here, as in the demo file `mc-dbu.tex`, we declare 4 versions (a, b, c, and d). `\forVersion{a}` declares the next compile is for version a (or A, either one). List also is a method of passing an initial seed to the pseudo-random number generator, for each version. (These can be arbitrarily typed in, or obtained by the methods discussed in [Controlling the initial seed value](#) on page 10.)

The problem. For a multi-version eqexam document, where each version samples from the same set of DB Test files, later versions of the exam may have questions that are repeats of the ones posed in earlier versions of the same source file. This may or may not be a problem if the different versions are given to different classes at approximately the same time where there is no opportunity for the details of the test to “leak out” from one class to another.

The solution. The solution to this problem requires the introduction of several new commands.

<code>\uniqueXDBChoicesOn</code>	% there is also <code>\uniqueXDBChoicesOff</code> (the default)
<code>\InputUsedIDs</code>	% preamble only (required)
<code>%\viewIDstrue</code>	% to view the IDs of problems used

The `\uniqueXDBChoicesOn` command brings some special code into the `\useRanTok` command; this special code tries to select problems that have not already been selected by earlier versions of the source document. Key to this selection process is that the special code needs to know which questions were earlier selected; that is the role of the `\InputUsedIDs`. This latter command uses the value declared in `\numVersions`, so it must appear *after* the declaration of the number of versions.

When `\uniqueXDBChoicesOn` is expanded, as the source document is compiled, an auxiliary file named `\jobname-ver<Ltr>.cut` is written. This file keeps a record of the problem ID of the problems selected, believe it or not. `\InputUsedIDs` inputs the appropriate CUT files:

- for version B, `\jobname-verA.cut` is input;
- for version C, `\jobname-verA.cut`, `\jobname-verB.cut` are input;
- for version D, `\jobname-verA.cut`, `\jobname-verB.cut`, `\jobname-verC.cut` are input;
- and so on.

In this way, when you compile version $\langle Ltr \rangle$, the document inputs all the information it needs about previous versions to make an informed choice.

Workflow. When compiling a multi-version eqexam document, do the following:

1. Build each version in *alphabetical order*, that is, compile with `\forVersion{a}`, then `\forVersion{b}`, and so on.
2. Rename PDF produced to reflect the version $\langle Ltr \rangle$; eg, `\jobname-verA.pdf` or `\jobname-sec02.pdf`, or whatever.⁶

Now, I simply must get back to my retirement. ~~DS~~

⁶The demo file `ctrl-build.tex` shows how to build all versions and rename the final PDF files all from one controlling file.