
MeVisLab Definition Language (MDL) Reference

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Abstract

This document describes the MDL (**MeVisLab Definition Language**) of MeVisLab and was published on 2025-06-26.

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Chapter 1. MDL Syntax

This is a short introduction to the **MeVisLab Definition Language (MDL)**, in which all `.def`, `.script` and various other files for the MeVisLab are written. The MDL is a configuration and layouting language, not a real programming language. You can set tags and values for the tags, but there are some extensions to this static scheme.

If found in `.def` or `.script` files, the MDL is used for layouting the GUI of modules. That is the arranging of fields implemented in C++ on a module panel or adding new fields and functionality to modules, especially to macro modules.

Besides just layouting the GUI for a module, the MDL offers adding commands that call scripting methods (Python) on occasions like altering a field's value or opening a module's panel. The MDL controls can be scripted with Python, a scripting link into the MeVisLab Scripting Reference is given where appropriate.

MDL is tag-based. Typically, a tag is set to a certain value or to a group of tags. There are also special tags to conditionally parse parts of a file or to test for miscellaneous conditions.

1.1. Tags and Values

Setting a tag is simple:

```
TAGNAME = VALUE
```

The equal sign `=` has to be used between every tag and its value, except for groups, where the value is optional (see [Groups](#)). TAGNAME as well as VALUE need to be a single token. If a token should contain whitespace, there are various ways to quote this value.

The most simple way is to enclose a value containing whitespace in quotes:

```
myTag = "Example with whitespace and \"quotes\" and a \\ backslash "
```

Quotes and backslashes are escaped using backslashes, which can be cumbersome when frequent usage is required. There are two alternative ways to enclose long values that contain special characters:

```
// Enclosing with "*"
droppedFileCommand = " py: ctx.field("fileName").value = args[0] *"

// Enclosing with @@
droppedFileCommand = @@ py: ctx.field("fileName").value = args[0] @@
```

Inside strings starting with a quote-star `"*` and ending with a star-quote `*"`, or inside strings enclosed in double `@` characters `@@`, you can use all characters without escaping them except for the backslash character. Only if you want to use a sequence of characters that is the same as the ending of the used delimiters, you need to escape them with backslashes.

If you use any kind of quoting, you need to escape backslashes with a double backslash `\\`.

Overview of quoting and the characters you need to escape with a backslash:

```
" ... "
    Escape " with \" or use ' in Python instead.

    Escape \ with \\.

"* ... *"
    Escape "*" with *\".
```


Escape \ with \\.

@@ ... @@

Escape @@ with @\@.

Escape \ with \\.

1.2. Tag Data Types

The different tags in the MDL have different data types. Those data types are listed here with a general explanation. A more detailed explanation can be found at the actual tags.

STRING

An arbitrary description string. If the string contains spaces, it has to be enclosed in quotes.

The tag data of type `STRING` may be translated to other languages by an internationalization mechanism.

This type is used as a control's `name`, as its `title`, `comment`, `whatsThis`- and `toolTip` `text`.

Examples:

```
title = SomeExampleTitle
comment = "This example comment contains spaces"
```

STRINGLIST

A list of strings, separated by commas or spaces.

This type is used for the `genre` and `group` and various other tags.

Examples:

```
genre = Lung
group = "Release, LungPrivate"
```

AUTHORS

A list of comma separated strings. The authors have to be written as "FirstName LastName".

Have a look at the detailed description of the [author](#) tag.

NAME

A unique identifier that must not contain spaces.

This type is used for identifying objects across script, scripting, and C++ code. Tags such as `item`, `module`, `DLL`, `field panel` or `deprecatedName` are of this type.

NAMELIST

A list of unique identifiers, separated by commas. The unique identifiers must not contain spaces.

This type is used for the `filter` tag of the [EventFilter](#).

To get a list of the possible values of the `filter` tag, use the auto-completion of the text editor MATE.

BOOL

A boolean value.

Possible values are `Yes` (alternatives: `True`, `1`, `On`) and `No` (alternatives: `False`, `0`, `Off`).

UINT

An unsigned integer value.

INT

An integer value.

FLOAT

A floating-point value.

ENUM

One of a fixed list of unique identifiers.

Have a look at the detailed description of tags of type `ENUM` for the possible values and the default value. Also, the possible values are shown in MATE's auto-completion.

FIELD

A unique and existing identifier of a field.

This type is used, i.e., for the `field` tag of the [Accel](#).

FIELDLIST

A list of unique and existing field identifiers, separated by commas.

This type is used for the list of fields in the [Persistence](#) description.

FIELDEXPRESSION

An expression that is based on field values.

This type is used for the tags `min`, `max`, `dependsOn`, and `visibleOn`.

The following operators are supported (precedence in order of appearance):

- ()

Parentheses

- ||

Logical or expression (lazy-evaluated)

- &&

Logical and expression (lazy-evaluated)

- == != < <= > >=

Comparison; Boolean fields and expressions are compared as boolean, numbers are compared as numbers, and everything else is compared as strings. If the right hand side is a regexp, the left hand expression is matched to the regexp.

- + -

Addition and subtraction; numbers are handled as expected. If one of the arguments is not a number, the values are concatenated as strings, or the second argument is removed from the first argument string if found.

- *

Multiplication, only applicable on numeric arguments

- -

Unary minus that can be used in front of parentheses and numbers or number fields

- !

Unary not that can be used in front of parentheses and boolean fields

- [sequence of digits (with optional . somewhere but not in the first place)]

Numeric value

- `fieldName`

The name of a field (may also be a qualified name with `modulename.fieldname`)

Bool Fields are interpreted as their bool value, all other fields are interpreted as their string or numeric value, depending on the operation applied.

- `"String"`

A string constant that is given in quotes. Note that there is no way of quoting `"` inside of a string at the moment.

- `/regexp/[i]`

A regular expression, the optional `i` after the closing `/` makes the expression case-insensitive

Regular expression can only be used on the right hand side of a comparison.

Note that there is no way of quoting `/` inside of a string at the moment.

Some operations are provided as functions, i.e., like

```
functionName(argument0, ...)
```

- `min()`: Returns the minimum value of all arguments.
- `max()`: Returns the maximum value of all arguments.
- `abs()`: Returns the absolute (positive) value of argument.
- `if(condition, argTrue, argFalse)`: Returns the second argument if the first argument evaluates to `True`; otherwise, the third argument is returned.

PATH

A relative or absolute path to a directory. If it is a relative path, useful variables are listed in [Section 1.4, "Variables"](#).

The path delimiter is a `/`, independent of the platform.

FILE

Same as `PATH` but with a specified file. This file can be, e.g., a scripting file (`.py`), an HTML file (`.html`), or a network file (`.mlab`).

SCRIPT

A unique name of a scripting function implemented in a separated and included scripting file, or a single line of scripting code.

COLOR

A color definition, explained in more detail [here](#).

KEYSEQUENCE

A keysequence or shortcut to trigger certain functionality. The set string may be translated to other languages by an internationalization mechanism.

A `KEYSEQUENCE` is used in menus and in the [Accel](#).

RICHTEXT

A string containing HTML formatting.

This type is used in the [TextView](#) or similar controls.

A table with all supported HTML tags can be found in the chapter [RichText](#).

FORMATSTRING

A C-like expression for formatting a (floating-point) number.

Have a look at the [NumberEdit](#) control for more information.

REGEXP

A regular expression for string matching.

This type is used in the [LineEdit](#) control for validating the entered string.

QTSLOT

A Qt slot that is triggered if a control emits a signal.

This type is used in the [MenuItem](#).

1.3. Groups

Group tags are used for hierarchical tags. This means that you can build not only flat tag lists but also complete tree hierarchies. A group tag starts with a tag name, an optional value, and an opening curly brace, it ends with a closing curly brace. Inside of the braces, you can set normal tags with values or other group tags:

```
myGroup exampleGroup {
    normalTag = "This is a normal tag"
    groupInside {
        insideTag = "Another example tag"
    }
}
tagOnlyGroup {
    normalTag = "This group has no value"
}
```

In contrast to normal tags, a group tag does not need to have a value. The second example above shows a group that has only the tag name but no value before the group is opened.

1.4. Variables

The MDL has some predefined variables that are useful for its purposes. To get the value of a variable, write its name inside a pair of parentheses with a dollar sign prefix: `$(VARIABLE)`.

The following variables are defined:

`LOCAL` - Contains the full path of the currently parsed file.

`HOME` - The home directory of the user.

`PackageIdentifier` - A unique name with the structure: `MLAB_PackageGroup_PackageName`

In addition to these predefined variables, you can get the values of all tags from the `mevislab.prefs` file.

Variables in MDL can be escaped by writing `$(*VARIABLE*)`, which expands to `$(VARIABLE)`.

1.5. Including Files

The MDL allows you to include files with the `#include` statement. This is equivalent to pasting the given file at the position of the include statement:

```
#include $(LOCAL)/anotherfile.script
```

The same file can be included multiple times at different places in an MDL file. It is recommended to name included files either `.script` or `.inc`. You should not use the `.def` extension, as this is reserved for module definition files and would be read automatically by MeVisLab on startup.

1.6. Conditions and Special Statements

The MDL allows parsing or skipping parts of files depending on conditions. Additionally, there are statements that enable simple debugging and message printing.

`#ifset` and `#ifnset` are used to test if a variable is set to one of the following values: `Yes`, `True`, `On`, or `1`. If the variable is not set or has a different value, the block is not parsed.

The variables can be defined in the `mevislab.prefs` file.

```
#ifset ApplicationAdvanced {
    // If $(ApplicationAdvanced) is defined and set to Yes, True, On, or 1, parse inside this block
    Field advancedField {}
}
#ifnset ApplicationAdvanced {
    // If $(ApplicationAdvanced) is undefined or not set to Yes, parse the following block
    Field normalField {}
}
```

`#ifdef` and `#ifndef` are used to test for existence of variables (and not its value)

```
#ifdef CPU {
    // If $(CPU) is defined, parse inside this block
    cpuTag = "$(CPU)"
}
#ifndef CPU {
    // If $(CPU) is undefined, parse the following block
    cpuTag = "CPU unknown"
}
```

The `#if` statement is another conditional for parsing blocks. With `#if` you can test the boolean value of a variable or compare two variables as strings or numbers, or compare a variable with a static string. The following operations are possible for a comparison: `<`, `>`, `==`, `>=`, `<=`, `!=`

```
#if $(DEBUG) {
    // Parse this if DEBUG is a defined variable and has the boolean value Yes (True, On, or 1)
    debugTag = "Debugging is fun"
}
#if "$(VERSION)" >= "$(MINVERSION)" {
    // If the variables can be parsed as floating-point numbers, make numeric comparison;
    // otherwise, a lexical comparison is performed
    featureForVersion = true
}
#if "$(HOME)" == "$(LOCAL)" {
    // Parse this if the current MDL file resides in the user's home directory
    myHome = "is my castle"
}
```

The `#echo` statement allows you to print out the value of variables or any other string to the console, which can be very useful for debugging:

```
#if $(DEBUG) {
    #echo "HOME-Dir is $(HOME)"
}
```

The `#abort` statement is used to print an error message and to stop the parser:

```
#ifndef DefaultFont {
    #abort "No default font available!"
}
```

1.7. Comments

Comments in MDL are the same as in C++:

```
// This is a comment before a tag
myTag = myValue
/*
    The following tags are not parsed, as they are inside a comment block
    tag01 = unparsed
    tag02 = unparsed
*/
anotherTag = anotherValue // Comment after tag/value pair
```

Comments can be placed anywhere in the MDL file, except between a tag and its value.

1.8. Naming Conventions and Limitations

Although it is not needed by the parser, it is recommended to use tag names without whitespace and to separate words in tag names with uppercase characters. Both of the following examples are allowed, but the latter is recommended:

```
"Tag with four words" = "The Value"  
tagWithFourWords = "The Value"
```

You can use any character sequence for tag names as long as they are parsable as one tag. To start tag names with characters that end or start new syntactic constructs, for example, { or =, you have to enclose them in quotes or use the same methods as for values.

1.9. Validation

MeVisLab contains a complete definition of allowed MDL tags and throws warnings if the validation of an MDL script fails. Usually, it adds a link to the online documentation so that you can see which tags are possible in the scope you are in.

Chapter 2. Module (Abstract) Declaration

MeVisLab supports three different types of modules, which are derived from an abstract module:

- **MLModule** - An image processing module using the ML.
- **InventorModule** - A visualization module derived from an OpenInventor node.
- **MacroModule** - A macro module that encapsulates an internal network, and has its own panel and script.

The following module tags are supported by all module types. Details on the different modules are given in the following sections.

Dynamic scripting: MLABModule (common base class), MLABMLModule, MLABInventorModule, MLABMacroModule

```
[MLModule|InventorModule|MacroModule] NAME {

  genre           = STRINGLIST
  author          = AUTHORS
  status          = STRING
  group           = STRINGLIST
  comment         = STRING
  keywords        = STRING
  exampleNetwork  = FILE
  seeAlso         = STRING
  documentation   = FILE

  hasTranslation  = BOOL           [No]
  translationModules = STRINGLIST
  translationLanguages = STRINGLIST

  deprecatedName  = STRING
  externalDefinition = FILE
  associatedTests  = STRINGLIST
  relatedFile     = FILE

  activeInputIndex = FIELDEXPRESSION
  activeOutputIndex = FIELDEXPRESSION

  exportedWindow  = STRING

  Interface {
    Inputs {
      Field NAME {...}
      ...
    }

    Outputs {
      Field NAME {...}
      ...
    }

    Parameters {
      Field NAME {...}
      ...
    }
  }

  Description {
    Field NAME {...}
    ...
  }

  Commands {

    source = FILE

    // more source tags...
  }
}
```

```

importPath = PATH

// more importPath tags...

initCommand      = SCRIPT
wakeupCommand    = SCRIPT
droppedFileCommand = SCRIPT
droppedFilesCommand = SCRIPT

FieldListener [FIELD] { ... }
}

Deployment {

    directory = PATH
    ...
    file      = FILE
    ...
    module    = NAME
    ...
    DLL       = NAME
    ...
}

Persistence {

    fields = FIELDLIST

    Module NAME {
        fields = FIELDLIST
    }
}

NetworkPanel {

    info = EXPRESSION

    Button [FIELD] { ... }
}

Window [NAME] {
    ...
}

// more windows...
}

```

genre = GENRENAMES

Specifies one or more genre this module is in. Genres are separated by comma and have to be declared in the global genre file of MeVisLab. If a given genre is not defined, you will get a validator warning and the module is put into the "Other" genre. The genre tag is used to generate automatic entries in the Modules menu of MeVisLab and in the documentation. A module can be in multiple genres.

Example: `genre = "Image, Diffusion"`

See also: [Section 3.1, "Module Genre Definition"](#)

author = AUTHORS

Sets the author(s) of the module, starting with the primary author. Authors have to be separated by comma and should contain both first and last names.

Examples:

```
author = "Author1, Author2"
```

```
author = "First1 Last1, First2 Last2"
```

However, if you list a single author, do not use the format "Last, First" as this results in a pair of authors with just one last name each. Just state the author's name with "First Last".



Warning

Do not write anything except the authors' names in this tag, because the names are used for automatic documentation generation.

status = STRING

Sets the status of the module.

Currently used words are:

- Stable
- Work-in-progress
- Test
- Deprecated

group = STRINGLIST

Sets a list of group names separated by comma. If no group is set, the module is always visible in MeVisLab. If a list of groups is set, the module is only visible in MeVisLab if one of the groups is enabled in the MeVisLab prefs file (`mevislab.prefs`) via the "EnabledGroups" tag.



Note

Visible means that the user can find the module in the search dialogs and in the Modules menu. The modules can still be loaded from a saved network or inside an application, even if they are not visible.

Special groups:

- **Release:** if the string contains the keyword "release", the module is only visible in the MeVisLab release version; otherwise, it is not visible in the release version, regardless of the other groups.

- **Deprecated:** if the string contains the keyword "deprecated", you have to enable the "deprecated" group in MeVisLab's preferences to see those modules, regardless of the other groups.

Examples:

```
group = Deprecated // module will only be visible if "EnabledGroups" contains "deprecated"
```

```
group = Release // module will be visible in MeVisLab release
```

```
group = LungPrivate // module will only be visible if "EnabledGroups" contains "LungPrivate" and if MeVisLab is not in release mode
```

```
group = Release, LungPrivate // module will only be visible if "EnabledGroups" contains "LungPrivate"
```

comment = STRING

Sets a short comment that is shown in the MeVisLab help system and on the network.

(We recommend that you only write a short comment here and use the module documentation for further information.)

keywords = STRING

Sets keywords that are used in the MeVisLab search to find a module by its keywords. The keywords are separated by space.

Make sure that you only use adequate keywords; otherwise, your module will be found more often than wanted. Having no keywords decreases the chance that someone finds the module.

You do not need to set any part of a module's name as a keyword; it does not help in the least. For example, refrain from setting "examiner viewer" as keywords for the module SoExaminerViewer.

exampleNetwork = FILE

Sets an example MeVisLab network that the user can open to see how the module could be used in connection with other module.

This tag can be used multiple times for a module to link to a number of example networks.

seeAlso = STRING

Sets a reference to other modules that are related to this module, separated by space.

Example: `seeAlso = "SoView2D SoOrthoView2D"`

externalDefinition = FILE

Defines a module's interface, GUI windows, and field properties in an external file, typically with the file extension `.script`. It is advised to use the naming convention `$(LOCAL)/ModuleName.script` if you use this tag. The advantage of using this feature is that the MDL file needs only be parsed when the module is really created and not when MeVisLab is started. Make sure that you still provide the simple tags (author, comment, etc.) in the `.def` file so that they are available when MeVisLab is started.

Example: `externalDefinition = $(LOCAL)/ModuleName.script`



Tip

This is typically used in MacroModules, especially when they are applications, to avoid that MeVisLab reads the entire application definition on startup.

associatedTests = STRINGLIST

Specifies a list of functional tests that are associated to the module.

Use the macro module TestCaseManager to generate new tests or to browse and modify existing tests.

See the document TestCenter Manual for more information about functional test cases for specific modules.

hasTranslation = BOOL

Defines whether this module has translations. If a module has translations, then all MDL strings of that module and all occurrences of `ctx.translate()` in its Python source files will be collected and written to a `.ts` file. See [Translations](#) for more information.

translationModules = STRINGLIST

Defines a comma-separated list of modules that also have translations. See [Translations](#) for more information.

translationLanguages = STRINGLIST

Defines a comma-separated list of language initials. For example, "en,de,it". See [Translations](#) for more information.

deprecatedName = STRING

Defines an old, deprecated name for this module, so that networks that contain a module with this name can still be loaded even if the module name was changed.

relatedFile = FILE

References a file that belongs to this module and should appear in the list of related files in the module context menu (besides the automatic entries). It is advised to reference files relative to `$(LOCAL)`. The tag can be used multiple times.

Example: `relatedFile = $(LOCAL)/../SomeSharedConfigFile.xml`

activeInputIndex = FIELDEXPRESSION

The given field expression is evaluated and the calculated integer index is used to highlight the active input connector (e.g., for modules like Switch). Negative values mean that no connector will be active, with the exception of -3, which means that all connectors are active.

activeOutputIndex = FIELDEXPRESSION

The given field expression is evaluated and the calculated integer index is used to highlight the active output connector (e.g., for modules like BaseSwitch). Negative values mean that no connector will be active, with the exception of -3, which means that all connectors are active.

exportedWindow = STRING



Note

Only evaluated by the MeVisLab Web Toolkit, which is not part of the public SDK.

Gives the names of GUI panels that should be available remotely. This may also be the name of a panel of a submodule by giving the name as *submodulename.panelname*. This tag may be used multiple times. If the given panels reference fields of submodules, these fields are exported automatically as fields of the remote module under the name *submodulename.fieldname*.

2.1. Interface

The **Interface** section is used to declare any extra fields of a module. While it is possible to use the interface section in an ML/InventorModule, it is typically only used for [MacroModule](#), since the ML and Inventor modules get their fields automatically from C++. If you want to add a description for a C++ field, refer to the [Description](#) section.

The Interface section can contain three subgroups: Inputs, Outputs, and Parameters. Inputs and Outputs are typically Image, SoNode, or MLBase fields, while the Parameters section typically holds parameter fields like floats, vectors, or color. The declared fields can be both standalone script fields or they can alias an internal field of the internal network of a [MacroModule](#).

```
Interface {
  Inputs {
    Field ...
  }
  Outputs {
    Field ...
  }
  Parameters {
    Field ...
  }
}
```

In each of the subgroups, a field is defined as follows:

```
Field NAME {
  type           = ENUM
  value          = STRING
  comment        = STRING
  hidden         = BOOL           [No]
  priority       = INT            [100]
  editable       = BOOL           [Yes]
  persistent     = BOOL           [Yes]
  isFilePath     = BOOL           [No]
  min            = FIELDEXPRESSION
  max            = FIELDEXPRESSION
  internalName   = FIELD
  allowedTypes   = STRING
  legacyValue    = STRING
  visibleOn      = FIELDEXPRESSION
  dependsOn      = FIELDEXPRESSION
```

```
// for enums:
items {
  item NAME {
    title          = STRING
    deprecatedName = STRING

    // more deprecatedName tags
  }
  ...
}
// old, deprecated enum syntax:
values = STRING
}
```

type = ENUM

Defines the type of the field (is automatically given if `internalName` is used).

Possible values:

- String
- Integer (alias: Int)
- IntVector2
- IntVector3
- IntVector6
- Float
- Double
- Bool
- Trigger
- Vector2
- Vector3
- Vector4
- Vector6
- Plane
- Rotation
- Color
- Matrix
- Enum
- SoNode
- MLBase
- Image
- IntegerList (alias: IntList)
- DoubleList

- Vector2List
- Vector3List
- Vector4List

value = STRING

Sets a default value for the field (it will only be assigned when a module is newly created, *not* on reload of a module), it will be overwritten by a stored value when loaded from a network.

Table 2.1. Value formats by field type

Type	Value Format	Example
Bool	Yes, True, 1, and On evaluate to True (case-insensitive), all other strings to False	Yes
Color	Three floating-point values (RGB) in the range 0.0 to 1.0	"1.0 0.5 0.0"
Double	A single floating-point value	0.33
Enum	The name of an enum item	item2
Float	A single floating-point value	0.33
Image	N/a: images are programatically specified	N/a
Integer	A single integer value	7
Matrix	16 floating-point values; if less are given, then missing elements are taken from the identity	"1.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 1.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 1.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 1.0"
MLBase	N/a: base objects are programatically specified	N/a
Plane	Four floating-point values	"12.0 14.0 5.23 33.0"
Rotation	Four floating-point values	"9.0 2.22 7.33 55.2"
SoNode	N/a: nodes are programatically specified	N/a
String	A string that must be quoted if it contains spaces	"A string with spaces"
Trigger	N/a: a trigger has no value, but triggers an action	N/a
Vector2, Vector3, Vector4	Two, three, or four floating-point values	"234.33 221.0 223.0 11.23"

legacyValue = STRING

Sets a default value for the field when a module is loaded from a network and no value was specified for the field in the saved network. This allows to give a new default value with the value tag and to keep old networks working by setting a compatible legacyValue for old networks.

comment = STRING

Sets a comment describing the field. This comment is shown as a tooltip for input or output fields.

hidden = BOOL (default: No)

Sets whether the field should be visible in the MeVisLab network. This can be used to hide existing input or output images.

priority = INT (default: 100)

Sets the notification priority of the field. A value of 0 means that the field has high priority and GUI controls depending on this field will be updated immediately when the field changes.

editable = BOOL (default: Yes)

Sets whether the field should be editable by default. Also sets the `persistent` attribute to the same value if not specified explicitly.

persistent = BOOL (default: Yes)

Sets whether the field value should be stored in networks, i.e., on saving to disk and on copy&paste.

isFilePath = BOOL (default: No)

Only applicable for fields of type String. Marks the field as containing a file path. When saving to a network file, the value of this field will be expressed with a defined set of path variables, such as `$(NETWORK)`, to make the network relocatable. Also provides [Field](#) controls with an automatic browse button.



Tip

If the user enters a file path in such a control containing any path variables, the visible path will be automatically expanded, and a toggle icon is shown. To force this automatic expansion via scripting, use `setPersistentValue()` instead of `setStringValue()/setValue()` on the string field.

min = [FIELDEXPRESSION](#)

Sets a minimum value for the field. It only works on Number fields. The value can be given as a float value or as an expression containing other fields, which provides and updates the minimum value if these fields change.

max = [FIELDEXPRESSION](#)

Sets a maximum value for the field. It only works on Number fields. The value can be given as a float value or as an expression containing other fields, which provides and updates the maximum value if these fields change.

visibleOn = [FIELDEXPRESSION](#)

Sets an expression that is used to decide whether the field should be visible on the GUI. In case of an input/output field, the field's connector on the network is shown/hidden depending on the expression. In case of a parameter field, the expression is used as `visibleOn` default for all MDL GUI controls that display this field. A `visibleOn` tag in a GUI control overrides the field's default for that GUI control.

dependsOn = [FIELDEXPRESSION](#)

Sets an expression that is used to decide whether the field should be enabled/disabled on the GUI. In case of an input/output field, the field's connector on the network is rendered in an active/non-active state depending on the expression. In case of a parameter field, the expression is used as `dependsOn` default for all MDL GUI controls that display this field. A `dependsOn` tag in a GUI control overrides the field's default for that GUI control.

internalName = FIELD

Defines that the field should alias an internal field of the internal network of a macro module.

If the internal name is given, the `type` of the generated field cannot be selected and is given by the internal field.

allowedTypes = STRING

Gives the names – separated by whitespace – of Base types this field accepts or provides. Only valid for fields of `type` `MLBase`.

This is used by MeVisLab as a hint for which `MLBase` fields can be connected. Specifying this should not be necessary if `internalName` was given for a field, as the type information of that field will be used in this case. Note that this is only a hint, you will still be able to set any Base object by scripting.

As long as the specified type(s) is/are not loaded by the runtime type system of MeVisLab, the type(s) cannot be resolved and MLBase fields of any type are allowed to be connected to this field. Base types are automatically loaded if other modules that use this type are loaded in MeVisLab.

deprecatedName = NAME

Sets an old name to the field, which allows to rename fields in MacroModules/C++ and keep old networks and scripts working. If any `deprecatedName` appears anywhere in a GUI description, a stored network, or in scripting, it is automatically mapped to the name of this field.

Any number of `deprecatedName` tags can be given; they are all parsed.

items

Specifies the enumeration items if the field is of type Enum.

item = NAME

Specifies the (token) name of the item.

title = STRING

Specifies the user visible name of the item.

deprecatedName = STRING

Specifies an old, deprecated name for the item, which can be used with `setStringValue` and causes the enum to take the value of the item instead of the deprecated value.

This tag is used to allow old networks and scripts to work even if enum items have changed or are completely removed.

values = STRING

Defines the enum values in a comma-separated list.

This tag is deprecated and should no longer be used, use `items` instead.

2.2. Description

The **Description** section can be used in addition to the Interface section to assign extra properties to existing C++ fields. No new fields can be created in the Description section; only properties can be added to existing fields.

```
Description {
  Field NAME {
    value           = STRING
    legacyValue     = STRING
    comment         = STRING
    hidden          = BOOL           [No]
    priority        = INT            [100]
    editable        = BOOL           [Yes]
    persistent      = BOOL           [Yes]
    isFilePath      = BOOL           [No]
    min             = FIELDEXPRESSION
    max             = FIELDEXPRESSION
    visibleOn       = FIELDEXPRESSION
    dependsOn       = FIELDEXPRESSION
    deprecatedName  = NAME
    removed         = BOOL           [No]

    // for enums:
    items {
      item NAME {
        title = STRING
        deprecatedName = STRING

        // more deprecatedName tags
      }
      ...
    }
    ...
  }
}
```

value = STRING

Sets a default value for the field, which will be assigned only when the module is newly created and not when reloading the module. This default value will be overwritten by a stored value when loaded from a network.



Note

If you specify a value in both the [Interface](#) section and the [Description](#) section, the value from the Description section will take precedence.

legacyValue = STRING

Sets a default value for the field when a module is loaded from a network and no value was specified for the field in the saved network. This allows to give a new default value with the value tag and to keep old networks working by setting a compatible legacyValue for old networks.

comment = STRING

Sets a comment describing the field, which is shown at the input and output field as a tooltip.

hidden = BOOL (default: No)

Sets whether the field should be visible in the MeVisLab network. This can be used to hide existing input or output fields.

priority = INT (default: 100)

Sets the notification priority of the field, a value of 0 means that the field has high priority and GUI controls depending on this field will be updated immediately when the field changes.

editable = BOOL (default: Yes)

Sets whether the field should be editable by default. Also sets the `persistent` attribute to the same value if not specified explicitly.

persistent = BOOL (default: Yes)

Sets whether the field value should be stored in networks, i.e., on saving to disk and on copy&paste.

isFilePath = BOOL (default: No)

See [Interface isFilePath](#) tag.

min = FIELDEXPRESSION

See [Interface min](#) tag.

max = FIELDEXPRESSION

See [Interface max](#) tag.

visibleOn = FIELDEXPRESSION

See [Interface visibleOn](#) tag.

dependsOn = FIELDEXPRESSION

See [Interface dependsOn](#) tag.

deprecatedName = NAME

Sets an old name to the field, which allows to rename fields in MacroModules/C++ and keep old networks and scripts working. If the `deprecatedName` appears anywhere in a GUI description, a stored network, or in scripting, it is automatically mapped to the name of this field.

Any number of `deprecatedName` tags can be given; they are all parsed.

removed = BOOL (default: No)

Declares this field as being removed and avoids warnings when a network containing stored values for the removed field is loaded.

items

Specifies the enumeration items if the field is of type Enum.

item = NAME

Specifies the (token) name of the item.

title = STRING

Specifies the user visible name of the item.

deprecatedName = STRING

Specifies an old, deprecated name for the item, which can be used with `setStringValue` and causes the enum to take the value of the item instead of the old value.

This tag is used to allow old networks and scripts to work even if enum items have changed or are completely removed.

2.3. Commands

The **Commands** section is used to add script files and commands to the module.

The general sequence for a module initialization is:

1. Initialization of Modules fields.
2. Script call to `initCommand`.
3. Creation of FieldListeners.
4. Restoration of outside field connections to other modules in a loaded network.
5. Script call to `wakeupCommand`.

The detailed order is:

1. Creation of the internal C++ ML/Inventor class or loading the internal MeVisLab network of the MacroModule.
2. Reading internal fields from C++.
3. Creation of self/instanceName fields.
4. Creation of Interface fields (given in the `Interface` section) and parsing of tags in the `Interface` and `Description` section (except for min/max values).
5. Restoration of persistent stored fields (via `setStringValue`).
6. Loading of Python given in `Commands` `source` tags.
7. Creation of min/max values (from the `Interface` and `Description` section).
8. Script call to `initCommand`.
9. Creation of FieldListeners given in the `Commands` section.
10. Field connections to other modules in a network that is restored (from disk or paste buffer) are done.
11. Script call to `wakeupCommand`.

```
Commands {  
  source          = FILE  
  
  // more source files...  
  
  importPath = PATH  
  
  // more importPath tags...
```

```
initCommand          = SCRIPT
wakeupCommand        = SCRIPT
finalizeCommand      = SCRIPT
droppedFileCommand   = SCRIPT
droppedFilesCommand  = SCRIPT

storingToUndoHistoryCommand = SCRIPT
restoredFromUndoHistoryCommand = SCRIPT

moduleItemCreatedCommand = SCRIPT

runApplicationCommand = SCRIPT

FieldListener [FIELD] { ... }
...
}
```

source = FILE

Sets a script file to be loaded in the script context of this module. Python variables, classes, and functions declared in the file are available in all script calls to this module. This tag can be used for multiple files, the files are parsed in the order of declaration

The file extension `.py` specifies Python script files.

Example: `source = $(LOCAL)/ModuleName.py`

importPath = PATH

Adds a directory to the [import path](#) of the module's Python package. Each instance of a MeVisLab module has its own Python package containing different instances of the specified source modules. Python modules and packages from the import path must be imported relatively (see section [Intra-package References](#) of the Python documentation).

Example: `importPath = $(LOCAL)/../../Wherever/YourSharedPythonModules`

initCommand = SCRIPT

Defines a script command that is called when the module is created on a network. At the time of this call, the field connections to other modules in the network have not yet been established.

wakeupCommand = SCRIPT

Defines a script command that is called after the module is created on a network and all other modules have been also created and after all field connections have been established.

finalizeCommand = SCRIPT

Defines a script command that is called when the module's script context is deleted. It can be used to clean up resources that need to be removed or cleared.

This command is called when a module is reloaded or when it is finally deleted, which may occur later than expected because of the undo/redo buffer.

Typically, all Python resources are cleaned automatically, so you will probably never need this command.

droppedFileCommand = SCRIPT

Defines a script command that is called when the user drops a file, directory, or URL on the module's box on the network. For example, this is used in the ImageLoad module to accept dropped filenames.

droppedFilesCommand = SCRIPT

Defines a script command that is called when the user drops files, directories, or URLs on the module's box on the network. For example, this is used in the ImageLoad module to accept dropped filenames.

storingToUndoHistoryCommand = SCRIPT

Defines a script command that is called when a module is removed from the network and placed into the undo history

restoredFromUndoHistoryCommand = SCRIPT

Defines a script command that is called when a module is readded to the network from the undo history

moduleItemCreatedCommand = SCRIPT

Defines a script command that is called when the network model item gets created. This typically happens when the network becomes visible in the MeVisLab IDE.

runApplicationCommand = SCRIPT

Defines a scripting command that is called when a macro module is started as an application, before the macro's window is shown.



Note

This command is only available with a valid ADK license. Have a look at the ADK documentation, chapter Advanced Commands for further information.

FieldListener [FIELD]

The Commands section can contain multiple FieldListeners, see [FieldListener](#) for details on what a FieldListener can be used for. The listeners declared in the commands section are active after the module has been created until the module is deleted. This is typically used to provide functionality to a MacroModule's fields and react on field changes that are independent of the user interface. If you want to have a FieldListener that changes the user interface (i.e., that accesses controls), use a FieldListener inside of a GUI control somewhere in a [Window](#).



Note

Scripting methods and functions without parameter can be called by a command by a simple:

```
command = methodName
```

If the called method or function needs parameters, the scripting string needs to be escaped:

```
command = "*" py: methodName(1,2,3) *
```

2.4. Persistence

The **Persistence** section allows to make the values of internal fields of a MacroModule persistent. It allows to specify a list of fully qualified field names as well as fields grouped by internal modules. In contrast of defining a field on the interface of the macro module, only its value is stored and restored, the persistent fields are not available on the macro module interface. A typical use case is making internal settings persistent.

```
Persistence {  
  fields = FIELDLIST  
  ...  
  Module NAME {  
    fields = FIELDLIST  
    ...  
  }  
  ...  
}
```

fields = FIELDLIST

Defines the fields that are to be stored as a comma-separated list, typically modulename.fieldname. This tag can be used multiple times.

Module = NAME

Defines a section for fields of the given module. This tag can be used multiple times.

The fields listed in the Module tag are given without the leading module name, since that is already given by the section.

2.5. Deployment

The **Deployment** section allows to tell MeVisLab about dynamic dependencies of the module that are required when the module should be deployed to another computer. The `ModuleDependencyAnalyzer` module allows to find most dependencies automatically, but if you, e.g., depend on other directories or if you add modules dynamically in your module, you need to specify these in the `Deployment` section. All tags that are listed below can appear multiple times inside of the same `Deployment` section.

```
Deployment {
    directory = PATH
    file      = FILE
    module    = NAME
    DLL       = NAME
    library   = NAME

    objectWrapper = NAME
    widgetControl = NAME
    preloadDLL    = NAME
    scriptExtension = NAME
    remoteBaseHandler = NAME
    ...

    // Section for files to be deployed on the web server.
    // This feature is not available in the public SDK.
    Web {
        directory = PATH
        file      = FILE
        ...
    }
}
```

directory = PATH

Defines an additional directory that this module depends on.

file = FILE

Defines an additional file that this module depends on.

module = NAME

Defines an additional module that this module depends on.

DLL = NAME

Defines an additional DLL that this module depends on. The name is given without system-specific pre-/postfix, so that the tag works cross-platform. The DLL is copied to the `bin` folder of the standalone application.

library = NAME

Defines an additional library that this module depends on. The dependency analyzer will look for a `NAME.mli` file in all Packages inside the `Configuration/Installers/Libraries` directory. A typical use case is to add a complete ThirdParty library, including the license information and additional files.

Have a look in `MeVis/ThirdParty/Configuration/Installers/Libraries` for some example `.mli` files.

objectWrapper = NAME

Defines an additional ObjectWrapper that this module depends on. This will search for the given wrapper and put its `.def` file into the installer. For example, `objectWrapper = CSOList` will add the scripting wrapper for CSOList to the installer.

widgetControl = NAME

Defines an additional WidgetControl that this module depends on. This will search for the given WidgetControl and put its `.def` file into the installer. For example, `objectWrapper = GLSLTextView` will add the GLSLTextView control to the installer.

Note that WidgetControls are typically auto-detected, but in DynamicFrame scenarios, it can make sense to use this tag anyways.

scriptExtension = NAME

Defines an additional ScriptExtension that this module depends on. This will search for the given extension and put its `.def` file into the installer. For example, `scriptExtension = DicomTools` will add the DicomTools script extension to the installer.

remoteBaseHandler = NAME

Defines an additional RemoteBaseHandler that this module depends on. This will search for the given handler and put its `.def` file into the installer. For example, `remoteBaseHandler = AbstractItemModel` will add the AbstractItemModel handler to the installer.

preloadDLL = NAME

Defines an additional PreloadDLL that this module depends on. This will search for the given PreloadDLL and put its `.def` file into the installer.

Note that this does not cause preloading of a DLL directly, it merely searches for the PreloadDLL tag in the global MDL tree and adds the corresponding `.def` file to the installer.

2.6. MLModule

Defines a module that contains a C++ image processing module derived from Module in the ML.

Typically used tags can be found at the [Module](#)'s definition.

Dynamic scripting: MLABMLModule

```
MLModule NAME {  
  class      = NAME  
  DLL        = NAME  
  projectSource = PATH  
  
  // tags from Module  
}
```

class = NAME (default: same as MLModule NAME)

Sets the name of the C++ module that should be created via the ML runtime system.



Tip

This can be used to have the same internal C++ class for a number of MeVisLab modules with different names and default values, or if you do not want the internal name to appear as the MeVisLab module name.

DLL = NAME

Specifies the dynamic load library where the C++ class for this module is defined in. The name is given without a system-specific pre-/postfix.

Example: `DLL = MLBase`

projectSource = PATH

Specifies the path to the project sources. This optional tag is used to make, e.g., the project file available in the module's context menu and the ModuleInspector. MeVisLab looks for the `CMakeLists.txt` in the referenced directory to create or update the project file if needed.

This option should not be needed if a project is placed within a package that is known to MeVisLab. However, if the project is located at some different place, use this option with either an absolute or a relative path.

Example (relative): `projectSource = $(LOCAL)/../../../../../../../../Foo/Bar/MyProject`

Example (absolute): `projectSource = $(MLAB_MY_PACKAGE)/Sources/ML/MyProject`

2.7. InventorModule

Defines a module that contains a C++ visualization module derived from an OpenInventor SoNode or SoEngine class.

Typically used tags can be found at the [Module](#)'s definition.

Dynamic scripting: MLABInventorModule

```
InventorModule NAME {
  class          = NAME
  DLL            = NAME
  projectSource  = PATH
  hasGroupInputs = BOOL    [No]
  hasViewer      = BOOL    [No]
  hybridMLModule = BOOL    [No]

  // tags from Module
}
```

class = NAME (default: same as InventorModule NAME)

Sets the name of the C++ module that should be created via the OpenInventor runtime system.



Tip

This can be used to have the same internal C++ class for a number of MeVisLab modules with different names and default values, or if you do not want the internal name to appear as the MeVisLab module name.

DLL = NAME

Specifies the dynamic load library (DLL) where the C++ class for this module is defined in. The name is given without a system-specific pre-/postfix.

Example: DLL = SoView2D

projectSource = PATH
see MModule.

hasGroupInputs = BOOL (default: No)

Sets whether the module is derived from a SoGroup and should have dynamic SoNode inputs.

hasViewer = BOOL (default: No)

Sets whether the module should have a viewer. This is typically used on SoGroup derived nodes that should have an Inventor viewer.

hybridMLModule = BOOL (default: No)

Sets whether the InventorModule contains a fully functional MModule whose fields appear as if they were the fields of the InventorModule. This is an advanced feature and should typically not be needed by a module author.

2.8. MacroModule

Defines a macro module that can contain an internal network. Typically, a MacroModule has an [Interface](#) section that defines the fields of the macro. The fields can be aliased from internal fields or can be standalone fields.

Typically used tags can be found at the [Module](#)'s definition.

MacroModules should use the `externalDefinition` tag to define their Interface and Windows in an extra `ModuleName.script` file, which should be named like the module itself.

If the `externalDefinition` tag is given, MeVisLab automatically loads the network with the same name and the extension `.mlab`. If the module only contains scripting and does not require an internal network, use the `scriptOnly` tag to tell MeVisLab.

Dynamic scripting: `MLABMacroModule`

```
MacroModule NAME {
    scriptOnly      = BOOL      [No]
    onlyOneInstance = BOOL      [No]

    // tags from Module
}
```

scriptOnly = BOOL (default: No)
Sets whether an internal network is loaded/required.

onlyOneInstance = BOOL (default: No)
Sets whether only one instance of this module can be started as an application; additionally created versions just show the already running application. This is used for applications that the user should only be able to start once.

2.9. FieldListener

The **FieldListener** listens to fields and calls the script command given in the `command` tag whenever the field changes.

The fields are given as the value tag and/or with multiple `listenField` tag.

There are two possible uses for a FieldListener:

1. They can be created in the [Commands](#) section of a [Module](#).
2. They can be used anywhere in the control hierarchy of a [Window](#).
 1. If used in the Commands section, the FieldListener is active throughout the entire lifespan of a module instance (from creation to deletion) and reacts to any field changes whether there is an open module panel or not. Because of this, such a FieldListener cannot access the *controls* of the user interface of the module with scripting, just the *fields* of the module.
 2. If used somewhere inside of a Window, the FieldListener is an invisible user interface element that is only active (and created) when the Window is actually created. Such a FieldListener can access all other user interface controls within that Window that are named using the `ctx.control(name)` Python function.



Note

Since part of a [Window](#) can be created multiple times using the [Panel](#) GUI control, multiple instances of the same FieldListener in a Window can exist at the same time and will all work and change the user interface via the `ctx.control(name)`. The limitation to this is that only controls can be accessed that are also cloned by the Panel control; otherwise, the `ctx.control(name)` function will return NULL. This means that you should put your FieldListeners (which are in the user interface) close to the GUI elements you are accessing so that they are also cloned if a subpanel is extracted.

```
FieldListener [FIELD] {
    init      = BOOL      [No]
    callLater = BOOL      [No]
    listenField = FIELD

    // ...

    command   = SCRIPT
```

}

listenField = FIELD

Listens to the given field.

This tag can be used multiple times to listen to a number of fields with the same FieldListener

command = SCRIPT (argument: changedField)

Defines the script command that is executed when one of the fields changes. The changed field is passed as the first argument to the command.

init = BOOL (default: No)

Sets whether the command is triggered once when the FieldListener is created. The first of the fields it listens to is passed to the command.

**Tip**

This is especially useful when the FieldListener updates some user interface control and needs to be initiated initially to provide a correct user interface.

callLater = BOOL (default: No)

Sets whether the FieldListener is scheduled for the next time the event loop is processed, rather than immediately when the field changes. You will only get one notification if multiple fields changed since the last event loop processing. If more than one field is being listened to, the command is called without a field pointer, as the FieldListener does not know which of the fields have changed since the last event loop.

**Warning**

Be careful, setting `callLater` to `Yes` can cause infinite loops of field notifications! Only use it when you know what you are doing!

2.10. NetworkPanel

The **NetworkPanel** section allows to define a basic user interface on the body of the module in the network view. Currently, only an information string and a (icon) button are supported.

```
NetworkPanel {
  info = FIELDEXPRESSION

  Button [FIELD] {
    symbol    = FIELDEXPRESSION
    color     = FIELDEXPRESSION
    command   = SCRIPT
    visibleOn = FIELDEXPRESSION
    dependsOn = FIELDEXPRESSION
  }
}
```

info = FIELDEXPRESSION

Defines an expression that returns a string displayed in the module body. See [dependsOn](#) for an explanation of how expressions work. Note that there are some special functions that are especially useful in this context:

A # in front of a field name returns a string with a value that is formatted for display. For enum fields, this is the current value's title instead of the raw value. For numeric fields, the precision of the value is restricted.

The `replace` function can be used to replace constants in a fixed string with field values.

Note that the resulting string should be short; longer strings might be truncated to avoid overly large module bodies.

Button [FIELD]

Defines a small icon button. A field can be given to get some default functionality: A trigger field will display a reload icon, which will touch the field if clicked. A boolean field will display a check icon if it is checked and will toggle the field's value if clicked. A color field will display an icon with the current color and will raise a color select dialog if clicked.

The behavior of the button can be further customized with the following tags:

symbol = FIELDEXPRESSION

Defines the symbol to display. There are some pre-defined symbols: recycle, start, stop, pause, check, clear, and deny. It is also possible to give a full file name of an image file. This image should be a white icon on transparent background to support the color tag.

Note that this expects an expression; so if you just want to set a different symbol, you need to write something like:

```
symbol = "*" "start" *
```

color = FIELDEXPRESSION

Defines the color for the symbol as an expression. The color can be a HTML color specification like #FF0A80 (as string) or the value of a color field. Note that to set a static color, it must be written like:

```
color = "*" "#FF0A80" *
```

command = SCRIPT

Defines the script command to execute when the button has been clicked. This overrides the default behavior if a field has been specified.

dependsOn = FIELDEXPRESSION

Defines the condition when the button should be clickable. This is useful to indicate some state of the module.

visibleOn = FIELDEXPRESSION

Defines the condition when the button should be visible. It might make sense to hide the button if it is without function in some mode of a module.

Chapter 3. Other Module-Related MDL Features

3.1. Module Genre Definition

A module in MeVisLab can belong to multiple genres, which are specified with the **genre** tag. The available genres are specified in `MeVisLab/Standard/Modules/IDE/Genre.def` and can also be extended via user genres.



Note

The names of the genres are defined by the value behind the **Genre** tag. These genre names may not contain spaces or special characters and are used in the genre tag in the modules' definition. If you want a more specific title, you can use the `title` tag of a Genre to define a string visible to the user.

Extract of `Genre.def`:

```
GlobalGenres {
  Genre FileMain {
    title = File
    Genre = DICOM

    Genre InventorFile {
      title = Inventor
    }
    Genre File {
      title = Misc
    }
  }

  Separator = ""

  Genre ImageMain {
    title = Image
    Genre = Info
    Genre = Scale
    Genre = Generators

    Genre Image {
      title = Misc
    }
  }
  ...
}
```

Example of a module that belongs to two genres:

```
MLModule MyModule {
  genre = DICOM,Scale
}
```

If you are a MeVisLab core developer at MeVis, you can add genres in the `Genre.def` file.

If you are an external developer and you still need your own genres, you can add a **UserGenres** section to your `.def` file (on the top level):

```
UserGenres {
  Genre SomebodysGenreMain {
    title = "A longer title for the genre"
    Genre SomebodysGenre {
    }
  }
  Genre +Diffusion {
    Genre DiffExtra {
    }
  }
}
```

As you can see above, there are two notations:

1. Adding a new root genre by just giving a Genre tag with the name of the new genre.
2. Extending a known genre with new entries by writing a + and an existing genre name (defined in `Genre.def`).

Example: `Genre +ImageMain { Genre = SomeNewSubGenre }`



Note

UserGenres and GlobalGenres are only reloaded when MeVisLab is restarted or when the entire database is reloaded.

3.2. ModuleGroup Definition

A module in MeVisLab can be given the membership of one or several ModuleGroups via the **group** tag. A ModuleGroup consists of the group tag ID and extra semantic information about this ID given via the ModuleGroup tag. The ID has to be a single word and should start with your license prefix to avoid mixing up groups. The existing groups can be enabled and disabled in the Preferences Panel of MeVisLab.

There are a number of predefined groups that are used throughout MeVisLab:

- `deprecated` = A module that is officially gone, but only remains to make old networks work.
- `test` = A module that tests MeVisLab features.
- `example` = A module that provides examples.
- `internal` = Internal MeVisLab modules that are not visible to the public.

To put your module into a defined group, write the following:

```
MLModule SomeModule {  
  group = MyOwnGroup  
}
```

Now we need extra information on the ModuleGroup to make it appear nicely in the Preferences Panel of MeVisLab.

```
ModuleGroup GROUPNAME {  
  owner   = STRING  
  title   = STRING  
  comment = STRING  
  type    = [internal | std]  
  shy     = BOOL      [No]  
}
```

If you are a MeVisLab core developer at MeVis, you can add your ModuleGroups directly to `MeVisLab/Standard/Modules/IDE/ModuleGroups.def`.

If you are an external developer, just put the additional ModuleGroups into any `.def` file in your `UserModulePath`; they are read automatically.

3.3. Preloading DLLs

Shared Libraries (DLLs) are loaded by MeVisLab when they are needed by a module in a network (see the DLL tag of [Section 2.6, "MLModule"](#)). The `PreloadDLL` tag can be used to force MeVisLab to load a given DLL on startup. This can be useful if your own ML Type Extensions should be loaded on startup of MeVisLab.

The `PreloadDLL` tag can appear in any `.def` file (on the top-level, not nested in other tags):

```
PreloadDLL DLLNAME {}  
// or  
PreloadDLL = DLLNAME
```

The DLLNAME is given without file extension. On Windows, `.dll` is appended in MeVisLab Release, and `_d.dll` in MeVisLab Debug application. Mac OS X uses `libDLLNAME.dylib` to access the shared library. On Linux, `libDLLNAME.so` is used.

The same library may be specified multiple times; in this case, it will still be loaded only once.

Chapter 4. GUI Controls

The following chapters give an overview of all possible GUI Controls and their tags. MeVisLab also contains a number of example MacroModules that demonstrate the individual features.

4.1. GUI Example Modules in MeVisLab

The following modules demonstrate the use of the most of the GUI controls. (This list may not be completely up-to-date, try searching for modules starting with **Test** in the MeVisLab search.)

- **TestStyles** - How to change the controls appearance (Colors, Fonts, etc.).
- **TestPrototypes** - How to change tag defaults for given GUI controls.
- **TestLayouter** - Showing the usage of AlignGroups.
- **TestListView** - Showing a scripted ListView.
- **TestModalDialog** - How to create a modal dialog.
- **TestHyperText** - How to use RichText with hyperlinks.
- **TestDefaultStyle** - Showing the default spacings, etc.
- **TestComboBox** - Showing a scripted ComboBox.
- **TestViewers** - Showing different Inventor viewers.
- **TestInventorChildren** - Showing how to add inventor nodes dynamically.
- **TestDynamicFrames** - How to change Frame content via scripting.
- **TestTable** - Showing how to use tables.
- **TestSplitterLayout** - Showing the use of splitters between GUI components.
- **TestVertical**, **TestHorizontal** - Showing basic layouters.
- **TestFieldAccess** - Script access to field values, especially vectors, matrices, and image properties.
- **TestScriptUtils** - Showing the use of global script utility functions.
- **TestTimers** - How to create scripted timers.



Tip

As an all-in-one example module, the **ExampleGUIScripting** module should be studied thoroughly.

4.2. Abstract GUI Controls

Abstract controls cannot be created directly in the MDL, but many concrete GUI controls are derived from these controls to provide their basic behavior and tags.

4.2.1. Control (Abstract)

Control is the base class for all GUI controls and provides a number of tags supported by every control. Some tags given here only make sense when used in the context of a layouter, e.g., `colspan` in [Table](#) or `x/y` in [Grid](#).

Dynamic scripting: MLABWidgetControl

```

name           = NAME
panelName      = STRING
expandX        = ENUM           [No]
expandY        = ENUM           [No]
stretchX       = INT            [0]
stretchY       = INT            [0]
visible        = BOOL           [Yes]
enabled        = BOOL           [Yes]
dependsOn       = FIELDEXPRESSION
visibleOn      = FIELDEXPRESSION

style          = NAME
styleSheetString = STRING
styleSheetFile  = FILE
widgetName     = NAME

// Tags that are only handled by the MeVisLab Web Toolkit
html_class     = STRING
html_style     = STRING
html_styleField = FIELD

// Width and height tags
w              = INT
h              = INT
pw            = INT
ph            = INT
mw            = INT
mh            = INT
maxw          = INT
maxh          = INT
fw            = INT
fh            = INT

// Control tags that are read by the owning layouter control:
x              = INT
y              = INT
x2             = INT
y2             = INT
scale          = INT          [1]
colspan        = INT          [1]
alignX         = ENUM         [Auto]
alignY         = ENUM         [Auto]

// Layouter tags for inter control alignment:
alignGroupX    = NAME        (alias: alignGroup = NAME)
alignGroupY    = NAME
childAlignGroupX = NAME      (alias: childAlignGroup = NAME)
childAlignGroupY = NAME
labelAlignGroup = NAME

tooltip        = STRING
tooltipField   = FIELD
whatsThis      = STRING
droppedFileCommand = SCRIPT
droppedFilesCommand = SCRIPT
droppedObjectCommand = SCRIPT
acceptDrops    = BOOL
resizeCommand  = SCRIPT
initCommand    = SCRIPT
destroyedCommand = SCRIPT

bgMode         = ENUM         [Repeat]
editBgMode     = ENUM
buttonBgMode   = ENUM

screenshotCommentCommand = SCRIPT

```

name = NAME (alias: instanceName)

Sets the name of the control. The control is registered under this name and can be accessed from Python under this name. This is done by using the `ctx.control("controlname")` method.

style = NAME

Defines the style to be used for this control and its children, if any.

see also [DefineStyle](#)

stylesheetString = STRING

See `stylesheetFile`, uses the given string instead of reading the CSS definition from a file.

stylesheetFile = FILE

Defines the Qt Style Sheet to be used for this MDL control and all its children.

Please note that this tag provides direct access to the underlying Qt Style Sheets. You should not mix using style sheets and the MDL style tag in the same MDL controls, as the resulting effects are somewhat undefined. This leads to a duality between `QPalette/QFont`, used for MDL style tags, and Qt Style Sheets, which do not work well together. This is a known Qt pitfall that we cannot address.

The Qt Style Sheet feature offers complete styling of the MDL controls, but it requires some knowledge of the underlying Qt widgets. For simple styling purposes, you should better use the MDL style tag instead. For complete styling of the GUI (e.g., changing the look&feel of `TabView` or `Listview`), the Qt Style Sheet provide possibilities far beyond what the MDL style tag offers.

See [Qt Style Sheets Documentation](#) for full details.



Tip

The Widget Explorer is a useful tool for developing and debugging style sheets.

widgetName = NAME

Sets the object name of the Qt widget that is managed by the control. This can be used in the ID selector (`#<object name>`) of the Qt Style Sheet to apply style sheet rules.

html_class = STRING

Sets the CSS class of the DOM element that is created for this control.

This only has an effect in the MeVisLab Web Toolkit, which is not part of the public SDK.

html_style = STRING

Sets the style attribute of the DOM element that is created for this control to this string.

This only has an effect in the MeVisLab Web Toolkit, which is not part of the public SDK.

html_styleField = FIELD

Sets the style attribute of the DOM element that is created for this control to value of the string field.

This only has an effect in the MeVisLab Web Toolkit, which is not part of the public SDK.

panelName = NAME

Sets a name for this control that can be used by the [Panel](#) component to reference this control as a cloned panel in some other GUI.

expandX = ENUM (default: No)

Defines the space requirements of a control. It depends on the layouter (e.g., Vertical, Table) how this requirement is met.

Possible values: Yes, No, True, False, 0, 1, Fixed, Minimum, Maximum, Preferred, MinimumExpanding, Expanding, Ignored

Value	Meaning
Fixed (alternatives: No, False, 0)	The control can never grow or shrink (e.g., the vertical direction of a button).
Minimum	The preferredWidth is minimal and sufficient. The control can be expanded, but there is no advantage to it being

Value	Meaning
	larger (e.g., the horizontal direction of a button). It cannot be smaller than the preferredWidth.
Maximum	The preferredWidth is a maximum. The control can be shrunk any amount without detriment if other controls need the space (e.g., a separator line). It cannot be larger than the preferredWidth.
Preferred	The preferredWidth is best, but the control can be shrunk and still be useful. The control can be expanded, but there is no advantage to it being larger than preferredWidth (the default expandX value).
Expanding (alternatives: Yes, True, 1)	The preferredWidth is a sensible size, but the control can be shrunk and still be useful. The control can make use of extra space, so it should get as much space as possible (e.g., the horizontal direction of a horizontal slider).
MinimumExpanding	The preferredWidth is minimal and sufficient. The control can make use of extra space, so it should get as much space as possible (e.g., the horizontal direction of a horizontal slider).
Ignored	The preferredWidth is ignored. The control will get as much space as possible.

expandY = ENUM

Defines the space requirements of a control. It depends on the layouter (e.g., Vertical, Table) how this requirement is met.

Possible values: Yes, No, True, False, 0, 1, Fixed, Minimum, Maximum, Preferred, MinimumExpanding, Expanding, Ignored

See `expandX` for an analogous explanation of the values.

stretchX = INT (default: 0)

Defines the stretch factor in the X direction.

stretchY = INT (default: 0)

Defines the stretch factor in the Y direction.

visible = BOOL (default: Yes)

Sets whether the control is visible initially. It can be set to (in-)visible later by using the `setVisible(bool)` method on the control.

enabled = BOOL (default: Yes)

Sets whether the control is enabled. It can be changed by using `setEnabled(bool)` on the control.

dependsOn = [FIELDEXPRESSION](#) **visibleOn** = [FIELDEXPRESSION](#)

Makes the control dependent on the given expression. If the expression changes its boolean value, the control is automatically enabled/disabled (for `dependsOn`), or shown/hidden (for `visibleOn`).

Examples:

```
// Normal boolean field dependency:
dependsOn = someBoolField

// Negated normal boolean field dependency:
dependsOn = !someBoolField

// Enable only if enum field has given string value:
dependsOn = "*" someEnumField == "SomeValue" "*"

// Enable only if enum field has given string value and the bool field is True:
dependsOn = "*" someEnumField == "SomeValue" && someBoolField *
```



```
// Enable only if enum field contains one of the given values: (using a regexp)
dependsOn = " * someEnumField == /(SomeValue|SomeOtherValue)/ *"

// Enable only if enum field is identical to one of the given values: (using a regexp)
dependsOn = " * someEnumField == /^(SomeValue|SomeOtherValue)$/ *"

// The above can also be written with a number of compares; note that due to the
// precedence, no parenthesis are needed:
dependsOn = " * someEnumField == "SomeValue" || someEnumField == "SomeOtherValue" *"

// Numerical comparison:
dependsOn = " someNumberField < 12 "

// Numerical comparison with a function:
dependsOn = " abs(maxField-minField) >= 1 "
```



Tip

When you use string constants inside the expression, it is easiest to quote the MDL string with `" * ... *"` so that you do not have to escape the individual quotes of the string.



Tip

Besides the standard operators known from C++, there are some predefined functions:

`min(arg0, arg1, ...)`

Returns the minimum of all given numeric arguments.

`max(arg0, arg1, ...)`

Returns the maximum of all given numeric arguments.

`abs(arg)`

Returns the absolute value of the numeric argument.

`if(condition, argTrue, argFalse)`

Returns argument `argTrue` if condition evaluates to True; otherwise, it returns `argFalse`.

`replace(arg0, arg1[, arg2])`

Searches for all occurrences of `arg1` in string `arg0` and replaces it with `arg2`. `arg1` may be a string or a regular expression. If no `arg2` is given, matches are simply removed.

`w = INT (alias: width) h = INT (alias: height)`

Sets the width/height in pixels (this implicitly sets the minimum and preferred size).

`pw = INT (alias: preferredWidth) ph = INT (alias: preferredHeight)`

Sets the preferred width/height in pixels.



Tip

Not all controls currently support preferred width, some controls have their own default sizes.

`mw = INT (alias: minimumWidth) mh = INT (alias: minimumHeight)`

Sets the minimum width/height in pixels (a control cannot get any smaller than this size).

`maxw = INT (alias: maximumWidth) maxh = INT (alias: maximumHeight)`

Sets the maximum width/height in pixels (a control cannot get any bigger).

`fw = INT (alias: fixedWidth) fh = INT (alias: fixedHeight)`

Sets all above width/height sizes to the same value (the control will not change size in any layout).

scale = INT (default: 1)

Scales all sizes (margin/spacing/fonts) in fixed steps.

Positive integer values enlarge the control, negative values shrink it.

This is also applied to all child controls of a widget; this way, you can scale entire groups of controls with one scale tag.

This feature works additive and recursive; this way, you can also resize in a hierarchy.

alignGroupX = NAME (alias: **alignGroup**) **childAlignGroupX** = NAME (alias: **childAlignGroup**) **childAlignGroupY** = NAME **labelAlignGroup** = NAME

See [Section 4.9.1, "Align Groups"](#) for details on the usage of these tags.

alignGroupY = NAME

Specifies that this control is in a vertical align group.

See [Section 4.9.1, "Align Groups"](#) for details on the usage

tooltip = STRING

Sets a string used as tooltip. This can be changed by Python with the `setToolTip(string)` method.

Note that the first sentence of a help text of the mhelp document is used as the tooltip text when no explicit tooltip is given here (and of course, if an `.mhelp` file exists).

Instead of using the tooltip tag, rather write the field's help in the mhelp format. Avoid having multiple places where the field's help has to be modified in case of a change.



Note

The automatic display of the field's help is deactivated by default if the panel is displayed in an application context, since it is assumed that the help is written for developers rather than for end users.

If you want to show the field help anyway, you can set the variable "ShowFieldHelpInApplications" to `Yes`, either in the preferences file of the application, or with `MLAB.setVariable()` (this must be set before a panel is created or shown). Also note that `.mhelp` files are excluded from application installers by default.

tooltipField = FIELD

Provides the tooltip for the control, precedes the tooltip tag.

whatsThis = STRING

Sets a string used as a tooltip. This can be changed by Python with the `setWhatsThis(string)` method.

Control tags that affect the control's layouts (depending on in which layout the control is created, e.g., [Table](#), [Grid](#)):

alignX = ENUM (default: Auto)

Specifies the alignment of the control, which automatically means that the control is not expanded in that direction but aligned in its row/column.

This tag is used by the layouts a control is placed in, e.g., [Table](#) , [Grid](#) , [Vertical](#) and [Horizontal](#).

Possible values: Auto, Left, Right, Center

alignY = ENUM (default: Auto)

Specifies the alignment of the control, which automatically means that the control is not expanded in that direction but aligned in its row/column.

This tag is used by the layouts a control is placed in, e.g., [Table](#) , [Grid](#) , [Vertical](#) and [Horizontal](#).

Possible values: Auto, Top, Bottom, Center

x/y = INT

Sets the column/row position of control in the Grid or sets the x/y position inside a FreeFloat layouter.

[Grid](#) and [FreeFloat](#) layouters only; here, it is a required tag!

x2/y2 = INT

Sets a multi-cell column/row position for grid, the control spans the column from *x* to *x2*.

[Grid](#) layouter only.

colspan = INT (default: 1)

Sets the column span used in [Table](#) layouter.

bgMode = ENUM (default: Repeat)

editBgMode = ENUM

buttonBgMode = ENUM

Defines how background images in the style colors **bg** , **editBg**, and **button** are drawn. The default is repeating the image, which Qt provides for free. All other modes have some kind of performance or memory penalty, but can give nice background effects. Especially the "smooth" modes are expensive.

Stretch, SmoothStretch

Stretches the image to the current size of this control.

StretchX, StretchY, SmoothStretchX, SmoothStretchY

Stretches the image in X or Y direction, and repeats it in the other direction. This can be used to create a gradient effect with an image.

Fit, SmoothFit

Resizes the image so that it fits in the available space while keeping the aspect ratio. The border is filled with the color given in the style.

TopLeft, TopRight, BottomLeft, BottomRight, Center

Image is positioned in corner/center of the control and not resized.

Repeat

Image is repeated continuously (so the image used should match nicely with its borders).

ResizedBox (Advanced!)

Image is split in nine parts that are stretched differently, *ModeBorderX + *ModeBorderY tags select the corner box size that is not stretched.

Possible values: Repeat, Stretch, SmoothStretch, Fit, SmoothFit, TopLeft, TopRight, BottomLeft, BottomRight, Center, ResizedBox

For the specification of background images, see the [Style](#) section.

Advanced features:

droppedFileCommand = SCRIPT (argument: filename string)

Defines a script that is executed when a file, directory, or URL is dropped onto the control. If multiple files are dropped, then this command is called multiple times.

droppedFilesCommand = SCRIPT (argument: list of filenames)

Defines a script that is executed when files, directories, or URLs are dropped onto the control.

This is always called in addition to the command above. Usually only one of these commands needs to be implemented.

droppedObjectCommand = SCRIPT (argument: qobject object)

Defines a script that is executed when an object is dropped onto the control.

acceptDrops = BOOL

Sets whether the object accepts the dropping of objects. If one of the above commands is set, this is automatically set to 'Yes'.

Typically, this is set to `Yes` manually if you want to handle drag-and-drop on a very low level, e.g., with an `EventHandler`.

resizeCommand = SCRIPT (argument: none)

Defines a script that is executed whenever the control is resized on the screen. This can be used to make other controls visible/invisible, depending on the available space. It can also be used to do your own layouting in a `FreeFloat` by repositioning controls whenever the size of the `FreeFloat` changes. See the `EventFilter` for other things that you can react on.

initCommand = SCRIPT (argument: MLABWidgetControl)

Defines a script that is executed when the control was created (and before it is actually shown). The control is passed with the call of the script.

destroyedCommand = SCRIPT (argument: MLABWidgetControl)

Defines a script that is executed immediately before the control is destroyed. At this point, the control is already reduced to the basic control object, so you cannot use any feature provided by derived controls! The control is passed with the call of the script.

Additional control tags for `TabViewItems` are given in [TabViewItem](#); any control can be used as a `TabViewItem`.

4.2.2. Frame (Abstract)

Frame is an abstract control that allows to set tags that control the frame appearance. A number of controls are derived from this control.

Frame is derived from [Control](#).

Dynamic scripting: `MLABFrameControl`

```
frameShape      = ENUM    [NoFrame]
frameShadow     = ENUM    [Plain]
frameLineWidth  = INT     [1]
frameMidLineWidth = INT    [1]
```

frameShape = ENUM (default: NoFrame)

Sets the shape of the frame. The possible values are:

NoFrame, Box, Panel, WinPanel, HLine, VLine, StyledPanel, PopupPanel, MenuBarPanel, ToolBarPanel, LineEditPanel, TabWidgetPanel, GroupBoxPanel, MShape

frameShadow = ENUM (default: Plain)

Sets the type of the frame's shadow. The possible values are:

Plain, Raised, Sunken, MShadow

frameLineWidth = INT (default: 1)

Sets the line width of the frame.

frameMidLineWidth = INT (default: 1)

Sets the mid line width.

4.2.3. Execute

Execute can be used to execute a script function anywhere in a GUI definition. It can be placed in any Control that supports children. It does not create a visible control but just executes the given scripting function, which may be defined via the **source** tag in the [Commands](#) section of the module. For Python, it is also allowed to execute inline code that starts with `py:`. The given function can also be a child of an existing object written in dotted notation, e.g., `myObject.myFunction`.

```
Execute = someFunction
Execute = "*py: MLAB.log('test') *"
Execute = "py: MLAB.log('test') "
```

The Execute statement has access to all controls that are "named" with the **name** tag and that appear BEFORE the Execute statement. Controls following after the Execute statement cannot be reached. An example for accessing a [Control](#) is given below.



Note

Generally, using inline code is inadvisable as it can disrupt the functionality of your GUI. It is not possible to define your own functions and classes in the inline code, so you should prefer doing the scripting in external files given via source.

```
Label = "Test" { name = mylabel }
Execute = "*py: ctx.control('label').setTitle('Title Changed'); *"
```

4.3. Layout Group Controls

The following controls group other control together and define how these child controls are laid out. Window is a special case, since it is the top level control and can only be declared on the top level of a module definition.

4.3.1. Window

Window is the base control that contains any other controls. A module can have any number of Windows in its MDL definition file. The first window (or the one with the name `"_default"`) is used as the standard parameter panel of the module.

Window is derived from [Control](#).

Dynamic scripting: `MLABWindowControl`

```
Window NAME {
  title           = STRING
  wakeupCommand   = SCRIPT
  windowActivatedCommand = SCRIPT
  shouldCloseCommand = SCRIPT
  maximized       = BOOL      [No]
  canGoFullscreen = BOOL      [No]
  fullscreen       = BOOL      [No]
  borderless       = BOOL      [No]

  ANYGUICONTROL { }
  ...
}
```

title = STRING

Sets the title shown in the window title bar.

wakeupCommand = SCRIPT

Defines a command that is called when the window is shown. You should better use an [Execute](#) command, which is also called when your Window is extracted via a [Panel](#) control.

windowActivatedCommand = SCRIPT

Defines a command that is called when the window is activated (i.e., when it gets the keyboard focus).

shouldCloseCommand = SCRIPT

Defines a command that is called when the window is closed by the user or by the program. If you do not want the window to be closed, you can call

```
ctx.window().setCloseAllowed(False)
```

within the script command. The default is that the window can be closed.

maximized = BOOL (default: No)

Sets whether the window will always be shown maximized on the screen.

canGoFullscreen = BOOL (default: No)

Sets whether the window will have a fullscreen button in the upper right of its title bar. This feature is only supported on Mac OS X 10.7 or later, currently. Furthermore, it only works with application main windows (i.e., use "Run As Application").

fullscreen = BOOL (default: No)

Sets whether the window will always be shown fullscreen, with no window bar decoration and close button.

borderless = BOOL (default: No)

Sets whether the window will have no decoration at all, no close button, etc. Use with care because you cannot close such a window without adding your own close button to it.

ANYGUICONTROL

Controls defined inside the window are the content of the window. If more than one control is specified, the window automatically uses a TabView and the controls act as TabViewItems.

Example 4.1. Window

Have a look at the `View3D.script` (instantiate a View3D module in MeVisLab, right-click it and choose **Related Files** → **View3D.script** from the context menu). There, you will find four Window sections defined, namely 'View3D', 'Viewer', 'Settings', and 'LutEditor'. All these windows appear in the module's context menu under 'Show Window' below the separator. Above the separator, the default window (always called 'Panel') and the automatic panel are listed.

In the case of the View3D, no Window is named `_default`, so the first window ('View3D') is opened as the default panel on double-clicking the module.

```
Interface {
  Inputs {
    // ...
  }
  Outputs {
    // ...
  }
  Parameters {
    // ...
  }
}

Description {
  // ...
}

Persistence {
  // ...
}

Commands {
  source = $(LOCAL)/View3D.py
  wakeupCommand = wakeup
}

ContextMenu {
```

```
MenuItem "Show Inventor Inputs" { field = inventorInputOn }
}
FieldListener renderer.image {
  // ...
}
// ...
}

Window View3D {
  // ...
}

Window Viewer {
  Viewer viewer.self {
    name = viewer
    clone = No
  }
}

Window Settings {
  Panel {
    panel = Settings
  }
}

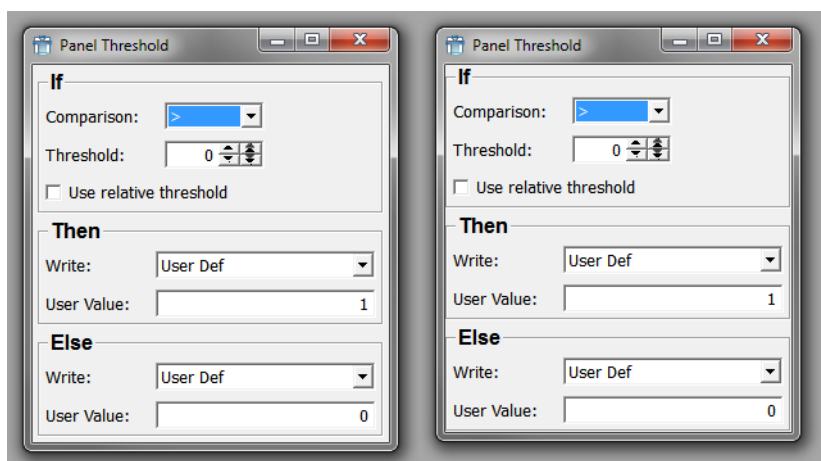
Window LutEditor {
  title = "Lut Editor"
  Vertical {
    Box Editor {
      Panel {
        module = SoLUTEditor
        panel = editor
      }
    }
    Box Settings {
      Field SoLUTEditor.relativeLut { }
      Field SoLUTEditor.alphaFactor { slider = Yes }
      Field SoLUTEditor.colorInterpolation { }
    }
    Box Range {
      Panel {
        module = SoLUTEditor
        panel = range
      }
    }
  }
}
```

4.3.2. Category

Category is an alias of the [Vertical](#) with the difference that the Category has a default non-zero margin.

It is recommended use the Category as the top level layoutter instead of a Vertical, because otherwise, inner controls might be clipped slightly by the window's border.

Figure 4.1. Category vs. Vertical



In the image above, the left window uses a Category as the top level layout while the right window uses a Vertical instead. Note the clipping of the frames of the boxes by the window to the right.

4.3.3. Vertical

Vertical is a vertical layout group control. Each control inside of the Vertical is laid out according to its size requirements.

The following children's tags are taken into account:

`stretchY`, `expandY`

Vertical is derived from [Frame](#).

Aliases: VerticalNB, Category (see margin, though)

Dynamic scripting: MLABVBoxControl

```
Vertical {
    spacing = INT    [0]
    margin  = INT    [0 for Vertical, non-zero default for Category]

    // Additional tags: see Frame

    ANYGUICONTROL { }
    ...
}
```

spacing = INT (default: 0)
Spacing between the controls.

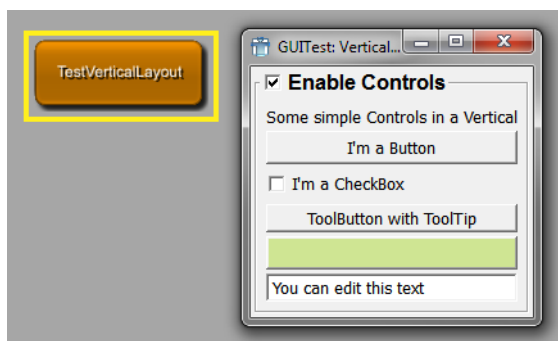
margin = INT (default: auto)
Spacing between border and controls. The default is 0 pixels for Vertical, but a small non-zero value for Category.

ANYGUICONTROL
All controls declared inside of the group are automatically children of the group.

Example 4.2. Vertical

Have a look at the module **TestVerticalLayout**. This module features some GUI components that are arranged vertically.

Figure 4.2. TestVerticalLayout Module



4.3.4. Horizontal

Horizontal is a horizontal layout group control. Each control inside of the Horizontal is laid out according to its size requirements.

The following children's tags are taken into account:

`stretchX`, `expandX`

Horizontal is derived from [Frame](#).

Aliases: `HorizontalNB`, `ButtonGroup`

Dynamic scripting: `MLABHBoxControl`

```
Horizontal {
    spacing = INT    [0]
    margin  = INT    [0]

    // Additional tags: see Frame

    ANYGUICONTROL { }
    ...
}
```

spacing = INT (default: 0)
Spacing between the controls

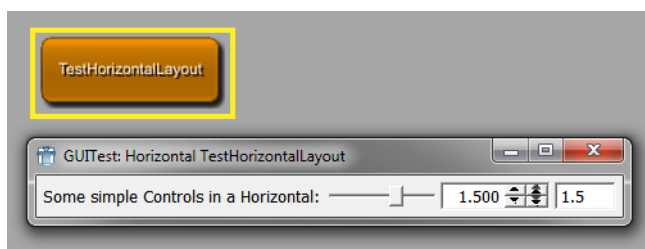
margin = INT (default: 0)
Spacing between border and controls

ANYGUICONTROL
All controls declared inside of the group are automatically children of the group.

Example 4.3. Horizontal

Have a look at the module **TestHorizontalLayout**. This module features some GUI components that are arranged horizontally.

Figure 4.3. TestHorizontalLayout Module



4.3.5. Table

Table organizes its children in rows. Child controls can span multiple columns and can be aligned within their row/column position.

Each control inside of the Table is laid out according to its size requirements, the following children tags are used by the layoutter:

`stretchX/Y`, `expandX/Y`, `alignX/Y`, `colspan`

Table is derived from [Frame](#).

Dynamic scripting: MLABTableControl

```
Table {
  spacing = INT    [0]
  margin  = INT    [0]

  // Additional tags: see Frame

  Row {
    visibleOn = FIELDEXPRESSION
    dependsOn = FIELDEXPRESSION
    ANYGUICONTROL { }
    ...
  }
  Row {
    visibleOn = FIELDEXPRESSION
    dependsOn = FIELDEXPRESSION
    ANYGUICONTROL { }
    ...
  }
  ...
}
```

spacing = INT (default: 0)

Sets the spacing between the controls.

margin = INT (default: 0)

Sets the spacing between border and controls.

Row

Specifies a row in the table. The row can contain any number of child controls, which can also span multiple column (with the `colspan` tag used in a control).

Each row may also contain a [dependsOn and visibleOn](#) expression, as described for normal controls. Note that if `dependsOn/visibleOn` expressions are also specified for the children of the row, unspecified behavior may occur.

Example 4.4. Table

Have a look at the module **TestTableLayout**. Below you will find the MDL code that defines this example macro module.

```
scriptOnly = Yes

Window {
  title = "GUITest: Table"

  Table {
    margin = 5
    spacing = 3

    Row {
      Button {
        colspan = 3
        title = "TopLeft 3"
        expandX = Yes
        expandY = Yes
      }

      Button {
        colspan = 2
        title = "TopRight 2"
        expandX = Yes
        expandY = Yes
      }
    }

    Row {
      Button {
        colspan = 2
        title = "MidLeft 2"
        expandX = Yes
        expandY = No
      }

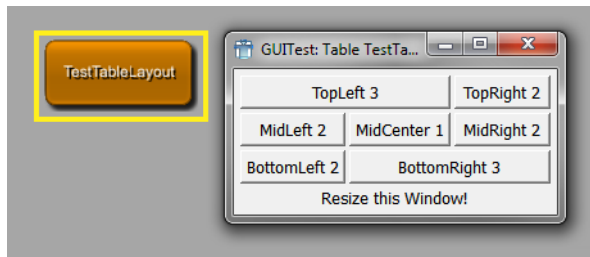
      Button {
        colspan = 1
        title = "MidCenter 1"
        expandX = No
        expandY = Yes
      }

      Button {
        colspan = 2
        title = "MidRight 2"
        expandX = Yes
        expandY = No
      }
    }

    Row {
      Button {
        colspan = 2
        title = "BottomLeft 2"
        expandX = Yes
        expandY = Yes
      }

      Button {
        colspan = 3
        title = "BottomRight 3"
        expandX = Yes
        expandY = Yes
      }
    }

    Row {
      Label "Resize this Window!" {
        colspan = 5
        alignX = Center
      }
    }
  } // wrap
}
```

Figure 4.4. TestTableLayout Module

4.3.6. Grid

Grid organizes its children in rows and columns. Child controls can be positioned at any row/column position and can span multiple columns and can be aligned within their row/column position.

Each control inside of the Grid is laid out according to its size requirements, the following children tags are used by the layouter:

stretchX/Y, expandX/Y, alignX/Y, x, y, x2, y2

Grid is derived from [Frame](#).

Dynamic scripting: MLABGridControl



Tip

Each child control needs to have a *x/y* position tag.

In contrast to Table, where controls are automatically ordered in rows, the Grid allows for more complex positioning.

```
Grid {
    spacing = INT    [0]
    margin  = INT    [0]

    // Additional tags: see Frame

    // simple control:
    ANYGUICONTROL { x = INT y = INT }

    // multicolumn control:
    ANYGUICONTROL { x = INT y = INT x2 = INT y2 = INT }
    ...
}
```

spacing = INT (default: 0)

Sets the spacing between the controls.

margin = INT (default: 0)

Sets the spacing between border and controls.

ANYGUICONTROL

Specifies a child control (which is positioned at the row and column given by the *x* and *y* tags in the Grid), either as a row in the table, the row can contain any number of child controls, which can also span multiple column (with the *colspan* tag used in a control).

Example 4.5. Grid

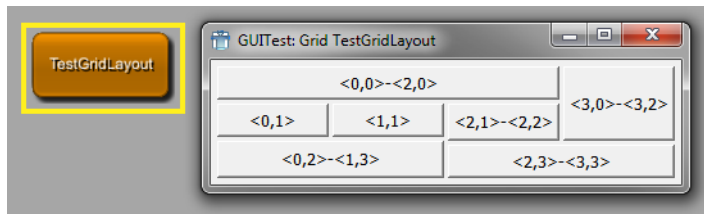
Have a look at the module **TestGridLayout**. Below you will find the MDL code that defines this example macro module.

```
scriptOnly = Yes

Window {
  title = "GUITest: Grid"

  Grid {
    margin = 5
    spacing = 3

    Button {
      x = 0
      y = 0
      x2 = 2
      y2 = 0
      title = "<0,0>-<2,0>"
      expandX = Yes
      expandY = Yes
    }
    Button {
      x = 3
      y = 0
      x2 = 3
      y2 = 2
      title = "<3,0>-<3,2>"
      expandX = Yes
      expandY = Yes
      alignX = Right
    }
    Button {
      x = 0
      y = 1
      title = "<0,1>"
      expandX = Yes
      alignX = Left
    }
    Button {
      x = 1
      y = 1
      title = "<1,1>"
      expandY = Yes
      alignY = Top
    }
    Button {
      x = 2
      y = 1
      x2 = 2
      y2 = 2
      title = "<2,1>-<2,2>"
      expandX = Yes
      expandY = Yes
    }
    Button {
      x = 0
      y = 2
      x2 = 1
      y2 = 3
      title = "<0,2>-<1,3>"
      expandX = Yes
      expandY = Yes
    }
    Button {
      x = 2
      y = 3
      x2 = 3
      y2 = 3
      title = "<2,3>-<3,3>"
      expandX = Yes
      expandY = Yes
      alignY = Bottom
    }
  }
}
```

Figure 4.5. TestGridLayout Module

4.3.7. ButtonBox

ButtonBox is a control that presents Button controls in a layout that is appropriate for the operating system's look & feel. Dialogs typically present buttons in a layout that conforms to the interface guidelines for that platform. A ButtonBox automatically uses the appropriate layout of the user's desktop environment, and may change the order in which the child buttons appear.

Dynamic scripting: MLABButtonBoxControl

```
ButtonBox {
  orientation = ENUM    [Horizontal]

  // Button control:
  Button { role = ENUM }
  ...
}
```

orientation = ENUM (default: Horizontal)
Sets the the orientation of the button box.

Possible values: Horizontal, Vertical

Button

Specifies a [Button](#) control. The role attribute of a [Button](#) is used to determine the role of the button within a dialog window. See [Button](#) control for possible values.

If the button does not specify a role, the button title will be evaluated for known role strings. Currently known strings are: Ok, Open, Save, Cancel, Close, Discard, Apply, Reset, Restore Defaults, Help, Save All, Yes, Yes To All, No, No To All, Abort, Retry, Ignore

4.3.8. Splitter

Splitter organizes its children in vertical or horizontal direction and allows to resize the contained controls with draggable handles. The color and shadow of the splitter are customizable.

Each control inside of the Splitter is laid out according to its size requirements. The following children tags are used by the layouter:

stretchX/Y, expandX/Y

Splitter is derived from [Frame](#).

Dynamic scripting: MLABSplitterControl

```
Splitter {
  direction          = ENUM
  color              = COLOR
  shadow             = ENUM    [Raised]
  childrenCollapsible = BOOL    [Yes]
```

```
// Additional: tags for frame  
ANYGUICONTROL { }  
...  
}
```

direction = ENUM

Defines layout direction of the Splitter.

Possible values: Vertical, Horizontal

color = COLOR

Sets the the color that the splitter should have.

shadow = ENUM (default: Raised)

Defines the the type of shadow of the splitter. Possible values are Plain, Raised, and Sunken.

childrenCollapsible = BOOL (default: Yes)

Defines whether the child widgets can be collapsed completely by dragging the splitter.

Example 4.6. Splitter

Have a look at the module **TestSplitterLayout**. Below you will find the MDL code that defines this example macro module.

```
scriptOnly = Yes

Window {
  title = "GUITest: Splitter"
  w     = 512
  h     = 384

  Splitter {
    direction = Vertical

    Button {
      title   = "1"
      expandX = Yes
      expandY = Yes
    }
    Splitter {
      direction = Horizontal

      Button {
        title   = "2"
        expandX = Yes
        expandY = Yes
      }
      Splitter {
        direction = Vertical

        Button {
          title   = "3"
          expandX = Yes
          expandY = Yes
        }
        Splitter {
          direction = Horizontal

          Button {
            title   = "4"
            expandX = Yes
            expandY = Yes
          }
        }
        Splitter {
          direction = Vertical

          Button {
            title   = "5"
            expandX = Yes
            expandY = Yes
          }
        }
        Splitter {
          direction = Horizontal

          Button {
            title   = "6"
            expandX = Yes
            expandY = Yes
          }
        }
        Splitter {
          direction = Vertical

          Button {
            title   = "7"
            expandX = Yes
            expandY = Yes
          }
        }
      }
    }
  }
}
```


Figure 4.6. TestSplitterLayout Module

4.3.9. Box

Box shows a frame with a title around its children. It can contain any inner layout, selected by the `layout` tag. If no layout is chosen, a [Vertical](#) is implicitly used. Note that all child tags of the Box are also used by the selected layout, e.g., the `margin` tag.

Dynamic scripting: `MLABBoxControl`

```
Box STRING {
    title           = STRING
    titleField      = FIELD
    alignTitle      = ENUM    [Left]
    layout          = NAME    [Vertical]
    checked         = BOOL    [No]
    checkable       = BOOL    [No]
    checkedField    = FIELD

    ANYGUICONTROL { }
    ...
}
```

title = STRING

Overwrites the title given in the Box tag.

titleField = FIELD

Provides the title of the Box, precedes the title tag.

alignTitle = ENUM (default: Left)

Sets the alignment of the title.

Possible values: Left, Center, Right

layout = NAME (default: Vertical)

Defines a layout.

Possible values: Category, Vertical, Horizontal, Table, Grid, Splitter, FreeFloat

checkedField = FIELD

The checkedField can be a boolean field. Its value is used to toggle the checked state that enables/disables the content of the box.

checkable = BOOL (default: No)

Sets whether a checkbox appears in the title of the box that enables/disables the content of the box.

checked = BOOL (default: No)

Sets the checked state that indicates whether the content of the box is enabled or disabled. This attribute will be overwritten if checkedField is given.

Note: There is a known Qt bug that causes the box contents to overlap with the checkbox if the box has no title

Example 4.7. Box

Have a look at the module **TestBoxLayout**. Below you will find the MDL code that defines this example macro module.

```
scriptOnly = Yes

Window {
    title = "GUITest: Box"

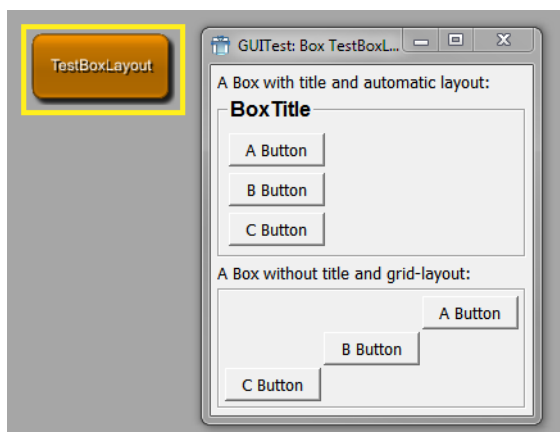
    Vertical {
        margin = 5

        Label "A Box with title and automatic layout:" {}
        Box BoxTitle {
            spacing = 5
            margin = 5
            Button { title = "A Button" }
            Button { title = "B Button" }
            Button { title = "C Button" }
        }

        Label "A Box without title and grid-layout:" {}
        Box {
            spacing = 2
            margin = 2
            layout = Grid

            Button { title = "A Button" x = 2 y = 0 }
            Button { title = "B Button" x = 1 y = 1 }
            Button { title = "C Button" x = 0 y = 2 }
        }
    }
}
```

Figure 4.7. TestBoxLayout Module



4.3.10. ScrollView

ScrollView allows to scroll a bigger control with vertical and horizontal scrollbars. If no layout is specified, the internal layout is a [Vertical](#) layout.

ScrollView is derived from [Frame](#).

Dynamic scripting: MLABScrollViewControl

```
ScrollView {
  layout = NAME [Vertical]
  hscroller = ENUM [Auto]
  vscroller = ENUM [Auto]

  // Additional: tags for frame

  ANYGUICONTROL { }
  ...
}
```

hscroller = ENUM (default: Auto)

Sets whether the horizontal scrollbar is always on, off, or should only appear when needed (auto).

Possible values: Auto, On, Off

vscroller = ENUM (default: Auto)

Sets whether the vertical scrollbar is always on, off, or should only appear when needed (auto).

Possible values: Auto, On, Off

layout = NAME (default: Vertical)

Defines a layout.

Possible values: Vertical, Horizontal, Table, Grid, Splitter, FreeFloat

Example 4.8. ScrollView

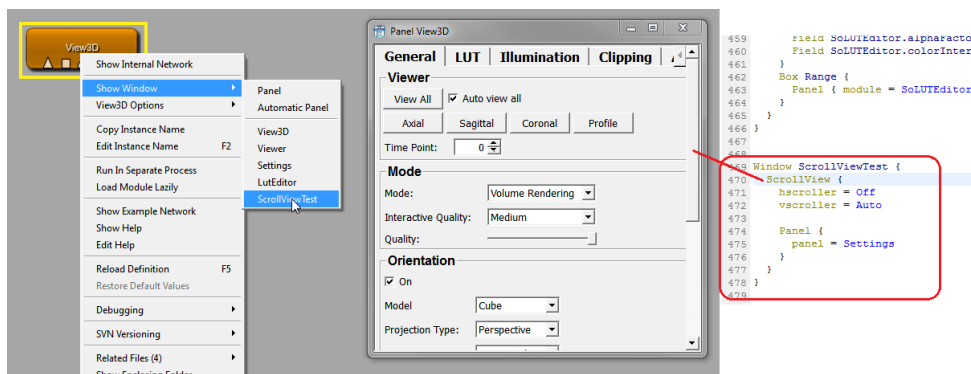
The following example adds another window to the View3D, which then becomes available via the module's context menu (Show Window). It adds the settings panel in a ScrollView with no horizontal scroller but a vertical scroller if the panel's content exceeds the window (which it does).

```
Window ScrollViewTest {
  ScrollView {

    hscroller = Off
    vscroller = Auto

    Panel {
      panel = Settings
    }
  }
}
```

Figure 4.8. ScrollView Example



4.3.11. TabView

TabView shows a TabBar and contains a stack of controls that are visible depending on the selected Tab. It also offers a mode where the TabBar is not visible, allowing to change the selected Tab by scripting only (this is often used in applications that group their panels inside an invisible TabView).

The child controls of the TabView can be any control. The additional tags needed for the TabView are given as extra tags to the child controls. Refer to [TabViewItem](#) to see which tags are available.

The selected tab can be changed by using the `selectTabAtIndex(int)` or `selectTab(controlname)` method on the TabView, or by associating the control with a field of type integer, whose value will be the index of the currently displayed tab (see [currentIndexField](#)).

TabView is derived from [Control](#).

Dynamic scripting: `MLABTabViewControl`

```
TabView {
  currentIndexField = FIELD      [None]
  mode              = ENUM      [Normal]
  acceptWheelEvents = BOOL      [Yes]

  ANYGUICONTROL { }
  ...
}
```

currentIndexField = FIELD (default: None)

Synchronizes the current tab index with the value of a field of type integer, i.e., the value of the field changes when the tab is changed and vice versa.

mode = ENUM (default: Normal)

Defines whether the TabBar is visible and if it is on the top or bottom of the widget. If the mode is "toolbox", a ToolBox widget is used instead of a TabView; this has the advantage of internal scrollbars and the possibility of long tab description. If the mode is "listview", a ListView widget is shown on the left and shows each tab title as an entry in the list. If the ListView mode is enabled, the [tabHierarchy](#) tag of each TabViewItem can be used to show a tree structure instead of a flat list.

Possible values: Normal, Top, Bottom, Left, Right, Invisible, Toolbox, ListView

acceptWheelEvents = BOOL (default: Yes)

Sets whether the TabView should accept mouse wheel events to flip through its TabViewItems.

ANYGUICONTROL

Each control in the TabView is treated as a TabViewItem and can contain the tags given in [TabViewItem](#)

Example 4.9. TabView

Have a look at the module **TestTabViewLayout**. This module features the use of an invisible TabView where the tabs are changed by using scripting commands that are triggered by pressing a button, and the use of standard tabs.

Note that each direct child of a TabView is turned into an own tab.

```
scriptOnly = Yes

Commands {
  source = $(LOCAL)/TestTabViewLayout.py
}

Window {
  title = "GUITest: TabViews"

  Vertical "TabView with invisible Tabs" {
    Box Select {
      layout = Horizontal
      Button { title = "Boxes"      command = switchTab0 }
      Button { title = "Table"      command = switchTab1 }
      Button { title = "TextView"   command = switchTab2 }
    }

    TabView {
      name = TabViewInvisible
      mode = Invisible

      Vertical {
        tabTitle = "Boxes"
        margin = 5

        Box BoxTitle { ... }

        Label "A Box without title and grid-layout:" {}

        Box BoxTitle { ... }
      }

      Table { ... }

      TextView {
        tabTitle = TextView
        title = TextViewExample
        text = "Example for a TextView-Control in a TabView"
      }
    }
  }

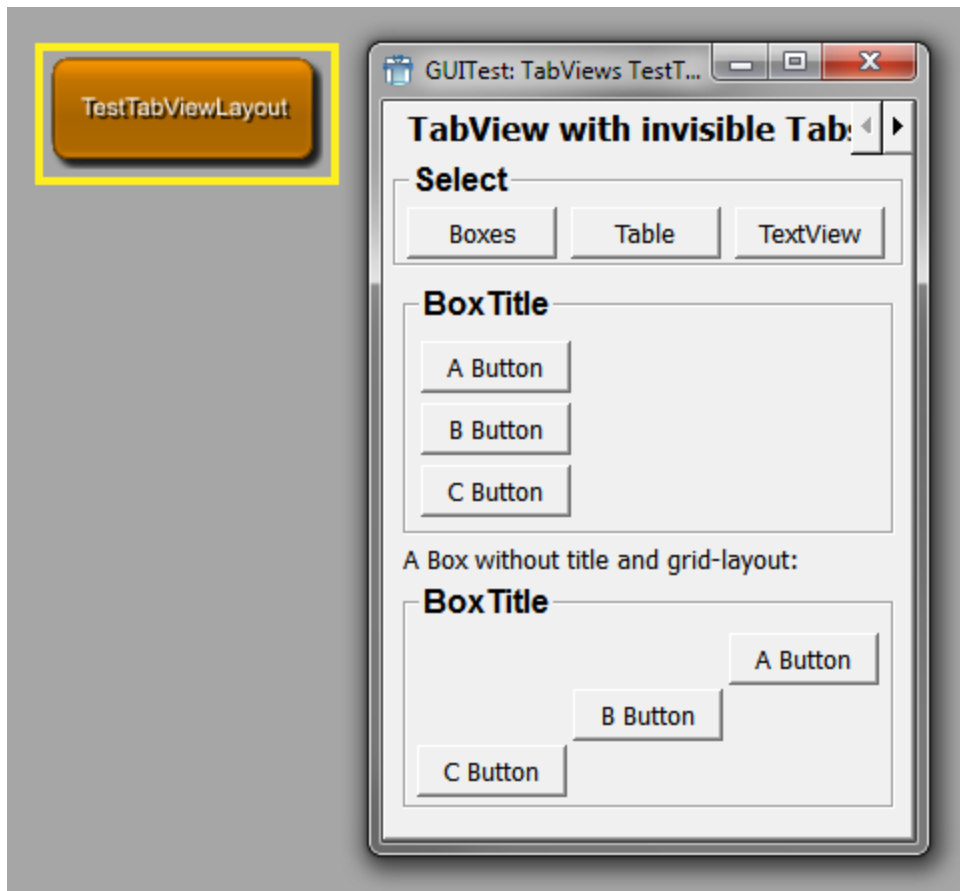
  TabView "TabView with visible Tabs" {
    Vertical "Boxes" {
      margin = 5

      Box BoxTitle { ... }

      Label "A Box without title and grid-layout:" {}

      Box BoxTitle { ... }
    }

    Table "Table" { ... }
  }
}
```

Figure 4.9. TestTabViewLayout Module

4.3.11.1. TabViewItem

The TabViewItem can be used inside of a TabView to specify the TabView entries. Any other control can also act as a TabViewItem in the TabView, just add the tags below to the control to pass the needed information to the TabView.

The TabViewItem is a [Vertical](#) layout and has the following tags:

Dynamic scripting: MLABVBoxControl

```
TabViewItem STRING {
    tabIcon      = FILE
    tabTitle     = STRING
    tabInitial   = BOOL
    tabTooltip   = STRING
    tabHierarchy = STRING

    tabSelectedCommand = SCRIPT
    tabDeselectedCommand = SCRIPT

    tabEnabled    = BOOL           [Yes]
    tabDependsOn  = FIELDEXPRESSION

    ANYGUICONTROL { }
    ...
}
```

tabIcon = FILE
Sets an icon to show on the TabBar.

tabTitle = STRING
Sets a title to use in the TabBar (overwrites the value of the TabViewItem tag).

tabInitial = BOOL

Selects a TabViewItem as the initially selected Tab (otherwise, the first Tab is selected).

tabTooltip = STRING

Sets a tooltip text on the TabBar.

tabHierarchy = STRING

Defines the hierarchy name of the tab. This can be used in a TabView with [mode = ListView](#) to support nested tabs. The separation character is '/'. For example, a value of 'Root/Settings' means that the tab is a child of the TabViewItem with the tabHierarchy name 'Root'. The nesting is unlimited, but the parent TabViewItems need to be declared before the child tab view items. All TabViewItems are defined on the same MDL level/in the same TabView, the nesting is only available in the ListView mode and does not influence the title of the tabs, only the nesting.

tabSelectedCommand = SCRIPT

Defines a script command that is called when this TabViewItem is selected (also called on the initial selection).

tabDeselectedCommand = SCRIPT

Defines a script command that is called when this TabViewItem is deselected.

tabEnabled = BOOL (default: Yes)

Sets whether this tab is initially enabled.

tabDependsOn = FIELDEXPRESSION

Sets whether this tab is enabled depending on the given field expression. Have a look at the [example](#) of this tag for a more detailed explanation.

4.3.12. FreeFloat

FreeFloat organizes its children at a given integer position. The coordinate system starts with (0,0) in the upper left corner.

Each control inside of the FreeFloat is positioned with the tags:

x/y

The size of the controls is taken from the width/height tags:

w/h

FreeFloat is derived from [Frame](#).

Dynamic scripting: MLABFreeFloatControl



Tip

The FreeFloat should ONLY be used where no other layouter works, since it offers fixed control positioning, which can have undesired effects when, for example, the font size changes. It can be used nicely to have a title image and some floating buttons on the image.

```
FreeFloat {
    autoSize = BOOL

    // Additional: tags for frame

    ANYGUICONTROL { }
    ...
}
```

autoSize = BOOL (default: Yes)

Sets whether the FreeFloat automatically calculates its preferred size as the bounding box of all contained controls.

4.4. User Input GUI Controls

User input control are typically tightly coupled with field in MeVisLab, thus allowing an easy way to represent a module's parameter field with a desired user interface. If not stated, all controls are derived from [Control](#) and offer its tags.

4.4.1. Field

Field is a very generic control that can show any of the fields in MeVisLab as an editable GUI element. It typically shows a label with the field name (or a given `title`) followed by a number of user-editable controls, e.g., LineEdit, NumberEdit, VectorEdit, ColorEdit, Slider.

It also allows to have field connections by using drag-and-drop of the title label and a pop-up menu to work on the underlying field. Whether drag-and-drop is turned on depends on the window the control is used in. If it is an application window, drag-and-drop is automatically disabled.

Dynamic scripting: MLABFieldControl

```
Field FIELD {
    title                = STRING
    titleField           = FIELD
    edit                 = BOOL          [Yes]
    validator            = REGEXP
    slider              = BOOL          [No]
    pressedIndicatorField = FIELD
    editField           = BOOL          [Yes]
    format              = STRING
    minLength           = INT          [5]
    hintText            = STRING
    trim                = ENUM          [None]
    sunkenVectorLabels  = BOOL          [Yes]
    componentTitles     = STRING
    editAlign           = ENUM          [Left]
    textAlign           = ENUM          [Left]
    step                = FLOAT
    stepstep            = FLOAT
    sliderSnap          = FLOAT
    spacing             = INT          [0]
    alignGroup          = STRING
    enumAutoFormat      = BOOL          [Yes]
    acceptWheelEvents   = BOOL          [Yes]

    comboBox            = BOOL          [No]
    comboEditable       = BOOL          [Yes]
    comboCompletes      = BOOL          [Yes]
    caseSensitiveAutoComplete = BOOL      [Yes]
    comboSeparator      = STRING        [,]
    comboField          = FIELD

    comboItems {
        item {
            image = FILE
            title = STRING
        }
        ...
    }

    applyButton         = BOOL          [No]
    moreButton          = BOOL          [No]
    browseButton        = BOOL          [No]
    fileDialogCreatesUnexpandedFileNames = BOOL      [No]
    browseMode          = ENUM          [Open]
    browseTitle         = STRING
    browseFilter        = STRING
    browsingGroup       = STRING
    browseSelectedCommand = SCRIPT
    useSheet            = BOOL          [Yes]
    fieldDragging       = BOOL
    updateFieldWhileEditing = BOOL      [No]
}
```

title = STRING

The title shown on field label.

titleField = FIELD

Sets the title as a field; it is automatically updated when the field changes and shows that field's string value.

step = FLOAT

Sets a step value used for NumberEdits.

stepstep = FLOAT

Sets a stepstep value used for NumberEdits. The stepstep value is usually smaller than the step value.

sliderSnap = FLOAT

Sets a snap value for the slider. If set to a value != 0, the slider always snaps to a value that is a multiple of this value starting at the slider's minimum.

edit = BOOL (default: Yes)

Sets whether the fields value can be edited. If set to No, text labels are typically used instead of editable GUI elements.

This is different from the general [Control](#) tag enabled, which enables or disables an entire control (also called "grayed out").

validator = REGEXP

Sets a regular expression to check whether the input is valid when the value is editable and not a number. A description of the expression syntax can be found here: <http://doc.qt.io/qt-6/qregexp.html>

slider = BOOL (default: No)

Sets whether a slider is shown. This only works if the field is a number field and has min and max values.

pressedIndicatorField = FIELD

Specifies a boolean field that is set to True if the user presses the slider button and to False if the user releases the slider button.

editField = BOOL (default: Yes)

Sets whether the GUI element is editable. This is typically used to enable the slider without the NumberEdit to the left.

format = STRING

Sets a format string to be used as in sprintf, e.g., %4.5f or %x



Note

You have to use the correct %d,%x,%f,%g type for float/double/int fields.

minLength = INT (default: 5)

Sets a minimum width of characters reserved in the editable GUI element.

hintText = STRING

Sets a hint text shown in an editable line edit if the line edit is empty and does not have the focus.

updateFieldWhileEditing = BOOL (default: No)

Sets whether the attached field is updated while the user types text in the line edit.

trim = ENUM (default: None)

Performs trimming on the string when it is not edited.

Possible values: Left, Center, Right, None

Left

...LongText

Center
Long...Text

Right
LongText...

None
No trimming

sunkenVectorLabels = BOOL (default: Yes)

Sets whether labels are drawn into the same frame as the LineEdit; otherwise, they are drawn separately.

componentTitles = STRING

Specifies titles for the separate component edit boxes of a vector value, overriding the default values. Values must be comma-separated. Extra values will be ignored, if too few values are specified, the remaining labels will be unchanged. If this is used on a non-vector field, an error is printed.

editAlign = ENUM (default: Left)

Defines the alignment of the text in the Line/NumberEdits. Default depends on whether numbers or strings are edited.

Possible values: Left, Right, Center

textAlign = ENUM (default: Left)

Defines the alignment of the text in the title label.

Possible values: Left, Right, Center

alignGroup = STRING

Sets a hint to which other Fields this Field should be aligned. If the Control should never be aligned, use "None". This is a general feature and is explained in detail in [Section 4.9.1, "Align Groups"](#)

enumAutoFormat = BOOL (default: Yes)

Sets whether enum fields should avoid automatic formatting of enumeration names. Automatic formatting means that a field called "MyName" receives the automatic title "My Name". If the enum items have a common prefix, this is also stripped when automatic formatting is active.

acceptWheelEvents = BOOL (default: Yes)

Sets whether a ComboBox or a number field (integer, float, or double) should accept mouse wheel events to adjust its value.

comboBox = BOOL (default: No)

Sets whether a comboBox is used instead of LineEdit.

comboBoxEditable = BOOL (default: Yes)

Sets whether the ComboxBox string is editable.

comboBoxCompletes = BOOL (default: Yes)

Sets whether auto-complete is used when editable.

caseSensitiveAutoComplete = BOOL (default: Yes)

Sets whether the ComboBox auto-completion is case-sensitive.

comboBoxField = FIELD

Specifies a field whose string value is used instead of given `comboBoxItems`. When the `comboBoxField` changes, the available combo list is updated. Note that the field representing the selected value is not changed, even if the current value is not in the new combo list.

comboBoxSeparator = STRING (default: ",")

Sets a string value to use for splitting the string value of `comboBoxField` into individual values.

comboItems

Specifies the items shown in the ComboBox, may be omitted if `comboField` is given.

Each item is specified with the `item` tag.

Each item entry can contain the following tags:

image = FILE

The image to be used for the item.

title = STRING

The title to be used for the item.

applyButton = BOOL

Sets whether an apply button is generated for VectorEdit. Only the Rotation control has an Apply Button by default; in all other cases it is off by default.

moreButton = BOOL (default: No)

Sets whether an additional "... " button is generated that opens a multiline text edit to edit the field's string value.

browseButton = BOOL (default: No)

Sets whether an additional browse button is generated that opens a file dialog at current field value (path).

fileDialogCreatesUnexpandedFilenames = BOOL (default: No)

The file dialog that is shown via the browse button generates absolute path names, if `fileDialogCreatesUnexpandedFilenames` is set to No. Otherwise, it replaces the beginning of the filename with a variable like `$(LOCAL)`, `$(DemoDataPath)`, if possible.

See also `MLABModule::unexpandFilename()`

browseMode = ENUM (default: Open)

Specifies the type of the file dialog.

Possible values: Open, Save, Directory, OpenReadOnly, DirectoryReadOnly

The ReadOnly variants of these values open a browse dialog that does not allow changes to the file system. This might use a non-system browse dialog.

browseTitle = STRING

Sets the title of the button for the file dialog.

browseFilter = STRING

Specifies the file extension filter that is used in open and save mode. You can specify the file types as follows:

```
browseFilter = "All C++ files (*.cpp *.cc *.C *.cxx *.c++);;Text files (*.txt);;All files (*)"
```

Filters are separated by double-semicolon. The filter is a space-separated list of glob-style expressions enclosed in braces that follow the textual description of the filter.

browsingGroup = STRING

MeVisLab file dialogs store the last used directory; this way, they can open at the last used location.

If you have applications that load/save data at different locations, you can put the dialogs into different browsing groups that store the last used direction separately. Just use different group names (only use letters and numbers in the names).

browseSelectedCommand = SCRIPT

Defines the script command to be evaluated when the user made a selection with the file dialog.

useSheet = BOOL (default: Yes)

Sets whether any attached dialog (e.g., file dialog) is created as a sheet on Mac OS X. A sheet is a modal dialog attached to a particular document or window.

spacing = INT (default: 0)

Sets the internal spacing between the GUI elements of a FieldControl.

wrap = BOOL

Sets whether step and stepstep wrap the value around when reaching the boundaries.

fieldDragging = BOOL

Sets whether dragging the field's label onto another field's label is possible to create connections. The default is **Yes** for normal panels and **No** for standalone applications. This also turns on the connection icons and enables the field context menu on field labels.

```
// Different layouts can be used with certain types of fields:
//
// MLABStringField:
// -----
// FieldLabel | <- LineEdit -> | [Browse/Save Button]
//
// If "edit" is 'No', LineEdit is just a Label
//
// MLABBoolField:
// -----
// FieldLabel | CheckBox
// (CheckBox is without label on right)
//
// MLABInt/Float/DoubleField:
// -----
// FieldLabel | NumberEdit | [<- Slider if min/max is set and "slider" tag is 'Yes' ->]
//
// If "edit" is 'No', NumberEdit is just a Label
//
// MLABEnumField:
// -----
// FieldLabel | ComboBox
//
// MLABTriggerField:
// -----
// FieldLabel | Button
//
// MLABColorField:
// -----
// FieldLabel | ColorEdit
//
// MLABVec2f/3f/4f/Plane/RotationField:
// -----
// FieldLabel | x | NumberEdit | y | NumberEdit | z | NumberEdit | d | NumberEdit | [Apply Button]
//
// Naming for labels:
// MLABVec2f: x,y
// MLABVec3f: x,y,z
// MLABVec4f: x,y,z,t
// MLABRotation: x,y,z,r
// MLABPlane: x,y,z,d
//
// If "edit" is 'No', NumberEdits are just Labels
```

4.4.2. FieldLabel

FieldLabel shows the draggable label that is used in the Field control. It may be used if one wants to allow a drag/drop connection, e.g., of a matrix, and does not want to show the value of the field.

```
FieldLabel FIELD {
    title      = STRING
    titleField = FIELD
}
```

title = STRING

Sets the title shown on the field's label.

titleField = FIELD

Sets the title given by a field. It is automatically updated when the field changes and shows that field's string value.

4.4.3. Button

Button shows a clickable button that can either trigger a MLABTriggerField or MLABBoolField or that can call a script given as `command` tag. The button can have multiple images for the different states and it can be a normal or a toggle button.

Dynamic scripting: MLABButtonControl



Tip

You can use & in the button title to add an ALT keyboard shortcut binding to a button. The respective letter will be underlined (e.g., "&Ok").

```
Button [FIELD] {
  title           = STRING
  titleField      = FIELD
  role            = ENUM           [ApplyRole]
  image           = FILE
  accel           = KEYSEQUENCE
  border          = BOOL           [Yes]
  autoRepeat      = BOOL           [No]
  normalOnImage   = FILE
  normalOffImage  = FILE
  activeOnImage   = FILE
  activeOffImage  = FILE
  disabledOnImage = FILE
  disabledOffImage = FILE
  globalStop      = BOOL           [No]
  fieldDragging   = BOOL

  popupMenu {
    // See definition of SubMenu
  }

  command = SCRIPT
}
```

title = STRING

Sets the title on the button.

titleField = FIELD

Sets the title as a field. The title string is automatically updated when the field changes and shows that field's string value.

role = ENUM (default: ApplyRole)

Defines the role of the button in the window/dialog. It is evaluated if the button has been placed within a [ButtonBox](#) container.

Possible values are:

AcceptRole

Clicking the button causes the dialog to be accepted (e.g., OK).

RejectRole

Clicking the button causes the dialog to be rejected (e.g., Cancel).

DestructiveRole

Clicking the button causes a destructive change (e.g., for Discarding Changes) and closes the dialog.

ActionRole

Clicking the button causes changes to the elements within the dialog.

HelpRole

The button can be clicked to request help.

YesRole

The button is a "Yes"-like button.

NoRole

The button is a "No"-like button.

ApplyRole

The button applies current changes.

ResetRole

The button resets the dialog's fields to default values.

image = FILE

Specifies a pixmap to use on the button.

accel = KEYSEQUENCE

Sets a CTRL or ALT key sequence that activates this button. For normal ALT keyboard shortcuts, use the & notation in the title string.

Example:

`accel = CTRL+U`

border = BOOL (default: Yes)

Sets whether the buttons have a border.

autoRepeat = BOOL (Default: No)

Sets whether the button sends repeated clicked signal when user holds the button.

normalOnImage = FILE

normalOffImage = FILE

activeOnImage = FILE

activeOffImage = FILE

disabledOnImage = FILE

disabledOffImage = FILE

Specifies different images for all states of the button.

popupMenu

Defines a pop-up menu to show on button press.

globalStop = BOOL (default: No)

Sets whether this button can be used as a global stop button, so that current ML calculations can be stopped by clicking this button.

To check buttons for a stop request in the scripting, you have to call `MLAB.shouldStop()` regularly in you scripting loop. This returns True if a stop button was pressed.

command = SCRIPT

Defines a script command that is executed when the button is pressed/toggled.

fieldDragging = BOOL

Sets whether the dragging of the button onto other buttons is possible to create field connections. The default is `Yes` for normal panels and `No` for standalone applications. This enables the field context menu on the button.

4.4.4. ToolButton

ToolButton is a quick access button that is typically used in **ToolBars**. It can have an additional pop-up menu that pops up after a given delay. It has mainly the features from **Button**, but additionally supports `autoRaise`, which lets the border be highlighted when the mouse moves over it. The title is typically not shown. It can either trigger a **MLABTriggerField** or **MLABBoolField**, or can call a script given as `command` tag. The button can have multiple images for the different states and it can be a normal or a toggle button.

Dynamic scripting: **MLABToolButtonControl**

```
ToolButton [FIELD] {
  image           = FILE
  title           = STRING
  titleField      = FIELD
  textPosition    = ENUM           [Bottom]
  autoRepeat      = BOOL           [No]
  autoRaise       = BOOL           [No]
  autoScale       = BOOL           [No]
  accel           = KEYSEQUENCE
  scaleIconSetToMinSize = BOOL     [No]
  normalOnImage   = FILE
  normalOffImage  = FILE
  activeOnImage   = FILE
  activeOffImage  = FILE
  disabledOnImage = FILE
  disabledOffImage = FILE
  globalStop      = BOOL           [No]
  inlineDrawing   = BOOL           [No]

  popupMenu {
    // See definition of SubMenu
  }
  popupDelay = FLOAT (deprecated)
  popupMode = [Instant|Delayed|MenuButton]

  command      = SCRIPT
}
```

title = STRING

Sets a title string on the button (typically not shown).

titleField = FIELD

Specifies a field that provides the text for the button; the text is updated when that field changes.

image = FILE

Specifies a pixmap to use on the button.

textPosition = ENUM (default: Bottom)

Sets the position of the title relative to the image.

Values: Right, Bottom

accel = KEYSEQUENCE

Sets a CTRL or ALT key sequence that activates this button. For normal ALT keyboard shortcuts, use the & notation in the title string.

Example:

```
accel = CTRL+U
```

autoRepeat = BOOL (default: No)

Sets whether the button sends repeated clicked signal when user holds the button.

autoRaise = BOOL (default: No)

Sets whether the border is shown only on mouse-over.

autoScale = BOOL (default: No)

Scales the images to the MeVisLab global default tool button size.

scaleIconSetToMinSize = BOOL (default: No)

If **autoScale** is set to **Yes** and this tag is also set to **Yes**, the Images from the following six ImageTags are not scaled to the default tool button size but to the minimum size of the tool button as set by the tags **mw** and **mh**:

normalOnImage = FILE

normalOffImage = FILE

activeOnImage = FILE

activeOffImage = FILE

disabledOnImage = FILE

disabledOffImage = FILE

Specifies different images for all states of the button.

popupMenu

Defines a pop-up menu to show on button press.

popupDelay = FLOAT (deprecated)

Sets the delay to show the pop-up menu. This is deprecated, use **popupMode** instead.

popupMode = [Instant,Delayed,MenuButton]

Sets the mode of the pop-up menu. If set to **Instant**, the pop-up menu shows when the button is pressed. If set to **Delayed**, the pop-up menu shows if the button is pressed for a system dependend time span. If set the **MenuButton**, an extra menu button is rendered next to the normal **ToolButton**.

globalStop = BOOL (default: No)

Defines whether this button can be used as a global stop button, so that current ML calculations can be stopped by clicking this button.

To check buttons for a stop request in the scripting, you have to call `MLAB.shouldStop()` regularly in you scripting loop. This returns **True** if a stop button was pressed.

inlineDrawing = BOOL (default: No)

Enables inline drawing, which disables the drawing of the button frame and the sunken state.

This is useful if used as an inline widget of a **LineEdit**.

command = SCRIPT

Defines a script command that is executed when the button is pressed/toggled.

4.4.5. CommonButtonGroup

CommonButtonGroup cannot be used directly. It implements the common functionality for button groups, which are [PushButtonGroup](#), [RadioButtonGroup](#) and [ToolButtonGroup](#).

Button groups are GUI elements to group buttons together because they share a common purpose. For example, a panel where the user has to select one or more filters to be applied to an image. The buttons would be checkable and not exclusive. The button group can be synchronized with an enum field, an integer field, and it can be used without any field.

```
CommonButtonGroup [FIELD] {
  border           = BOOL           [No]
```



```

buttonClickedCommand = SCRIPT
buttonPressedCommand = SCRIPT
buttonReleasedCommand = SCRIPT
equalButtonWidths    = BOOL                [No]
equalButtonHeights   = BOOL                [No]
exclusiveButtons      = BOOL                [No, with fields Yes]
margin                = UINT                [2]
orientation           = ENUM                [Horizontal]
showButtonNames       = BOOL                [No]
showIconsOnly         = BOOL                [No]
spacing               = UINT                [4]
stripEnumItemPrefix   = BOOL                [Yes]
strips                = UINT                [1]
title                 = TRANSLATEDSTRING

items {
  item [NAME|VALUE] {
    command = SCRIPT

    enabled = BOOL
    visible = BOOL

    dependsOn = FIELDEXPRESSION
    visibleOn = FIELDEXPRESSION

    image      = IMAGEFILE
    shortcut   = TRANSLATEDKEYSEQUENCE
    title      = TRANSLATEDSTRING
    tooltip    = TRANSLATEDSTRING
    whatsThis  = TRANSLATEDSTRING

    activeOnImage   = IMAGEFILE
    activeOffImage  = IMAGEFILE
    disabledOnImage = IMAGEFILE
    disabledOffImage = IMAGEFILE
    normalOnImage   = IMAGEFILE
    normalOffImage  = IMAGEFILE
  }
  // ... more items may follow ...
}

```

border = BOOL (default: No)

Sets whether a rectangular border is drawn around the buttons.



Note

A border is required if a title is given. Setting border to No and specifying a title will result in an error message and border will be set to Yes.

buttonClickedCommand = SCRIPT

Defines a script command that is called when any button has been clicked. The button name is passed as argument.

buttonPressedCommand = SCRIPT

Defines a script command that is called when any button has been pressed. The button name is passed as argument.

buttonReleasedCommand = SCRIPT

Defines a script command that is called when any button has been released. The button name is passed as argument.

equalButtonWidths = BOOL (default: No)

If set to Yes, then the widths of all buttons in the group are resized to match the widest button.

equalButtonHeights = BOOL (default: No)

If set to Yes, then the heights of all buttons in the group are resized to match the highest button.

exclusiveButtons = BOOL (default: No, with field: Yes)

Sets whether only the last clicked buttons is checked and all others are released. This is only supported if buttons are checkable.



Note

If an enum field or integer field is used, then this is always Yes, because the field can have only one state.

margin = UINT (default: 2)

Sets the margin of the button group widget. It is applied to all four sides: top, left, bottom, right.

orientation = ENUM (default: Horizontal)

Specifies whether the buttons are vertically or horizontally laid out.

showButtonNames = BOOL (default: No)

Sets whether the button name is appended to the title.

showIconsOnly = BOOL (default: No)

Sets whether the button name and title are not displayed.

spacing = UINT (default: 4)

Sets the amount of space between the buttons.

stripEnumItemPrefix = BOOL (default: Yes)

Sets whether title prefixes are removed. For example, if the enum titles are "AutoUpdate" and "AutoLoad", the titles will be "Update" and "Load". "Auto_Update" and "Auto_Load" will also be "Update" and "Load". This is only evaluated if the button group is assigned to an enum field.

strips = UINT (default: 1)

Specifies how many buttons are added to a row if the orientation is horizontal, or to a column if the orientation is vertical.

title = STRING

Specifies the title of the button group. If it is not empty, border must be set to Yes, since it this required. Otherwise, a warning is printed.

items

Specifies the items of an enumeration. Their values must correspond to a field value, or, if no field is given, it can be freely chosen. The value will be the button name and is used to access the buttons through the scripting API (see *Button Access Slots* in *MLABCommonButtonGroupControl*).

command = SCRIPT

Defines a script command that is called when the button has been clicked.

enabled, visible = BOOL

Sets whether the button is initially enabled/visible.

dependsOn, visibleOn = FIELDEXPRESSION

Determines whether the button is disabled/hidden; otherwise, it is enabled/visible. See [dependsOn/visibleOn](#) of the generic Control for a more detailed explanation of the expression.

image = IMAGE

Specifies an image file to add an icon to the button.

title = STRING

Specifies the text of the button.

tooltip = STRING

Sets a text that pops up if the button receives a tooltip event. For example, this happens when the mouse cursor stays over the button.

whatsThis = STRING

Sets an additional help text.

activeOnImage, activeOffImage, disabledOnImage, disabledOffImage, normalOnImage, normalOffImage = IMAGEFILE

Specifies image files that are displayed as the icon of the button, depending on its modes and states.

The button is *active* when the user is interacting with the button, for example, moving the mouse over it or clicking it.

disabled means that the functionality of the button is not available.

normal is the default mode. The user is not interacting with the button, but the functionality is available.

The *on* and *off* states correspond to the checked state of the button.

Dynamic scripting: `MLABCommonButtonGroupControl`

4.4.6. PushButtonGroup

PushButtonGroup is derived from [CommonButtonGroup](#).

PushButtonGroup supports these additional tags:

```
PushButtonGroup [FIELD] {
  autoScaleIcons      = BOOL      [No]
  checkableButtons    = BOOL      [No, with field Yes]
  flatButtons         = BOOL      [No]
  iconWidth           = INTEGER
  iconHeight           = INTEGER
  useOriginalIconSizes = BOOL      [No]

  // .. more tags of CommonButtonGroup ...
}
```

autoScaleIcons = BOOL (default: No)

Sets whether the [icons](#) are scaled to the default icon size of MeVisLab.

checkableButtons = BOOL (default: No, with field: Yes)

Sets whether the buttons are checkable and are automatically raised after clicking on them.



Note

If an enum field or integer field is used, then this is always Yes, because the field has a state.

flatButtons = BOOL (default: No)

Sets whether the border of the button is not raised.

iconWidth = INTEGER

Sets the maximum width of the button icons. Requires that **iconHeight** is also set.

iconHeight = INTEGER

Sets the maximum height of the button icons. Requires that **iconWidth** is also set.

useOriginalIconSizes = BOOL (default: No)

Sets whether the original image size is used as the icon's size.

Dynamic scripting: `MLABPushButtonGroupControl`

4.4.7. RadioButtonGroup

RadioButtonGroup is derived from [CommonButtonGroup](#).



Note

The radio buttons are always checkable and the default value for [exclusiveButtons](#) is Yes.

```
RadioButtonGroup [FIELD] {  
    // .. tags of CommonButtonGroup ...  
}
```

Dynamic scripting: MLABRadioButtonGroupControl

4.4.8. ToolButtonGroup

ToolButtonGroup is derived from [CommonButtonGroup](#).

ToolButtonGroup supports these additional tags:

```
ToolButtonGroup [FIELD] {  
    autoScaleIcons      = BOOL      [No]  
    autoRaiseButtons    = BOOL      [Yes]  
    checkableButtons    = BOOL      [No, with field Yes]  
    iconWidth           = INTEGER  
    iconHeight          = INTEGER  
    useOriginalIconSizes = BOOL      [No]  
  
    // .. more tags of CommonButtonGroup ...  
}
```

autoScaleIcons = BOOL (default: No)

See [autoScaleIcons](#) of PushButtonGroup.

autoRaiseButtons = BOOL (default: Yes)

Sets whether tool buttons are automatically raised.

checkableButtons = BOOL (default: No, with field: Yes)

See [checkableButtons](#) of PushButtonGroup.

iconWidth = INTEGER

Sets the maximum width of the button icons. Requires that iconHeight is also set.

iconHeight = INTEGER

Sets the maximum height of the button icons. Requires that iconWidth is also set.

useOriginalIconSizes = BOOL (default: No)

Sets whether the original image size is used as the icon's size.

Dynamic scripting: MLABToolButtonGroupControl

4.4.9. ButtonBar



Note

This control is deprecated. Use [PushButtonGroup](#), [RadioButtonGroup](#), [ToolButtonGroup](#) or [ComboBox](#) instead.

ButtonBar is a control that has different appearances for a given number of entries being read from an enum field or integer field. It can be vertically or horizontally laid out. It is synchronized with the field bidirectionally.

Available modes are:

- A group of Buttons with icons and/or titles
- A group of RadioButtons with icons and/or titles
- A ComboBox that shows a pop-up bar showing the possible options as items. Items are given as list of items in the `items` tag group. Each item either gives an enum string value or an integer number. If no items are given for an enum field, all enums are automatically shown with their titles.

Dynamic scripting: `MLABButtonBarControl`



Tip

If you use the radio value for the `show` mode, you can generate nice one-of-many radio groups.

```
ButtonBar FIELD {
  title           = STRING
  show            = ENUM      [All]
  enumAutoFormat  = BOOL      [Yes]
  direction       = ENUM      [Horizontal]
  border          = BOOL      [Yes]
  showItemInternals = BOOL    [No]

  strips         = INT        [1]
  autoScale      = BOOL      [No]

  items {
    item [NAME|VALUE] {
      image           = FILE
      title           = STRING
      tooltip         = STRING
      whatsThis       = STRING
      accel           = KEYSEQUENCE
      normalOnImage   = FILE
      normalOffImage  = FILE
      activeOnImage   = FILE
      activeOffImage  = FILE
      disabledOnImage = FILE
      disabledOffImage = FILE
    }
    ...
  }
}
```

show = ENUM (default: All)

Defines how the ButtonBar should show its items.

Possible values: One, All, Radio, Toolbuttons

One

Shows the pop-up menu.

All

Shows all entries as buttons.

Radio

Shows radio buttons.

Toolbuttons

Shows tool buttons.

direction = ENUM (default: Horizontal)

Defines the layout direction of the buttons.

Possible values: Vertical, Horizontal

border = BOOL (default: Yes)

Sets whether buttons should have a border (not selectable in all show options).

showItemInternals = BOOL (default: No)

Sets whether items show their internal name.

title = STRING

Sets the title of the ButtonGroup frame, if any (if used, implicitly sets border = Yes).

strips = INT (default: 1)

Sets the number of "strips" in which the buttons are organized.

spacing = INT (default: 4)

Sets the spacing between buttons (not used in all show options).

autoScale = BOOL (default: No)

Sets the scaling of the images of toolbuttons to the MeVisLab global default tool button size.

enumAutoFormat = BOOL (default: Yes)

Sets whether the enumeration item names should be automatically formatted.

items

Specifies the items shown in the ButtonBar. If not specified, it uses the items from enum field automatically.

Each item is specified with the `item` tag that need to have a string value for an enum field and an integer for an integer field.

Each item entry can hold the following tags:

image = FILE

Sets the image to be used for the item.

title = STRING

Sets the title to be used for the item. To have a toolbutton that only shows its icon, set this explicitly to an empty string.

tooltip = STRING

Sets the tooltip shown on the item (for the pushbutton, radiobuttons).

whatsThis = STRING

Sets an additional help text for the item (for the pushbutton, radiobuttons).

accel = STRING

Sets an accelerator key for this item.

normalOnImage = FILE

normalOffImage = FILE

activeOnImage = FILE

activeOffImage = FILE

disabledOnImage = FILE

disabledOffImage = FILE

Specifies images for the different states of the buttons (not supported in all show modes).

```
// Integer field as radio buttons
ButtonBar someIntField {
  show      = Radio
  direction = Vertical
  title     = "Select child"
```

```

    items {
        item -1 { title = "Auto"      }
        item  0 { title = "Child 0"  }
        item  2 { title = "Child 2"  }
        item  4 { title = "Child 4"  }
    }
}
// Enum field as buttons
ButtonBar someEnumField {
    show      = All
    direction = Vertical
    items {
        item "ADD"      { image = $(LOCAL)/add.png [title= ...]}
        item "SUBTRACT" { image = $(LOCAL)/subtract.png        }
        item "BLEND"    { image = $(LOCAL)/blend.png           }
    }
}

```

4.4.10. CheckBox

CheckBox is a checkbox with a label or image to the right. It can be synchronized with an MLABBoolField or MLABIntegerField. If a FIELD is given, the label of the checkbox also supports drag-and-drop the same way as field controls.

Dynamic scripting: MLABCheckBoxControl



Tip

A CheckBox is used to implement a many-of-many choice, while a one-of-many choice is done with a RadioButtonGroup or a ComboBox.

```

CheckBox [FIELD] {
    title      = STRING
    checked    = BOOL    [No]
    image      = FILE
    editable   = BOOL    [Yes]

    toggledCommand = SCRIPT
    fieldDragging  = BOOL
}

```

checked = BOOL (default: No)

Specifies the initially checkbox state.

title = STRING

Sets the label text next to the checkbox (RichText).

image = FILE

Specifies a pixmap to use next to the checkbox.

editable = BOOL (default: Yes)

Sets whether editing of the value is allowed. If set to No the value is not editable, but the text is displayed normally.

This is different from the general [Control](#) tag enabled, which enables or disables an entire control (also called "grayed out").

toggledCommand = SCRIPT (argument: toggledState)

Sets a script command that is called when checkbox is checked or unchecked, passing the new state as argument.

fieldDragging = BOOL

Sets whether the dragging of the fields label onto other field label is possible to create connections. The default is Yes for normal panels and No for standalone applications. This also turns on the connection icons and enables the field context menu on field labels.

4.4.11. ComboBox

ComboBox is a control that allows a string to be edited and also supports a pop-up of possible values. If editing is disabled, only selecting a preset is possible. If the ComboBox has a given field, it is synchronized in both directions. The field can be an enum field or a field of any type that reacts in a meaningful way with a `setStringValue/stringValue`.

Dynamic scripting: `MLABComboBoxControl`

```
ComboBox [FIELD] {
    editable           = BOOL      [Yes]
    validator          = REGEXP
    autoComplete       = BOOL      [Yes]
    caseSensitiveAutoComplete = BOOL [Yes]
    enumAutoFormat     = BOOL      [Yes]
    acceptWheelEvents  = BOOL      [Yes]
    maxCount           = INT
    insertPolicy        = ENUM      [AtBottom]
    duplicatesEnabled  = BOOL      [Yes]
    comboField         = FIELD
    comboSeparator      = STRING    [,]
    activatedCommand    = SCRIPT
    textChangedCommand = SCRIPT

    items {
        item {
            image = FILE
            title = STRING
        }
        ...
    }
}
```

editable = BOOL (default: Yes)

Sets whether the ComboBox string is editable.

validator = REGEXP

Sets a regular expression to check whether the input line is valid when the ComboBox is editable.

A description of the regular expression syntax can be found here: <http://doc.qt.io/qt-6/qregex.html>

Note: Items from the drop-down box should match the regular expression.

autoComplete = BOOL (default: Yes)

Sets whether the ComboBox auto-completes if it is editable.

caseSensitiveAutoComplete = BOOL (default: Yes)

Sets whether the ComboBox auto-completion is case-sensitive.

enumAutoFormat = BOOL (default: Yes)

Sets whether enum fields should avoid automatic formatting of enumeration names. Automatic formatting means that a field called "MyName" receives the automatic title "My Name". If the enum items have a common prefix, this is also stripped when automatic formatting is active.

acceptWheelEvents = BOOL (default: Yes)

Sets whether the ComboBox should accept mouse wheel events to adjust its value.

textChangedCommand = SCRIPT(argument: string)

Defines a script command that is executed when the text in the ComboBox changes (every time the user types something).

activatedCommand = SCRIPT (argument: string)

Defines a script command that is executed when a ComboBox item is selected or entered by typing and pressing RETURN.

maxCount = INT

Sets the maximum number of items.

insertPolicy = ENUM (default: AtBottom)

Defines where new items are inserted when ComboBox is editable.

Possible values: NoInsertion, AtTop, AtCurrent, AtBottom, AfterCurrent, BeforeCurrent

duplicatesEnabled = BOOL (default: Yes)

Sets whether duplicate items are allowed to be entered when editable (does not apply to script methods that insert items).

comboBoxField = FIELD

Specifies a field whose string value is split and used instead of given items.

When the comboBoxField changes, the available combo list is updated.

comboBoxSeparator = STRING (default: ",")

Sets a string value to use for splitting the string value of `comboBoxField` into individual values.

items

Specifies the items shown in the ComboBox. May be omitted if `comboBoxField` is given.

Each item is specified with the `item` tag.

Each item entry can hold the following tags:

image = FILE

Defines an image to be used for the item

title = STRING

Defines a title string to be used for the item

Example 4.10. ComboBox

Have a look at the module **TestComboBox**. This module features a ComboBox and some scripting for adding new items dynamically, as well as clearing all items by scripting. The module also features the use of icons in a ComboBox.

Because the major portion of this example module is implemented in scripting, the code is not printed here.

4.4.12. MenuBar

MenuBar is a control that shows a menu bar with a number of pop-up menus. It can contain n SubMenu entries. See [SubMenu](#) for details on the menu definition.

Typically a MenuBar should only be used on the top of a window, but there is no layout restriction on that.

Dynamic scripting: MLABMenuBarControl

```
MenuBar {
  SubMenu NAME {
    ...
  }
  // more SubMenus ...
}
```

Example 4.11. MenuBar

Have a look at the module **TestPopupMenu**. This module shows how to setup various menus on a module's GUI. The first menu created on that module uses a MenuBar with only one entry.

4.4.13. ColorEdit

ColorEdit shows a colored box and allows to edit an RGB color. If the user double-clicks on the colored box, a ColorDialog pops up and you can pick a color. The given field has to be of type MLABColorField. The field is synchronized with the ColorEdit in both directions.

Dynamic scripting: MLABColorEditControl



Tip

You can also drag colors between color edits.

```
ColorEdit FIELD {
  mode = ENUM    [Box]
}
```

mode = ENUM (default: Box)

Defines the type of editor. Possible values are box and triangle, where box just shows a colored box and triangle shows a HSV color triangle for in-place editing.

Example 4.12. ColorEdit

Have a look at the module **TestVerticalLayout**. This module features, among others, the use of a ColorEdit.

4.4.14. LineEdit

LineEdit shows a single line with an editable string that can typically be modified. If you want a non-editable text, use [Label](#) instead. LineEdit typically is synchronized bidirectionally with a given field, but it can also be used in scripting only.

Dynamic scripting: MLABLineEditControl

```
LineEdit [FIELD] {
  value                = STRING
  textAlignment        = ENUM    [Left]
  minLength            = INT     [10]
  maxLength            = INT
  hintText             = STRING
  trim                 = ENUM    [None]
  editMode             = ENUM    [Normal]
  returnPressedCommand = SCRIPT
  textChangedCommand   = SCRIPT
  lostFocusCommand     = SCRIPT
  validator            = REGEXP
  updateFieldWhileEditing = BOOL  [No]

  inlineWidgetsMargin  = UINT     [2]
  inlineWidgetsSpacing = UINT     [2]
  leftInlineWidgets {
    // MDL Controls
    ...
  }
  rightInlineWidgets {
    // MDL Controls
    ...
  }
}
```

value = STRING

Sets the value of the line edit if FIELD is omitted.

minLength = INT (default: 10)

Sets the minimum number of characters that should be visible in the LineEdit.

maxLength = INT

Sets the maximum allowed length of text.

hintText = STRING

Defines a text shown in editable line edit if line edit is empty and does not have the focus.

updateFieldWhileEditing = BOOL (default: No)

Sets whether the attached field is updated while the user types text in the line edit.

textAlignment = ENUM (default: Left)

Defines how the text is aligned.

Possible values: Auto, Left, Right, Center

editMode = ENUM (default: Normal)

Defines the mode, can be set for use for password editing.

Possible values: Normal, Password

trim = ENUM (default: None)

Defines the trimming mode of the string when it is not edited. Trimming only works if there is an attached field.

Possible values: Left, Center, Right, None

Left

...LongText

Center

Long...Text

Right

LongText...

None

No trimming

returnPressedCommand = SCRIPT

Defines a script command that is called when RETURN is pressed.

textChangedCommand = SCRIPT

Defines a script command that is called when the text has changed (including pressing RETURN).

lostFocusCommand = SCRIPT

Defines a script command that is called when the focus is lost. Use the `isModified` method to check if the text was edited by the user

validator = REGEXP

Specifies a regular expression to test if the entries are valid. A description of the regular expression syntax can be found here: <http://doc.qt.io/qt-6/qregexp.html>

inlineWidgetsMargin = UINT

Specifies the margin of the inline widgets.

inlineWidgetsSpacing = UINT

Specifies the spacing of the inline widgets.

leftInlineWidgets

Specifies the MDL controls to be used as inline widgets on the inner left of the line edit.

A typical control to use is a `ToolButton` with `inlineDrawing` set to `Yes`.

`rightInlineWidgets`

See `leftInlineWidgets` (but for the right side of the line edit)

Example 4.13. `LineEdit`

Have a look at the module `TestVerticalLayout`. This module features, among others, the use of a `LineEdit`.

4.4.15. `NumberEdit`

`NumberEdit` shows a edit box for integers, floats and doubles. It also has a step up/step down button (if a step value is given). A field has to be given to which the `NumberEdit` is synchronized bidirectionally. If the field has a min/max value, the edited value is automatically clamped to these values. If no format is given, floating point precision is 3.

Dynamic scripting: `MLABNumberControl`

```
NumberEdit FIELD {
    step           = FLOAT
    stepstep       = FLOAT
    showStepButtons = BOOL
    format         = FORMATSTRING
    minLength      = INT           [5]
    editAlign      = ENUM          [Right]
    wrap           = BOOL          [No]
    acceptWheelEvents = BOOL       [Yes]
}
```

`step` = `FLOAT`

Defines a step value for step buttons.

`stepstep` = `FLOAT`

Defines an extra step value for stepping smaller steps.

`showStepButtons` = `BOOL`

Sets whether step buttons are shown (only applicable if step is not 0).

`format` = `STRING`

Defines a format to be printed as in `sprintf`, e.g., `%4.5f` or `%x`.



Note

You have to use the correct `%d,%x,%f,%g` type for float/double/int fields

`minLength` = `INT` (default: 5)

Sets the minimum number of characters that should be visible in the `LineEdit`.

`editAlign` = `ENUM` (default: `Right`)

Defines the alignment of the text in the `Line/NumberEdits`.

Possible values: `Left`, `Right`, `Center`

`wrap` = `BOOL`

If `FIELD` has min/max value, this option sets whether step and stepstep wrap the value around when reaching the boundaries.

`acceptWheelEvents` = `BOOL` (default: `Yes`)

Sets whether the `NumberEdit` should accept mouse wheel events to adjust its value.

Example 4.14. NumberEdit

Have a look at the module **TestHorizontalLayout**. This module features, among others, the use of a **NumberEdit**.

4.4.16. VectorEdit

VectorEdit allows displaying and editing of a **Vec2f/3f/4f/Color/Plane/Rotation** field's value. It has n labels and number edits depending on the type of the field. The **VectorEdit** is synchronized in both directions. Typical layout: `x | NumberEdit | y | NumberEdit | z | NumberEdit | d | NumberEdit | [Apply Button]`

The Apply button is only needed for the Rotation field, because the rotation vector is always normalized immediately. The Apply button can be enabled for other fields if needed.

Dynamic scripting: **MLABVectorControl**

```
VectorEdit {
    edit          = BOOL          [Yes]
    format        = STRING
    minLength     = INT           [3]
    editAlign     = ENUM          [Right]
    applyButton   = BOOL
    sunkenVectorLabels = BOOL      [Yes]
    componentTitles = STRING
    spacing       = INT           [0]
}
```

edit = BOOL (default: Yes)

Sets whether Labels are used instead of NumberEdits.

format = STRING

Defines the format to be printed as in `sprintf`, e.g., `%4.5f` or `%x`.



Note

You have to use the correct `%d,%x,%f,%g` type for float/double/int fields.

minLength = INT (default: 3)

Sets the minimum number of characters that should be visible in the NumberEdits.

editAlign = ENUM (default: Right)

Defines the alignment of the text in the NumberEdits.

Possible values: Left, Right, Center

applyButton = BOOL

Sets whether the field has an Applybutton. It is enabled for Rotation fields, otherwise the default is disabled. If turned on, you can edit all fields of a vector and apply it afterwards at once by pressing "Apply".

sunkenVectorLabels = BOOL (default: Yes)

Sets whether labels are drawn into the same frame as the LineEdit, otherwise they are drawn separately.

componentTitles = STRING

Specifies titles for the separate component edit boxes, overriding the default values. Values must be comma-separated. Extra values will be ignored, if too few values are specified the remaining labels will be unchanged.

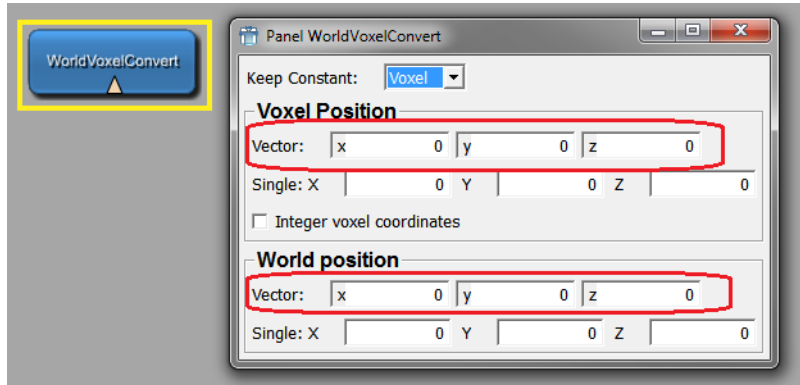
spacing = INT (default: 0)

Sets the internal spacing between the GUI elements of a **VectorEdit**.

Example 4.15. VectorEdit

Have a look at the module **DRR**. This module uses two VectorEdit controls in a Grid layout.

Figure 4.10. VectorEdit Example



4.4.17. DateTime

DateTime allows to display and edit a date, a time or a combined date/time value. These date/time values must be provided as a string in a field and can have one of a few formats.

Please note that the display of the values happens with the currently selected locale and may change with your language settings.

```
DateTime FIELD {
    mode           = ENUM      [DateTime]
    format         = ENUM      [Dicom]
    editable       = BOOL      [Yes]
    enableCalenderPopup = BOOL  [Yes]
    withMilliseconds = BOOL    [5]
}
```

mode = ENUM (default: DateTime)

Defines if the values are just date, just time or both date and time.

Possible values: Date, Time, DateTime

format = ENUM (default: Dicom)

Defines the string format of the values, to interpret/format the values in the associated field.

ISO means ISO 8601, Dicom is the date/time value format of the DICOM standard, and ML is a modification of ISO with a space instead of the middle 'T'.

Possible values: ISO, Dicom, ML

editable = BOOL (default: Yes)

Defines whether the date/time should be editable. If a field is associated with this control, this value defaults to the editable state of the field.

enableCalenderPopup = BOOL (default: Yes)

Defines whether the date should offer a calendar popup. The calendar popup currently does not work if the control is used in a GraphicsView, so it should be disabled in this case.

withMilliseconds = BOOL (default: No)

Defines whether time should be displayed with milliseconds. This might be useful for DICOM values, which come with microsecond precision.

Example 4.16. DateTime

Have a look at the module **TestDateTime**. This module lists different configurations of the DateTime control.

4.4.18. Slider

Slider shows a slider control for integers, floats and doubles. It can be arranged vertically or horizontally. A field has to be given to which the Slider is synchronized bidirectionally. Min/max values are taken from the field and will be adjusted automatically when the field's min/max value changes.

Dynamic scripting: MLABSliderControl

```
Slider FIELD {
  pageStep      = FLOAT
  snap          = FLOAT
  autoPageStep  = FLOAT
  direction     = ENUM          [Horizontal]
  format        = FORMATSTRING
  tickmarks     = BOOL          [No]
  tracking       = BOOL          [Yes]

  pressedIndicatorField = FIELD
}
```

pageStep = FLOAT

Sets a step value that is used when the user clicks left or right of the slider.

snap = FLOAT

Sets a snap value for the slider. If set to a value $\neq 0$, the slider always snaps to a value that is a multiple of this value starting at the sliders minimum.

pressedIndicatorField = FIELD

Specifies a boolean field that is set to True if the user presses the slider button and to False if the user releases the slider button.

autoPageStep = FLOAT

Sets a step value as percentage 0..1 of min/max value, overwrites **pageStep**.

direction = ENUM (default: Horizontal)

Defines the layout direction of the slider.

Possible values: Vertical, Horizontal

format = FORMATSTRING

Specifies how the value of the slider is shown in the tool tip, in sprintf format. Set this to a string containing only one space to suppress the tooltip completely.

tickmarks = BOOL (default: No)

Sets whether tick marks are enabled. Only useful if **pageStep** is also set.

tracking = BOOL (default: Yes)

Sets whether the slider updates the field while the slider is being dragged.

Example 4.17. Slider

Have a look at the module **TestHorizontalLayout**. This module shows the use of various controls for a float number.

4.4.19. IntervalSlider

IntervalSlider shows a double slider control for integers, floats and doubles. It can be arranged vertically or horizontally. A widthField and centerField pair or a lowerField and upperField pair has to be given to which the Slider is synchronized bidirectionally. Min/Max values are taken from the lower/upper fields or from the center field and will be automatically adjusted when field's min/max value changes.

If width/center is given, the slider acts in window/level mode so that the window can be of (max/min) size. If lower/upper is given, it allows choosing lower and upper values and is bound strictly to min/max values.

Dynamic scripting: MLABIntervalSliderControl



Tip

Only width/center or lower/upper field pairs can be given, NOT both!

```
IntervalSlider {
  step      = FLOAT
  snap      = FLOAT
  direction = ENUM      [Horizontal]
  tracking   = BOOL      [Yes]
  centerField = FIELD
  widthField = FIELD
  upperField = FIELD
  lowerField = FIELD

  pressedIndicatorField = FIELD
}
```

step = FLOAT

Sets a step value that is used when the user clicks left or right of the slider.

snap = FLOAT

Sets a snap value. If set to a value != 0, the slider always snaps to a value that is a multiple of this value starting at the sliders minimum.

pressedIndicatorField = FIELD

Specifies a boolean field that is set to True if the user presses the slider button and to False if the user releases the slider button.

direction = ENUM (default: Horizontal)

Specifies the ayout direction of slider.

Possible values: Vertical, Horizontal

tracking = BOOL (default: Yes)

Sets whether the slider updates the field while the slider is being dragged.

centerField = FIELD

Specifies the center (alias level) field of the interval (min and max values are also taken from this field).

widthField = FIELD

Specifies the width (alias window) field of the interval.

lowerField = FIELD

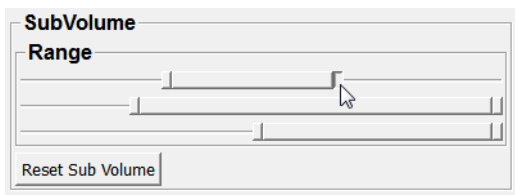
Specifies the lower field of the interval (min value is also taken from this field).

upperField = FIELD

Specifies the upper field of the interval (max value is also taken from this field).

Example 4.18. IntervalSlider

Have a look at the module **View3D**. If the window 'View3D' (the default window) is opened, IntervalSliders are used on the 'Clipping' tab for adjusting the size of a subimage.

Figure 4.11. IntervalSlider Example

4.4.20. ThumbWheel

ThumbWheel shows a wheel that can be turned. When the wheel is turned, it changes the associated Field that can be an Integer, Float, Double or Rotation field. The ThumbWheel adapts to the given min and max value of a field automatically. For Rotation fields (which have not min/max value), it automatically takes 0-359 degrees as min/max values. This can also be used for Float and Double fields by setting rotationMode to Yes. Otherwise the field's min/max values are used.

Dynamic scripting: MLABThumbWheelControl

```
ThumbWheel FIELD {
  snap      = FLOAT
  tracking   = BOOL      [Yes]
  wrapsAround = BOOL      [No]
  direction  = ENUM      [Horizontal]
  ratio      = FLOAT      [1]
  rotationMode = BOOL      [No]

  pressedIndicatorField = FIELD
}
```

snap = FLOAT

Sets the snap value. The value of the wheel always snaps to a multiple of the snap value. If not set, an automatic value is calculated.

tracking = BOOL (default: Yes)

Sets whether the wheel updates the field while being dragged

pressedIndicatorField = FIELD

Specifies a boolean field that is set to True if the user presses the slider button and to False if the user releases the slider button.

direction = ENUM (default: Horizontal)

Defines the layout direction of slider.

Possible values: Vertical, Horizontal

ratio = FLOAT (default: 1)

Defines the ratio between turning the wheel one whole turn and the min/max range.

wrapsAround = BOOL (default: No)

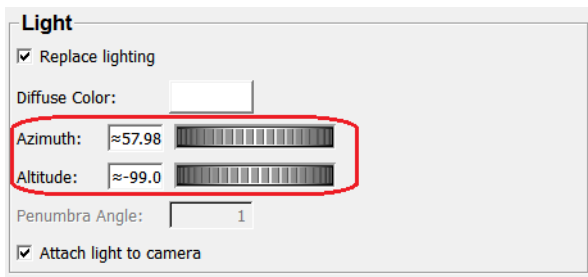
Sets whether the slider wraps around when min/max is reached.

rotationMode = BOOL (default: No)

Sets whether the field's min/max values are set to 0 to 359 degrees (in radian), to allow for an easy setup for rotations.

Example 4.19. ThumbWheel

Have a look at the module **DRR**. There, ThumbWheels are used for adjusting the beam path rotation around the z- and x-axis.

Figure 4.12. ThumbWheel Example

4.4.21. TextView

TextView shows a text, which may be simple text or [RichText](#). It can be editable or just a display, and it is scrollable. It typically shows a title and an Apply button. If a field is given, the field's string value is shown. If a field is given, it is synchronized bidirectionally. Typically the user has to press the "Apply" button to set the text to the field. If `autoApply` is on, each change to the text changes the field's string value. The "Apply" button is only visible if `edit` is set to `Yes`.

Dynamic scripting: `MLABTextViewControl`

```
TextView [FIELD] {
  title      = STRING
  text       = STRING
  edit       = BOOL      [Yes]
  autoApply  = BOOL      [No]
  hscroller  = ENUM      [Auto]
  vscroller  = ENUM      [Auto]
  textFormat = ENUM      [Auto]
  console    = BOOL      [No]
  tabStopWidth = INT     [80]
  wrap       = ENUM      [Widget]
  wrapColumn = INT       [80]

  visibleRows = INT
  showLineNumbers = BOOL [No]
  syntaxHighlighting = STRING
  fieldDragging = BOOL
}
```

title = STRING

Sets a string to show as title (otherwise the title is the name of the field).

text = STRING

Sets a string to show if no field is given.

edit = BOOL (default: Yes)

Sets whether the text field is editable. Otherwise, it is a display only.

autoApply = BOOL (default: No)

Sets whether the entered value is applied to the field whenever it changes.

textFormat = ENUM (default: Auto)

Defines the format of the text. The default is 'Auto', which searches the first text line for `<>` tags and switches between Rich and Plain. In Rich mode (RichText), you can use HTML-like syntax for the text.

Possible values: Auto, Rich, Plain

hscroller = ENUM (default: Auto) **vscroller** = ENUM (default: Auto)

Defines when a vertical/horizontal scrollbar is shown.

Possible values: Auto, On, Off

console = BOOL (Default: No)

Sets whether to scroll to the end of the buffer on each append. Otherwise, it is scrolled to the new field value.

tabStopWidth = INT (Default: 80 pixels)

Sets the width of a tab stop in pixels.

wrap = ENUM (Default: Widget)

Defines the wrap mode of the TextView. The default "Widget" wraps at word boundaries inside the visible portion of the widget. "Off" switches off wrapping, "Column" wraps at a column specified by wrapColumn.

Possible values: Widget, Column, Off

wrapColumn = INT (Default: 80)

Sets the column where to wrap words if wrap is set to "Column".

visibleRows = INT

Sets the preferred size of the TextView to hold n visible rows.

showLineNumbers = BOOL (default: No)

Sets whether line numbers are shown. Only filled lines are numbered if enabled. Numbering starts with 1.

syntaxHighlighting = STRING

Activates syntax highlighting for the specified language.

Possible values: MDL, Python, GLSL, JavaScript

fieldDragging = BOOL

Sets whether the dragging of the fields label onto other field label is possible to create connections. The default is Yes for normal panels and No for standalone applications. This also turns on the connection icons and enables the field context menu on field labels.

4.4.22. HyperText

HyperText shows a [RichText](#) that can be any size and is scrollable when it is larger than the available space. In contrast to TextView, the text is always read-only. The text can contain hyperlinks of various kinds. The shown text can be specified directly in the text tag, from a text file or from a field. If a field is used, the text is updated whenever the field changes.

Dynamic scripting: MLABHyperTextControl

Examples of hyperlinks:

- `Mevis Home Page`
- `MeVisLab Mail`
- `Link inside this document`
- `Link anchor inside this document`
- `A call to the command script with "somecommand" as argument`
- `A link that shows a WhatsThis bubble that contains RichText`

For details, see the example module **TestHyperText**.

HyperText is derived from [Frame](#).

```
HyperText {
    text      = RICHTEXT
    textField = FIELD
    textFile  = FILE
    command   = SCRIPT

    // Additional: tags from Frame
}
```

text = RICHTEXT

Sets the text that is shown. If you want to reference local files or images, use the `$(LOCAL)` variable to address these.

textField = FIELD

Specifies a field that provides the text. The text is updated whenever the field changes.

textFile = FILE

Specifies a file that provides the text. Local links in the text are resolved local to that file, so you can link to other documents and images.

command = SCRIPT (arg: string)

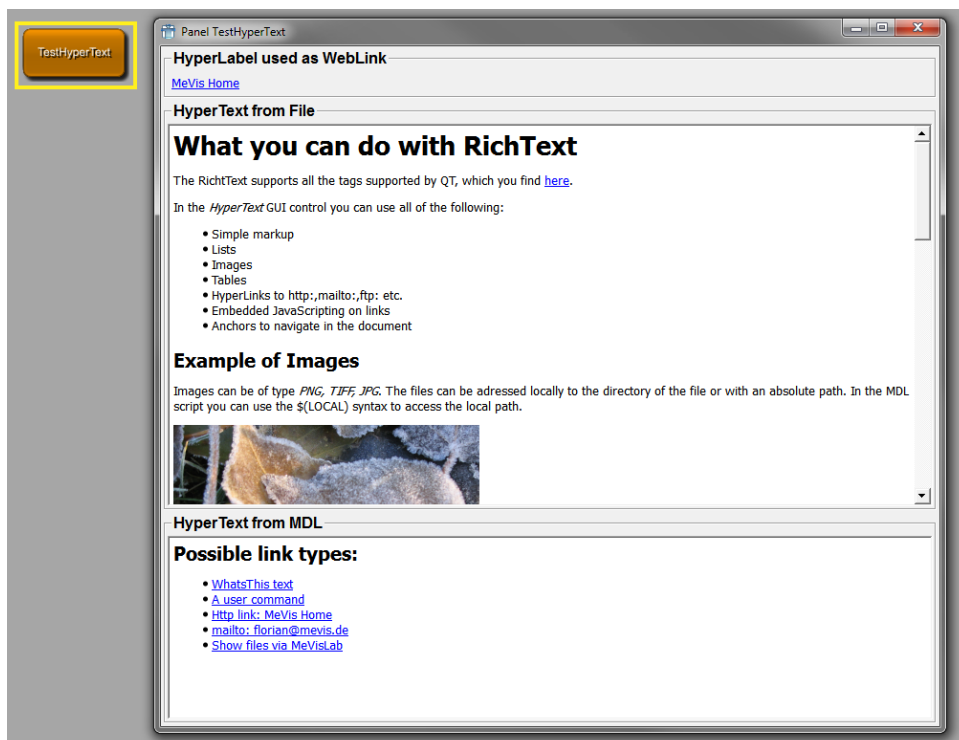
Defines a script command that is called for each "usercmd:" hyper link when the link is clicked. The string after the "usercmd:" is passed to the command.

This tag allows to create dynamic scripts that are executed when a link is clicked. All clicks are mapped to the given command, in which you can do different things depending on the argument after the "usercmd:"

Example 4.20. HyperText

Have a look at the module **TestHyperText**. This module features a HyperText and documents some of the available options.

Figure 4.13. TestHyperText Module



4.4.23. HyperLabel

HyperLabel is identical to [HyperText](#) in its features, but shows the text as a label. Therefore it is not scrollable and automatically gets as big as the contained text. It behaves like a normal label but has the features of dynamic scripted links. Another advantage over a normal label is that the text can be selected and copied. For details see the HyperText control above. Note that `title`, `titleField` and `titleFile` are aliases for `text`, `textField` and `textFile` of HyperText. If the displayed text should be arranged in one line, it has to be enclosed in "`<nobr></nobr>`".

HyperLabel is derived from [Frame](#).

Dynamic scripting: MLABHyperLabelControl

```
HyperLabel {
  title       = RICHTEXT
  titleField  = FIELD
  titleFile   = FILE
  command     = SCRIPT

  // Additional: tags from Frame
}
```

title = RICHTEXT

Sets the text that is shown. If you want to reference local files or images, use the `$(LOCAL) / variable` to address these.

titleField = FIELD

Specifies a field that provides the text. The text is updated whenever that field changes.

titleFile = FILE

Specifies a file to provide the text. Local links in the text are resolved local to that file, so you can link to other documents and images.

Example 4.21. HyperLabel

Have a look at the module **TestHyperText**. This module features a HyperLabel at the very top of its GUI.

4.4.24. ListBox

ListBox shows a list of single line items. The list can be set by scripting or from fields providing the items via splitting the string. The ListBox takes the string value of the `values` tag or of the given field and creates items out of these strings. If a field is given, the list box is updated on the field's string value changes. Scripting methods can be found in the MeVisLab Scripting reference.

Dynamic scripting: MLABListBoxControl

```
ListBox [FIELD] {
  values           = STRING
  visibleRows      = INT
  selectionMode    = ENUM      [Single]
  rowSeparator     = STRING    [@]

  selectionChangedCommand = SCRIPT
  selectedCommand       = SCRIPT
  currentChangedCommand  = SCRIPT
  doubleClickedCommand   = SCRIPT
  returnPressedCommand  = SCRIPT
  contextMenuOnEmptyList = BOOL  [Yes]

  contextMenu {
    // See definition of SubMenu
  }
}
```

```
}
```

values = STRING

Sets a string that is used for the values instead of the FIELD.

rowSeparator = STRING (default: "@")

Sets a separator string used for columns.

visibleRows = INT

Sets a minimum height to show at least number of visible rows.

selectionMode = ENUM (default: Single)

Defines whether selection is possible and if multiple items can be selected at a time.

Possible values: Single, Extended, Multi, NoSelection

Single

Only a single item can be selected at any time.

Extended

When the user selects an item in the usual way, the selection is cleared and the new item selected. However, if the user presses the CTRL key when clicking on an item, the clicked item gets toggled and all other items are left untouched. If the user presses the SHIFT key while clicking on an item, all items between the current item and the clicked item are selected or unselected, depending on the state of the clicked item. Multiple items can be selected by dragging the mouse over them.

Multi

When the user selects an item in the usual way, the selection status of that item is toggled and the other items are left alone. Multiple items can be toggled by dragging the mouse over them.

NoSelection

No item can be selected.

contextMenu

Defines a context menu to show on right-clicking the list. See [SubMenu](#) on how to define a menu.

contextMenuOnEmptyList = BOOL (default: Yes)

Sets whether the context menu should be shown on an empty list.

selectionChangedCommand = SCRIPT

Defines a script command that is called when the selection has changed.

selectedCommand = SCRIPT (argument: index)

Defines a script command that is called when an item is selected (RETURN is pressed or double-click on the item).

currentChangedCommand = SCRIPT (argument: index)

Defines a script command that is called when the current item has changed.

doubleClickedCommand = SCRIPT (argument: index)

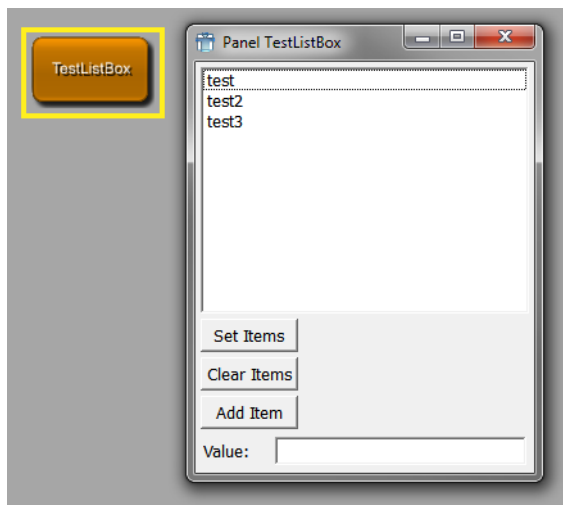
Defines a script command that is called when an item is double-clicked.

returnPressedCommand = SCRIPT (argument: index)

Defines a script command that is called when RETURN is pressed on an item.

Example 4.22. ListBox

Have a look at the module **TestListBox**. This module features a dynamic setting and clearing of items, and it shows how to display items with icons.

Figure 4.14. TestListBox Module

4.4.25. ListView

ListView shows a list containing strings in rows/columns. The list can be set by scripting or from fields providing the items via splitting the string. The ListView takes the string value of the `values` tag or of the given field and creates items out of these strings. If a `FIELD` is given, it updates everything (even the number of columns) from the field's string value changes. The first row in the string is taken as header titles if [headerTitles](#) is not specified, further rows can contain fewer columns. The header titles have to be present even if the header visibility is turned off.

Limitations: Currently, `CheckBox` items cannot contain `RichText` (see `richText` tag).

Dynamic scripting: `MLABListViewControl` and `MLABListViewItem`

```

ListView [FIELD] {
  values           = STRING
  headerTitles     = STRING
  rowSeparator     = STRING           [ \n ]
  columnSeparator = STRING           [ @ ]
  layout           = STRING
  visibleRows      = INT
  cellSpacing      = INT
  selectionMode    = ENUM             [Single]
  tabDirection     = ENUM             [Vertical]
  sortByColumn     = INT              [-1]
  sortAscending    = BOOL             [Yes]
  header           = BOOL             [Yes]

  // advanced:
  richText         = BOOL             [No]
  toggleField      = FIELD
  checkList        = BOOL             [No]
  updateDelay      = UINT             [0]

  rootIsDecorated = BOOL             [No]

  contextMenuOnEmptyList = BOOL       [Yes]

  contextMenu {
    // See definition of SubMenu
  }

  // scripting:
  selectionChangedCommand = SCRIPT
  currentChangedCommand  = SCRIPT
  doubleClickedCommand   = SCRIPT
  returnPressedCommand   = SCRIPT
  clickedCommand         = SCRIPT

  // advanced scripting

```

```

itemRenamedCommand      = SCRIPT
itemCollapsedCommand     = SCRIPT
itemExpandedCommand      = SCRIPT
checkListItemChangedCommand = SCRIPT
prepareEditCommand       = SCRIPT
contextMenuRequestedCommand = SCRIPT
}

```

values = STRING

Sets a string that is used for the values instead of the FIELD.

headerTitles = STRING

A string that is used for the header titles instead of the first row item of [values](#) or the content of the FIELD. The same [columnSeparator](#) is used.

rowSeparator = STRING (default "\n")

Sets a separator string that is used for rows.

columnSeparator = STRING (default "@")

Sets a separator string that is used for columns.

layout = STRING

Sets a string that defines the layout of the columns "rlcet, rlcet, ..." ("right", "left", "center", "edit", "toggle").

r l c - Results in different alignment (right, left, center).

e - Column is editable.

t - One of the columns may have the "t" toggle flag, which means that a CheckBoxListItem is used and the toggleField updates checkbox states.

visibleRows = INT

Specifies a minimum size to fit number of visible rows (+ header) into the ListView.

cellSpacing = INT

Sets an extra spacing value to all items.

selectionMode = ENUM (default: Single)

Defines if selection is possible and if multiple items can be selected at a time.

Possible values: Single, Extended, Multi, NoSelection

See [selectionMode](#) for details.

tabDirection = ENUM (default: Vertical)

Defines the direction when jumping to the next editable field through the use of the Tab key. When Horizontal is selected, the cursor automatically switches to the next row when reaching the table border.

Possible values: Vertical, Horizontal

sortByColumn = INT (default: -1)

Sets the column number by which to sort (default -1 means no sorting).

sortAscending = BOOL (default: Yes)

Sets whether the sorting should be in an ascending order.

header = BOOL (default: Yes)

Selects whether the header row is visible. If set to No, the header is not shown, while the titles still have to be provided via [headerTitles](#), [values](#) or FIELD.

richText = BOOL (Default: No)

Sets whether the items in the list are used as RichText, allowing to change font type, size, colors, etc.

See [Section 4.9.2, “RichText”](#) for details on RichText.

toggleField = FIELD

Specifies a field to set the toggle state encoded in 0/1 chars (field is updated/updates in both directions).

checkList = BOOL (default: No)

Sets whether the ListView uses CheckListItems. Normally this flag is not used; the ListView is a ToggleList if a toggleField is specified.

updateDelay = UINT (default: 0)

Sets the delay in milliseconds of the ListView update when the given FIELD is changed. If set to zero, the update is immediate. This flag can be useful if the ListView is updated very often due to user interaction since it is slow to update. If you set, e.g., a value of 100, the ListView will only update 10 times a second.

rootIsDecorated = BOOL (default: No)

Sets whether icons are shown if a node (item) is collapsed or expanded.

contextMenu

Defines a context menu to show on right-clicking the list. See [SubMenu](#) on how to define a menu.

contextMenuOnEmptyList = BOOL (default: Yes)

Sets whether the user's contextMenu is shown if the list has no entries.

selectionChangedCommand = SCRIPT

Defines a script command that is called when the selection has changed. If you want to get the selected item, call `selectedItem()` on the ListView.

currentChangedCommand = SCRIPT (argument: item)

Defines a script command that is called when the current item has changed.

doubleClickedCommand = SCRIPT (argument: item, column)

Defines a script command that is called when an item is double-clicked; column is the index of the column where the double click happened.

returnPressedCommand = SCRIPT (argument: item)

Defines a script command that is called when RETURN is pressed.

clickedCommand = SCRIPT (arguments: item, column)

Defines a script command that is called when an item is clicked (press+release of mouse button); column gives into which column the user clicked.

mouseButtonClickedCommand = SCRIPT(arguments: button, item, position, column)

This command is like `clickedCommand`, but provides more information. "button" is a number: 1 is the left mouse button, 2 is the right mouse button, and 4 the middle mouse button. "position" indicates the click position inside the clicked cell.



Note

Since the switch to Qt5, this is not called for the right mouse button anymore; if you used this to open a context menu for the current item you should use `contextMenuRequestedCommand` instead.

itemRenamedCommand = SCRIPT (argument: item, column, newvalue)

Defines a script command that is called when an item is renamed.

itemCollapsedCommand = SCRIPT (argument: item)

Defines a script command that is called when an item with children is collapsed.

```
itemExpandedCommand = SCRIPT (argument: item)
```

Defines a script command that is called when an item with children is expanded.

```
checkListItemChangedCommand = SCRIPT (argument: item, column)
```

Defines a script command that is called when a check list item is toggled. The column parameter is important if you have created checkboxes on other columns than the first with `item.setCheckBoxOn()`.

```
prepareEditCommand = SCRIPT (argument: item, column)
```

Defines a script command that is called when a cell in the list view is about to be edited. This is mainly intended for use with the method `setStringEditorValues()` on the list view control, which allows to provide a `ComboBox` instead of a simple line edit widget for editing of cells with string content.

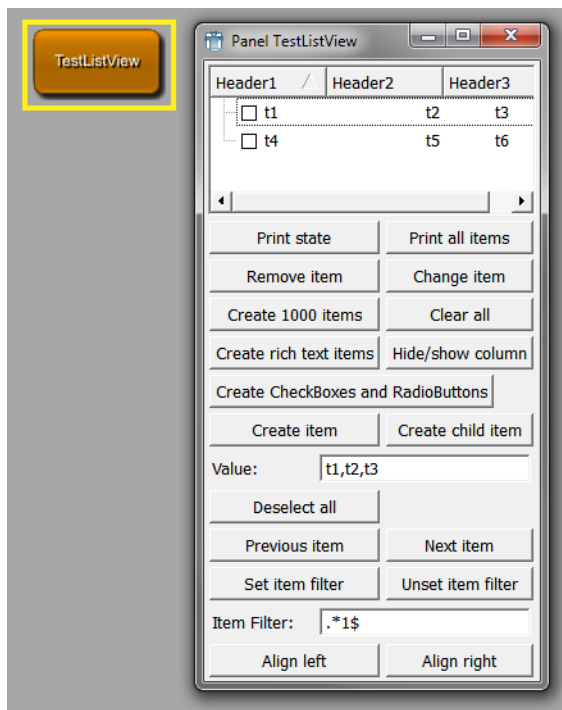
```
contextMenuRequestedCommand = SCRIPT(arguments: item, position, column)
```

This command is called when the context menu is requested, usually by pressing the right mouse button, but, e.g., on Windows, there is also a key for this. This is called before showing the context menu defined by the `contextMenu` attribute. "position" indicates the global position where the context menu should be opened.

Example 4.23. ListView

Have a look at the module **TestListView**. This module features the dynamic creation and removal of different list items.

Figure 4.15. TestListView Module



4.4.26. IconView

IconView shows a grid of icons with text. The items can be set by using the dynamic scripting API.

Dynamic scripting: `MLABIconViewControl`

```
IconView {
    allowRenaming = BOOL           [No]
    autoArrange   = BOOL           [Yes]
```

```

wordWrap      = BOOL          [No]
maxTextLength = INT           [255]
maxItemWidth  = INT
selectionMode = ENUM          [Single]
arrangement   = ENUM          [TopToBottom]
resizeMode    = ENUM          [Fixed]
itemTextPos   = ENUM          [Right]
spacing       = INT

selectionChangedCommand = SCRIPT
currentChangedCommand   = SCRIPT
selectedCommand         = SCRIPT
doubleClickedCommand    = SCRIPT
returnPressedCommand    = SCRIPT
itemRenamedCommand      = SCRIPT
clickedCommand          = SCRIPT
rightButtonClickedCommand = SCRIPT
pressedCommand          = SCRIPT
rightButtonPressedCommand = SCRIPT

contextMenuOnEmptyList = BOOL [Yes]
contextMenu {
    // See definition of SubMenu
}
}

```

allowRenaming = BOOL (default: No)
Sets whether in-place renaming of items is allowed.

autoArrange = BOOL (default: Yes)
Sets whether items should be arranged anew when new items are inserted.

resizeMode = ENUM (default: Fixed)
Sets whether the items should be arranged when the view is resized.

Possible values: Fixed, Adjust

wordWrap = BOOL (default: No)
Sets whether words are wrapped in the text.

maxTextLength = INT (default: 255)
Sets the maximum number of displayed chars.

maxItemWidth = INT
Sets the maximum width an item can have.

selectionMode = ENUM (default: Single)
Defines whether selection is possible and if multiple items can be selected at a time.

Possible values: Single, Extended, Multi, NoSelection

See [selectionMode](#) for details.

arrangement = ENUM (default: TopToBottom)
Defines how items are arranged.

Possible values: LeftToRight, TopToBottom

itemTextPos = ENUM (default: Right)
Sets the position of the text.

Possible values: Right, Bottom

spacing = INT
Defines the spacing between items.

contextMenu
Defines a context menu to show on right-clicking the list. See [SubMenu](#) on how to define a menu.

contextMenuOnEmptyList = BOOL (default: Yes)

Sets whether the user's contextMenu should be shown if the list has no entries.

selectionChangedCommand = SCRIPT

Defines a script command that is called when the selection has changed. If you want to get the selected item, call `selectedItem()` on the `IconView`.

selectedCommand = SCRIPT (argument: index)

Defines a script command that is called when a single item is selected (in Single selection mode).

currentChangedCommand = SCRIPT (argument: index)

Defines a script command that is called when the current item has changed.

doubleClickedCommand = SCRIPT (argument: index)

Defines a script command that is called when an item is double-clicked.

returnPressedCommand = SCRIPT (argument: index)

Defines a script command that is called when RETURN is pressed.

itemRenamedCommand = SCRIPT (argument: index, newvalue)

Defines a script command that is called when an item is renamed.

clickedCommand = SCRIPT (argument: index)

Defines a script command that is called when an item is clicked with the left mouse button (mouse button pressed and released).

rightButtonClickedCommand = SCRIPT (argument: index)

Defines a script command that is called when an item is clicked with the right mouse button (mouse button pressed and released).

pressedCommand = SCRIPT (argument: index)

Defines a script command that is called when the left mouse button is pressed on an item. This can, e.g., be used to initiate dragging.

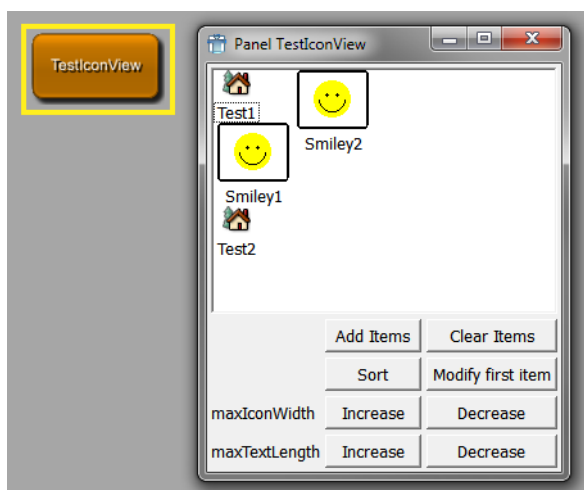
rightButtonPressedCommand = SCRIPT (argument: index)

Defines a script command that is called when the right mouse button is pressed on an item. This can, e.g., be used to initiate dragging.

Example 4.24. IconView

Have a look at the module **TestIconView**. This module features the dynamic adding and removing of icon items, as well as a scripting example on how to react on clicking an icon.

Figure 4.16. TestIconView Module



4.5. Decoration GUI Controls

4.5.1. Label

Label shows a RichText label that can be multiline. The label content can be given as a text or by the string value of a field.

Label is derived from [Frame](#).

Dynamic scripting: MLABLabelControl

```
Label STRING {
    title           = STRING
    titleField      = FIELD
    image           = FILE
    indent          = INT
    buddy           = NAME
    textAlignment   = ENUM
    textWrap        = ENUM      [SingleLine]
    textFormat      = ENUM      [Auto]
    trim            = ENUM      [None]
    selectable      = BOOL      [No]
    allowLinks      = BOOL      [No]

    linkActivatedCommand = SCRIPT
    linkHoveredCommand   = SCRIPT

    // Additional: tags for Frame
}
```

title = STRING

Sets the text of the label.

titleField = FIELD

Specifies a field that provides the text for the label; the text is updated when that field changes.

image = FILE

Specifies a pixmap that is shown on the label.

indent = INT

Sets the number of pixels to indent the text.

buddy = NAME

Sets the name of another control that is used as a "buddy" of the label, which gets the input focus when the label gets the focus (e.g., by pressing an ALT key). Use the & char to set a keyboard shortcut.

textAlignment = ENUM

Defines the alignment of the text in the label.

Possible values: Auto, TopLeft, Top, TopCenter, TopRight, Left, Center, Right, BottomLeft, Bottom, BottomCenter, BottomRight

textWrap = ENUM (default: SingleLine)

Defines how the text in the label is wrapped.

Possible values: SingleLine, WordBreak

textFormat = ENUM (default: Auto)

Defines the text format. The default is Auto, which searches the first text line for <> tags and switches between Rich and Plain. For keyboard shortcuts, write an & char in the plain text (&& means a literal &). In Rich mode, you can use HTML-like syntax for the label.

Possible values: Auto, Rich, Plain

trim = ENUM (default: None)
Trims the string.

Possible values: Left, Center, Right, None

Left
...LongText

Center
Long...Text

Right
LongText...

None
No trimming

selectable = BOOL (default: No)
Sets whether the selection of text is allowed with the mouse.

allowLinks = BOOL (default: No)
Sets whether clicking on hyperlinks is allowed. It also enables `linkHoveredCommand` and `linkActivatedCommand`. If the `linkActivatedCommand` is not set, the links are opened via the external program given in MeVisLab preferences.

linkHoveredCommand = SCRIPT (arguments: String)
Defines a command that is called when the user hovers over a link and `allowLinks` is set to Yes.

linkActivatedCommand = SCRIPT (arguments: String)
Defines a command that is called when the user clicks on a link and `allowLinks` is set to Yes.

4.5.2. Image

Control that shows an image. The image can be automatically resized to fit the available space.

Image is derived from [Frame](#).

Dynamic scripting: `MLABImageControl`

```
Image {  
  image      = FILE  
  scaleFactor = FLOAT [1.0]  
  autoResize = BOOL [No]  
  
  // Additional: tags for Frame  
}
```

image = FILE
Specifies the image to be shown. The recommended image format is PNG.

scaleFactor = FLOAT (default: 1.0)
Sets the scale factor of the image. Not used for SVG images.

autoResize = BOOL (default: No)
Sets whether the image is resized according to its aspect ratio to fit the available space.

4.5.3. Separator

Separator is a visual separator (like `<HR>` in HTML). It has a direction and a frame style. Depending on the direction, `expandX` and `expandY` are automatically set to expanding.

Separator is derived from [Frame](#).

Dynamic scripting: MLABSeparatorControl

```
Separator {  
    direction = ENUM    [Horizontal]  
  
    // Additional: tags for Frame  
}
```

direction = ENUM (default: Horizontal)
Defines the direction of the separator.

Possible values: Vertical, Horizontal

4.5.4. Empty

Empty is a control that represents empty space. Depending on its size policy, it will extend or be of fixed size. Its tags are derived from the basic control, typically one only uses the given tag.

There are four aliases that have useful presets in vertical and horizontal direction:

VSpacer, SpacerX - control that fills the space vertically by expanding (if you have a control with a stretch factor, you might want to change the stretch factor as well).

HSpacer, SpacerY - control that fills the space horizontally by expanding (if you have a control with a stretch factor, you might want to change the stretch factor as well).

Empty is derived from [Control](#).

```
Empty {  
    expandX = ENUM  
    expandY = ENUM  
    stretchX = INT  
    stretchY = INT  
    w = INT  
    h = INT  
}
```

4.5.5. ProgressBar

ProgressBar shows the current status as a bar between 0% and 100%. The status is controlled by a FloatField or DoubleField, which should yield values from 0 to 1.0. The field needs priority 0 to cause an update of the progress immediately; otherwise, the update is not guaranteed.

If a MLABBoolField is used, the progress bar starts to show a busy indicator instead, after the field is set to True. To force updating the busy indicator, MLAB.processEvents(True) must be called for each update.

ProgressBar is derived from [Frame](#).

Dynamic scripting: MLABProgressBarControl

```
ProgressBar FIELD {  
    textVisible = BOOL    [Yes]  
    orientation = ENUM    [Horizontal]  
  
    // Additional: tags for frame  
}
```

textVisible = BOOL (default: Yes)
Sets whether the current completed percentage should be displayed.

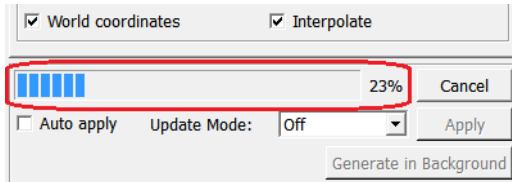
orientation = ENUM (default: Horizontal)
Sets the the orientation of the progress bar.

Possible values: Horizontal, Vertical

Example 4.25. ProgressBar

Have a look at the module **WEMIsoSurface**. On this module, a ProgressBar is used to display the progress of scanning the slices of the input image.

Figure 4.17. ProgressBar Example



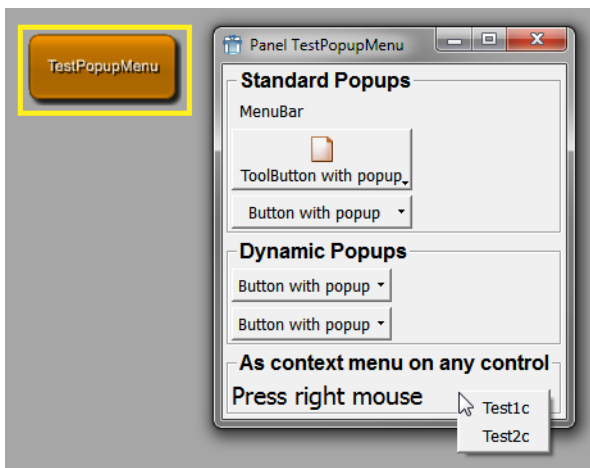
4.6. Menu GUI Controls

Menus can be created at various GUI controls, e.g., as a context menu. All these menus start at the level of a SubMenu as given in the following section.

Example 4.26. PopupMenu, SubMenu, and MenuItem

For the use of the controls PopupMenu, SubMenu, and MenuItem, have a look at the module **TestPopupMenu**.

Figure 4.18. TestPopupMenu Module



4.6.1. PopupMenu

A PopupMenu defines a menu that can be popped up via scripting. It is derived from the [SubMenu](#) control and is not visible by default. It should be given a name and then be shown via the `popup()` method. It pops up at the cursor position or at a screen point given by the caller.

Dynamic scripting: MLABPopupMenuControl

```
PopupMenu {
  name          = NAME
  showCommand   = SCRIPT
```



```
hideCommand = SCRIPT

// possible children:
Separator = ""
SubMenu = NAME { ... }
MenuItem = NAME { ... }

// advanced children:
Action = NAME
}
```

name = NAME

Sets the internal name used in scripting (like [Control](#) name/instanceName).

showCommand = SCRIPT

hideCommand = SCRIPT

Defines script commands that are called when SubMenu is shown/hidden.

4.6.2. SubMenu

A SubMenu can contain multiple MenuItems, SubMenus, Separators, and Actions. When an item is selected, a script command is called on the item. An ALT keyboard shortcut can be assigned with the "&" character.

Actions are an advanced concept and are currently only supported for the internal MeVisLab menus.

Dynamic scripting: MLABPopupMenuControl

```
SubMenu STRING {
  name = NAME
  showCommand = SCRIPT
  hideCommand = SCRIPT

  itemActivatedCommand = SCRIPT

  // possible children:
  Separator = ""
  SubMenu = NAME { ... }
  MenuItem = NAME { ... }

  // advanced children:
  Action = NAME
}
```

name = NAME

Sets the internal name used in scripting (like [Control](#) name/instanceName).

showCommand = SCRIPT

hideCommand = SCRIPT

Defines script commands that are called when SubMenu is shown/hidden.

itemActivatedCommand = SCRIPT

Defines a script command that is called when a direct child of the SubMenu is activated.

4.6.2.1. MenuItem

MenuItems can be declared inside of a SubMenu or a tag used as a submenu (e.g., contextMenu, menuBar).

Dynamic scripting: MLABPopupMenuControl, using the name of the menu item.

```
MenuItem STRING {
  command = SCRIPT
  name = NAME
  field = NAME
}
```

```

enabled    = BOOL                [Yes]
dependsOn   = FIELDEXPRESSION
visibleOn  = FIELDEXPRESSION
checked    = BOOL                [No]
icon       = FILE
accel      = KEYSEQUENCE
whatsThis  = STRING

// advanced:
slot       = QTSLOT
receiver   = NAME

// possible child:
TouchBarItem { ... }
}

```

command = SCRIPT (arguments: name)

Defines a script command that is called when the item is selected.

name = NAME

Sets a name for this item that can be used in the interface of the SubMenu to interact with the item via scripting.

field = NAME

Sets an existing field that can be of type bool or trigger. If this is used, selecting this menu item either toggles the boolean value or notifies the trigger field.

accel = KEYSEQUENCE

Sets an additional accelerator key sequence.

enabled = BOOL (default: Yes)

Sets whether the item is enabled (or disabled/grayed out otherwise).

dependsOn, **visibleOn** = FIELDEXPRESSION

Determines whether the button is disabled/hidden; otherwise, it is enabled/visible. See [dependsOn/visibleOn](#) of the generic Control for a more detailed explanation of the expression.

whatsThis = STRING

Sets an additional explanation text.

icon = FILE

Specifies an additional icon that is shown.

checked = BOOL (default: No)

Sets the initial state for toggle items.

slot = QTSLOT

Specifies a Qt slot instead of a script command (used for MeVisLab internal menus). This is an advanced feature.

receiver = NAME

Specifies the name of an Qt receiver object (used for MeVisLab internal menus). This is an advanced feature.

4.6.2.2. Separator

Creates a separator in the menu.

```
Separator = ""
```

4.7. Complex GUI Controls

4.7.1. Panel

Panel is a control that can "clone" a subregion of a given module's windows. If `panel` and `panelByGroupTitle` are not specified, the control shows the window of a module given by its name. If the window is not specified, the entire default window is shown.

This also clones all FieldListeners contained in the cloned code; this way, a cloned panel should work like the original one. The window you get when you call `window()` in the context of the cloned script will be the window in which the Panel is.

Note that no field connections can be established between fields that are shown on a macro's GUI because of a `panel` declaration. In order to be able to establish a field connection to such a field, you need to declare the according field in the macro module's interface section.

Panel is derived from [Control](#).

Dynamic scripting: `MLABPanelControl`



Tip

If you use the Panel control, you should use the `panel` tag and use the `panelName` tag in the module to mark the region you want to clone. This allows the developer of the module to see that someone is using that part of the module panel somewhere else.



Warning

`panelByGroupTitle` is deprecated and should not be used in new scripts (see above tip).

```
Panel {
  module = NAME
  panel  = NAME
  window = NAME

  // tags that should not be used any more in new panels:
  panelByGroupTitle = NAME
}
```

module = NAME (required)

Sets the name of the module in the network.

panel = NAME

Sets a name to search for in the given module by looking for a `panelName` tag with the name NAME.

window = NAME

Sets the name of the window to clone.

panelByGroupTitle = NAME (deprecated!)

Sets a name to search for by comparing NAME with the values of all group tags in the module's window.

Example 4.27. Panel

Have a look at the module **View3D**. As explained in the `Window` example, the View3D module defines four different windows. The first window (named 'View3D') defines a viewer and a settings panel. The latter has its `panelName` set to 'Settings'. The third window of the module (named 'Settings') just cuts out the settings part of the first window by using the `Panel` tag.

4.7.2. DynamicFrame

DynamicFrame shows a user-defined MDL script file or dynamically generated string. Its contents can be changed interactively from Python. This gives the user the power to create and update dynamic user interfaces in an application without the need to specify the complete GUI when the application script is started.

The controls in the content of the frame (named with the `name` tag) are visible in the global scope of the window.

You can use the Python methods `setContentFile(string)` or `setContentString(string)`.

Dynamic scripting: `MLABDynamicFrameControl`

Have a look at the module **TestDynamicFrames** that shows how to use dynamic frames in scripting.



Tip

If you dynamically add modules to your application network, you can use this control to clone a panel of the new module or to show fields of the new module on-the-fly.

```
DynamicFrame {
  autoSize    = BOOL      [Yes]
  contentFile = FILE
}
```

autoSize = BOOL (default: Yes)

Sets whether the current sizes of the contained GUI should be used.

contentFile = FILE

Specifies the initially shown MDL file. If no file is specified, the DynamicFrame is empty.

4.7.3. Viewer

Viewer shows an OpenInventor viewer. Typically, the Inventor viewer is taken from a `SoViewerNode` module in the network, especially `SoExaminerViewer`, `SoRenderArea`, etc. A viewer has to be attached to a `SoNode` field, typically the "self" field of an `InventorModule`. If you specify a `type`, the viewer is generated independent from any viewer node in the network.

Dynamic scripting: `MLABInventorViewerControl`



Tip

If you want to access the internal Inventor viewer, you should use the viewer together with a `SoExaminerViewer` or a `SoRenderArea` on a network and use the 'self' field of that module for the viewer.

```
Viewer FIELD {
  viewing      = BOOL      [Yes]
  hiResRendering = BOOL      [No]
  backgroundColor = COLOR
  type         = NAME
  clone        = BOOL      [No]
  delay        = BOOL      [Yes]
  values       = STRING

  popup        = BOOL      [No]

  popupMenu {
    // see tags for SubMenu
  }
}
```

viewing = BOOL (default: Yes)

Sets whether the viewer is in viewing mode.

hiResRendering = BOOL (default: No)

Sets whether the viewer enables OpenGL for high-resolution drawing on supported systems. Because adding more pixels to renderbuffers has performance implications, you must explicitly opt in.

popup = BOOL (default: No)

Sets whether the viewer has a pop-up menu.

backgroundColor = COLOR

Specifies the background color of the viewer.

type = NAME

Sets the type of the viewer if the SoNodeField is not from a SoViewerNode module.

Possible values: SoExaminerViewer, SoRenderArea, SoCustomExaminerViewer

clone = BOOL (default: No)

Sets whether the viewer should be cloned (this is automatically done when two viewers are shown from the same module in the network).

delay = BOOL (default: Yes)

Sets whether the viewer is created in delayed mode. That means that its content is rendered AFTER the window is drawn the first time to avoid waiting for the drawing of the rest of the GUI.

values = STRING

Sets the field values of the viewer in Inventor style (you need to know what you are doing and which fields are available).

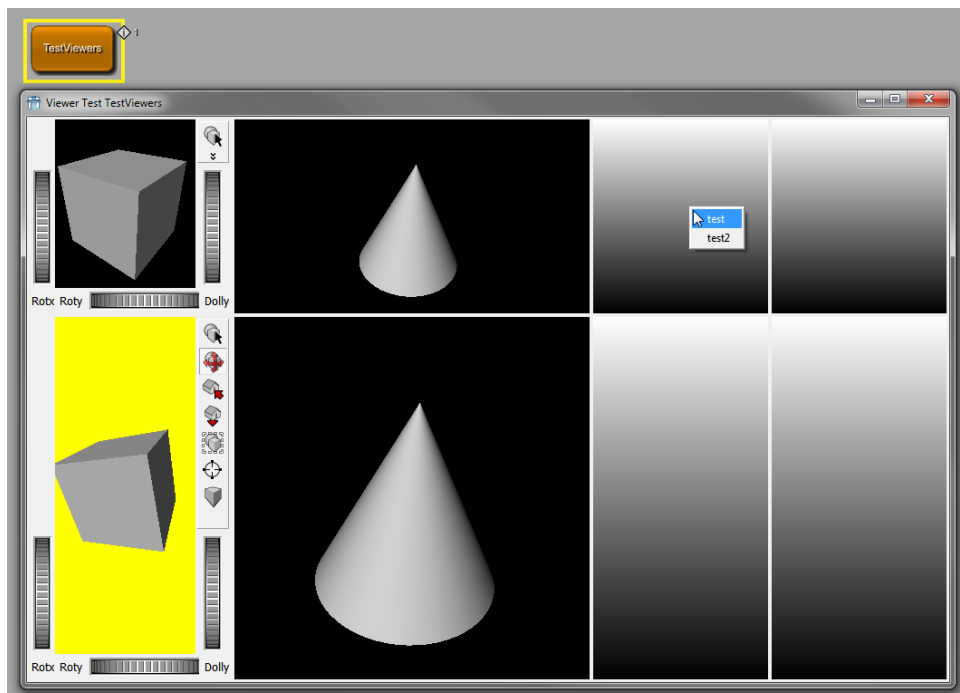
popupMenu

Defines a menu that is shown when the user clicks the right mouse button on the viewer. The internal pop-up menu of the viewer (from OpenInventor) has to be turned off; otherwise, this menu will not be shown. See [SubMenu](#) for details on how to define a menu.

Example 4.28. Viewer

Have a look at the module **TestViewers**. This module shows the use of the `Viewer` tag in different settings.

Figure 4.19. TestViewers Module



4.7.4. PathBrowser

PathBrowser displays a directory tree for browsing. Clicking a directory will open and show its subdirectories. Double-clicking a directory selects a directory.

Pressing `r` on a PathBrowser always resets the current path to the original root path.

PathBrowser is derived from [Control](#).

Dynamic scripting: MLABPathBrowserControl

```
PathBrowser {
  root      = PATH
  visibleRows = INT
  minLength = INT
  sortBy    = STRING      [Name]
  cd        = STRING

  pathSelectedCommand = SCRIPT
  pathDbClickedCommand = SCRIPT
}
```

root = PATH

Specifies the root path of the PathBrowser. If not given, or if PATH does not exist or is not readable, the current working directory is used.

visibleRows = INT

Sets the minimum number of visible rows (defining the minimum height).

minLength = INT

Sets the minimum width to show INT characters.

sortBy = ENUM (default: Name)

Specifies the sorting order of directories.

Possible values: Name, Size, Time, Unsorted

cd = PATH

Specifies the relative path from `root` to the initially opened subdirectory.

pathSelectedCommand = SCRIPT (argument: absolute path) **pathDbClickedCommand** = SCRIPT (argument: absolute path)

Defines a script command that is called when the path is selected/double-clicked with left mouse button.

4.7.5. MediaPlayer

The MediaPlayer allows to play AVI movies. The movie can be given as a filename and the control can be controlled interactively by Python.

MediaPlayer is derived from [Control](#).

Dynamic scripting: MLABMediaPlayerControl

```
MediaPlayer {
  filename      = FILE
  autoStart     = BOOL   [No]
  enableContextMenu = BOOL [Yes]
  showControls  = BOOL   [Yes]
}
```

filename = FILE

Specifies the filename of the movie (should be an AVI).

autoStart = BOOL (default: No)

Sets whether the movie should start immediately.

enableContextMenu = BOOL (default: Yes)

Sets whether a context menu with advanced control functions is enabled.

showControls = BOOL (default: Yes)

Sets whether play, stop, pause, etc., controls are shown to the user.

4.7.6. ScreenshotGallery

The ScreenshotGallery can be used in an application to collect screenshots for that application. It can be used via scripting to obtain a list of taken screenshots and movies, to control the directory where these files are written, and more.

ScreenshotGallery is derived from [Control](#).

Dynamic scripting: MLABScreenshotGalleryControl

```
ScreenshotGallery {  
  application = NAME  
}
```

application = NAME

Defines the name of the application (i.e., the macro module) whose screenshots should be stored.

4.7.7. WebEngineView

The MDL WebEngineView provides a complete web engine to the MDL developer. It is based on the open-source [Chromium](#) engine, which powers most browsers nowadays.

We recommend that you use this control only to display content controlled by you, since we cannot provide the same level/frequency of security updates as the main browser applications. However, it uses the same broad code base, which is subject to intense scrutiny for code flaws.

It offers:

- A standards compliant web browser.
- ECMAScript 2021, CSS2, CSS3, and HTML5.
- Scripting interface to control the browser content, text selection, menu, etc.
- Scripting interface to call browser JavaScript from MeVisLab Python.
- Access to MeVisLab objects from within JavaScript through the WebChannel API (see the "Scripting" demo in the TestWebEngineView example module).
- WebInspector for debugging HTML, CSS, and JavaScript (Inspect option on context menu).
- PDF Viewing.



Note

This requires setting a special flag from Python code after the control has been created:

```
from PythonQt.QtWebEngineWidgets import QWebEnginePage, QWebEngineSettings  
...  
webControl = ctx.control("yourwebview")  
webControl.webPage().settings().setAttribute(QWebEngineSettings.PluginsEnabled, True)
```

You might call this, e.g., from an [Execute](#) command in your panel.

Note that this enables support for all [Pepper API plugins](#)!

WebEngineView is derived from [Control](#).

Dynamic scripting: MLABWebEngineViewControl

```
WebEngineView {
  contentUrl          = URL
  contentFile         = FILE
  contentString       = STRING
  contentStringBaseUrl = URL

  loadStartedCommand  = SCRIPT
  loadProgressCommand = SCRIPT
  loadFinishedCommand = SCRIPT

  linkClickedCommand  = SCRIPT
  urlChangedCommand  = SCRIPT
  selectionChangedCommand = SCRIPT

  logConsoleOutput    = BOOL
  enablePrinting      = BOOL [No]

  linkDelegation      = ENUM
```

contentUrl = URL

Sets the content of the WebEngineView to the given URL, e.g., `https://www.mevislabs.de`

contentFile = FILE

Sets the content of the WebEngineView to the given local file, e.g., `$(LOCAL)/SomeFile.html`

contentString = STRING

Sets the content of the WebEngineView to the given HTML string. If no `contentStringBaseUrl` is given, the `$(LOCAL)` MDL variable is used as `baseUrl` for the string, so relative links are resolved relative to `$(LOCAL)`.

contentStringBaseUrl = URL

Sets a different base URL when using `contentString`.

loadStartedCommand = SCRIPT

Defines a script command that is called when the WebEngineView starts loading a document.

loadProgressCommand = SCRIPT (argument: float progress)

Defines a script command that is called with values from 0.0 to 1.0 while the WebEngineView loads the document.

loadFinishedCommand = SCRIPT (argument: bool success)

Defines a script command that is called when the document has finished loading.

linkClickedCommand = SCRIPT (arguments: QUrl)

Defines a script command that is called for all clicked links.

urlChangedCommand = SCRIPT (arguments: QUrl)

In contrast to the command above, this command is always called when the displayed URL changes, not only if a link was clicked. This may also incorporate page forwarding.

selectionChangedCommand = SCRIPT

Defines a script command that is called whenever the text selection in the WebEngineView changes.

enablePrinting = BOOL (default: No)

Defines whether a JavaScript call of `window.print()` results in opening a print dialog and printing of the content. It will also add a print entry to the context menu of the view if enabled.

linkDelegation = ENUM (default: depends on linkClickedCommand)

Defines how clicks on links are handled. All links that are delegated are passed to the **linkClickedCommand** instead of switching the WebEngineView to the URL internally. By default,

links are delegated if the `linkClickedCommand` is set. If the `linkClickedCommand` is not implemented, but `linkDelegation` is set to `All`, the delegated URLs are passed to `MeVisLab`, which uses the default programs registered for the scheme of the URL to open the URL.

None

No links are delegated.

All

All clicked links are delegated.

4.7.8. GraphicsView

The MDL `GraphicsView` offers a freely configurable area that can contain:

- Graphics items (Lines, Pixmap, RichText, etc.)
- MDL panels
- Inventor render areas
- WebKit HTML
- Vertical, Horizontal, Grid, and Anchor layouts
- HotArea layout with HotAreas

These items can be arranged and blended over each other as desired. This allows to create new types of interactive GUIs including animated transitions.

For detailed examples, have a look at the **TestGraphicsView** and **TestGraphicsViewHotArea** modules, which demonstrate some of the possibilities.

`GraphicsView` is derived from [Control](#).

Dynamic scripting: `MLABGraphicsViewControl`

```
GraphicsView {
}
```

4.7.9. ItemModelView

The **ItemModelView** provides a view of the `ItemModel` base object contained in the specified field, representing an abstract hierarchical item model with generic named attributes. The user can select which attributes are displayed in the resulting table and how they are displayed.

This control resembles the `ListView` control in appearance but takes a more abstract approach and clearly differentiates between model and view.

```
ItemModelView FIELD {
  selectionField      = FIELD
  currentField        = FIELD
  doubleClickedField  = FIELD
  clickedColumnField  = FIELD
  selectableAttribute = NAME      [none]
  idAttribute         = NAME      [none]
  idAsFullPath        = BOOL      [No]
  idPathSeparator     = STRING
  idSeparator         = STRING
  selectionMode        = ENUM      [Single]
  tabDirection        = ENUM      [Vertical]
  sortByColumn        = INT        [-1]
  sortAscending       = BOOL       [Yes]
  header              = BOOL       [Yes]
```

```

alternatingRowColors= BOOL          [No]
autoExpandAll        = BOOL          [No]
autoExpandToDepth    = INT            [0]
visibleRows          = INT            [5]
editTrigger           = STRING         [SelectedClicked and EditKeyPressed]

editableAttribute     = NAME           [No]
checkboxEditableAttribute = NAME           [No]
automaticParentCheckboxState = BOOL     [No]
colorAttribute        = NAME           [none]
tooltipAttribute      = NAME           [none]
boldFontAttribute     = NAME           [No]
italicFontAttribute   = NAME           [No]
floatDecimalPlaces    = INT            [-1]
automaticResize       = BOOL           [Yes]
align                 = ENUM           [Left]
headerAlign           = ENUM           [Left]

DerivedAttribute NAME {
  sourceAttribute     = NAME
  defaultValue        = STRING
  defaultPathValue    = FILE
  Case STRING {
    value              = STRING
    pathValue          = FILE
  }
  ...
}
...

ComputedAttribute NAME {
  expression          = EXPRESSION
}
...

Column STRING {
  displayAttribute     = NAME           (see text)
  displayAsColor       = BOOL           [No]
  editAttribute        = NAME           (see text)
  editableAttribute    = NAME           (see text)
  checkboxAttribute     = NAME           (see text)
  checkboxEditableAttribute = NAME       (see text)
  automaticParentCheckboxState = BOOL     [No]
  iconAttribute        = NAME           [none]
  tooltipAttribute     = NAME           [none]
  colorAttribute       = NAME           [none]
  sortAttributes       = STRING         (see text)
  comboboxAttribute    = NAME           [none]
  comboboxTooltipsAttribute = NAME       [none]
  comboboxItemDelimiter = STRING        [ / ]
  boldFontAttribute    = NAME           [No]
  italicFontAttribute  = NAME           [No]
  visibleOn            = FIELDEXPRESSION [1]
  floatDecimalPlaces   = INT            [-1]
  automaticResize      = BOOL           (see text)
  align                = ENUM           (see text)
  headerAlign          = ENUM           (see text)
}
...
}

```

selectionField = FIELD

A string field that will contain the currently selected items.

How items are identified must be specified with the `idAttribute` and following tags.

currentField = FIELD

A string field that will contain the current (focused) item.

doubleClickedField = FIELD

A string field that will receive the last double-clicked item.

clickedColumnField = FIELD

An integer field that can be used in conjunction with the `doubleClickedField` and that contains the index of the column where the last click happened. This will be updated before the `doubleClickedField` is touched but the `clickedColumnField` may not be touched if the column did not change.

selectableAttribute = STRING

Specifies the name of an attribute that will determine if an item can be selected. If no attribute is specified, the default is True.

idAttribute = STRING

Specifies the name of an attribute that can be used to clearly identify items from the model, e.g., a unique name or a numerical ID.

idAsFullPath = BOOL

Sets whether the `idAttributes` of all parents are needed to clearly identify an item.

idPathSeparator = STRING

If `idAsFullPath` is set, use this string to separate identifying value of the item and its parents. For an `ItemModel` representing the file system, this would ideally be the slash character, leading to a natural path ID.

idSeparator = BOOL

If several items must be specified (in the `selectionField`), use this string to separate the IDs.

selectionMode = ENUM

The selection model of the control. The following values exist:

Single

Only a single item can be selected at any time.

Extended

When the user selects an item in the usual way, the selection is cleared and the new item selected. However, if the user presses the CTRL key when clicking on an item, the clicked item gets toggled and all other items are left untouched. If the user presses the SHIFT key while clicking on an item, all items between the current item and the clicked item are selected or unselected, depending on the state of the clicked item. Multiple items can be selected by dragging the mouse over them.

Multi

When the user selects an item in the usual way, the selection status of that item is toggled and the other items are left alone. Multiple items can be toggled by dragging the mouse over them.

NoSelection

No item can be selected.

tabDirection = ENUM (default: Vertical)

Defines the direction when jumping to the next editable field through the use of the Tab key. When Horizontal is selected, the cursor automatically switches to the next row when reaching the table border.

Possible values: Vertical, Horizontal

sortByColumn = INT

Specifies which column to sort by initially. By default, the items are sorted by the value used for the `displayAttribute` but this can be overridden with the `sortAttribute`. Set this to -1 to disable sorting.

sortAscending = BOOL

Specifies whether sorting should initially be ascending or descending.

header = BOOL

Specifies whether the column headers should be shown.

alternatingRowColors = BOOL

Sets whether alternating background colors for the rows of the table are used.

autoExpandAll = BOOL

Specifies whether all items with subitems should be expanded by default. This takes precedence over `autoExpandToDepth` if both are specified.

autoExpandToDepth = INT

Specifies the depth to which items should be automatically expanded. Top-level items have depth 1. If you want to expand all items regardless of depth, you should rather use `autoExpandAll`.

visibleRows = INT

Specifies the minimum number of visible rows.

editTrigger = STRING

Specifies what triggers editing of editable cells. This tag can appear multiple times to specify multiple edit triggers.

The available edit triggers are:

`NoEditTriggers`

No editing possible.

`CurrentChanged`

Editing start whenever the current item changes.

`DoubleClicked`

Editing starts when an item is double-clicked.

`SelectedClicked`

Editing starts when clicking on an already selected item.

`EditKeyPressed`

Editing starts when the platform edit key has been pressed over an item.

`AnyKeyPressed`

Editing starts when any key is pressed over an item.

`AllEditTriggers`

Editing starts for all above actions.

editableAttribute = NAME

Gives the name of an item attribute that specifies if cells should be editable by default. This can be overridden for single columns.

You can use pseudo-attribute names "True/Yes" or "False/No" here to enable or disable editing independent from specific items.

checkboxEditableAttribute = NAME

The same as `editableAttribute` for columns. You still need to specify a `checkboxAttribute` in the columns to display checkboxes.

automaticParentCheckboxState = BOOL

The same as `automaticParentCheckboxState` for columns.

colorAttribute = NAME

Gives the name of an item attribute that shall provide the default color for all columns.

Colors can also be provided as strings, either as `#rrggbb` (hexadecimal notation, e.g., `#ff0000`), or as a color name as defined in the list of [SVG color keyword names](#).

tooltipAttribute = NAME

Same as the `tooltipAttribute` for columns, but this value applies to all columns.

boldFontAttribute = NAME

Same as the boldFontAttribute for columns, but this value applies to all columns.

italicFontAttribute = NAME

Same as the italicFontAttribute for columns, but this value applies to all columns.

floatDecimalPlaces = INT

Same as the floatDecimalPlaces for columns, but this value applies to all columns.

automaticResize = BOOL

Specifies whether all columns should resize automatically if their content changes. This can be overridden in single columns.

align = ENUM

Specifies the default alignment for all columns. Possible values are Left, Right, or Center

headerAlign = ENUM

Specifies the default alignment of the header content for the entire table. Possible values are Left, Right, or Center

DerivedAttribute NAME

Sometimes it is necessary to change the color of a row depending on an item's attribute or display an icon, but the color or icon should belong to the view, not to the model. In this situation, DerivedAttributes can be used to create a pseudo-attribute that depends on another real (or another derived) attribute. This new derived attribute can be accessed under the name given after DerivedAttribute.

Derived attributes can be used everywhere where real attributes can be used.

sourceAttribute = NAME

Gives the source attribute to derive the value from.

defaultValue = STRING

Provides a default value if no other case fits.

defaultPathValue = FILE

Provides a default value if no other case fits. File path-specific manipulations may occur to achieve the desired result. Only used if defaultValue is not specified.

Case STRING

Specifies the value to use if the sourceAttribute has the value given after Case.

value = STRING

Returns this value in this case.

pathValue = FILE

Returns this value in this case. File path-specific manipulations may occur to achieve the desired result.

ComputedAttribute NAME

Computed attributes are another kind of [DerivedAttribute](#) where you can specify an expression instead of a value table.

They can be used everywhere where real attributes can be used.

expression = EXPRESSION

Specifies the expression to compute. This is basically a [field expression](#), but instead of field names you can use every attribute name of the displayed item model, or any DerivedAttribute or ComputedAttribute that has been defined before this one.

Additionally, you can use the pseudo-attribute `depth`, which gives the tree depth of the current item, with top-level items having the depth 1.

Column STRING

Adds a column to the view. The string given after `Column` will be used as the header string. If not specified otherwise, it will also be used for the names of the `displayAttribute` and `editAttribute`.

displayAttribute = NAME

Specifies the name of the attribute to show as the value of this column cell.

You can specify the pseudo-attribute `none` if you do not want to have text displayed in this column.

displayAsColor = BOOL

Specifies that the attribute given in `displayAttribute` (and `editAttribute`) should be interpreted as a color and displayed accordingly.

Editing a color is possible and will always produce a string in the format `#rrggbb`.

editAttribute = NAME

Specifies the name of the attribute to use when editing a cell value (if this is different from the `displayAttribute`).

Note that the `editableAttribute` must still be set to enable editing for a column and item.

editableAttribute = NAME

Specifies the name of the attribute to decide whether the column text should be editable. This might override the default given on level of the control.

You can use pseudo-attribute names `True/Yes` or `False/No` here to enable or disable editing independent from specific items.

checkboxAttribute = NAME

Specifies the name of a bool attribute to display a checkbox in this column.

checkboxEditableAttribute = NAME

Specifies the name of the attribute to decide whether the checkbox should be editable. This might override the default given on level of the control.

You can use pseudo-attribute names `True/Yes` or `False/No` here to enable or disable editing independent from specific items.

automaticParentCheckboxState = BOOL

Parent items show the cumulative checkbox state of all their children with checkboxes, and may display a "partially checked" state.

The checkbox is only shown if the `checkboxAttribute` is defined for the parent item, regardless of its value.

If there are no direct child items with checkboxes in this column, the checkbox state is determined by the value given through the `checkboxAttribute`.

iconAttribute = NAME

Specifies the name of a attribute that contains an image or the file path of an image to display an icon in this column.

Note: For many use cases, this might be a `DerivedAttribute`. If a filename is chosen for the icon, then "pathValue" should be set instead of "value" in the derived attribute.

tooltipAttribute = NAME

Specifies the name of a attribute that contains the text that is used to display tooltips in this column.

Note: For many use cases, this might be a `DerivedAttribute`.

colorAttribute = NAME

Specifies the name of a attribute that contains a color or color name to change the text color in this column. This will override the `colorAttribute` specified on the control level.

Note: For many use cases, this might be a `DerivedAttribute`.

sortAttributes = STRING

Specifies the names of attribute to sort the items by if this column is selected for sorting. Several attributes may be specified (separated by comma) if values of single attributes may be the same. The first attribute takes precedence over later attributes. The sort order for certain attributes may be inverted by prepending an exclamation mark (!) before the attribute name.

Note: Attributes used for sorting do not necessarily need to be used for display.

comboboxAttribute = NAME

Specifies an attribute that contains the items of a ComboBox that will be used for editing string values. Use this if you only want to allow certain values while editing. If your list of possible items is static for the entire column, you can define a `DerivedAttribute` with only a `defaultValue` and use that.

Note: You still need to set the `editableAttribute` to allow editing.

Note: An empty list of items will allow free editing.

comboboxTooltipsAttribute = NAME

Specifies an attribute that contains the items of tooltips for the ComboBox items specified via the `comboboxAttribute`. Will be used for editing string values. If your list of possible items is static for the entire column, you can define a `DerivedAttribute` with only a `defaultValue` and use that.

Note: Only useful in combination with `comboboxAttribute`. Make sure both strings contain the same amount of values.

comboboxItemDelimiter = STRING

Specifies the character (or an entire string) that separates items in the `comboboxAttribute` and `comboboxTooltipsAttribute`. The default is the | character.

boldFontAttribute = NAME

Specifies an attribute that evaluates to True or False. If this is True for an item, the displayed text is shown with a bold font.

italicFontAttribute = NAME

Specifies an attribute that evaluates to True or False. If this is True for an item, the displayed text is shown with an italic font.

visibleOn = FIELDEXPRESSION

Same meaning as with [visibleOn](#) tag of a control, but applied on the column.

floatDecimalPlaces = INT

Specifies the number of digits after the decimal point to show for floating-point numbers. -1 means show all (relevant) digits, possibly selecting scientific notation.

automaticResize = BOOL

Specifies whether this column should resize automatically if the content of the column changes. This overrides the value given on the control level.

align = BOOL

Specifies the alignment of text in this column. Possible values are Left, Right, or Center. This overrides the value given on the control level.

headerAlign = BOOL

Specifies the alignment of text in the header of this column. Possible values are Left, Right, or Center. This overrides the value given on the control level.

For detailed examples, have a look at the **FileSystemItemModelData** and **FileSystemItemModelView** modules, which demonstrate some of the possibilities of this control. This example is taken from **FileSystemItemModelView**:

```
ItemModelView input {
  selectionField = selection
  idAttribute    = name
  idAsFullPath  = Yes
  idPathSeparator = "/"
  idSeparator    = ";"
  sortByColumn   = 0

  DerivedAttribute "icon" {
    sourceAttribute = directory
    case "1" {
      pathValue = "$(MLAB_MeVisLab_IDE)/Modules/IDE/images/fileopen.png"
    }
  }

  Column "name" {
    sortAttributes = "!directory,name_nocase"
    iconAttribute = icon
  }
  Column "size" {
    align = right
  }
  Column "writable" {
    displayAttribute      = none
    checkBoxAttribute     = writable
    checkBoxEditableAttribute = Yes
  }
}
```

Also have a look at **MLStandardItemModelWrapper** for a way to generate a custom item model from scripting.

ItemModelView is derived from [Control](#).

4.8. Event Handling Controls

4.8.1. Accel

Accel allows to add keyboard shortcuts that trigger fields or execute a Python command when pressed. They are local to the window they are declared in, thus they are only triggered when their parent window is active.

Accel can appear inside of all Group GUI controls. The field and command tags are both optional. Note that Accel should be specified before the other GUI controls for which the defined shortcuts should be available. For instance, if a certain shortcut should be available for an entire window, place the corresponding Accel statement at the beginning, just after the Window statement.

Dynamic scripting: **MLABAccelControl**

```
Accel {
  key      = KEYSEQUENCE
  field    = FIELD
  command  = SCRIPT
}
```

key = KEYSEQUENCE

Defines a shortcut that triggers the accelerator, e.g., CTRL+X, ALT+Z, CTRL+SHIFT+U.

field = FIELD

Defines a trigger field that is touched when the keyboard shortcut is pressed.

command = SCRIPT

Defines a script command that is called when the keyboard shortcut is pressed.

4.8.2. EventFilter

The EventFilter is a non-GUI control that can be placed anywhere in the GUI. It allows to listen to the events that other controls (and optionally their children) receive and can then either prevent the event from being delivered or just pass through the event. It is a very powerful control since it allows to react on GUI events on a low level. You can, e.g., use it to implement drag-and-drop features for other controls, to notice when a window gets visible/hidden, when a control gets entered with the mouse, and much more.

Dynamic scripting: MLABEventFilterControl

```
EventFilter {
  name      = NAME
  command   = SCRIPT
  filter     = NAMELIST
  eatEvent  = BOOL           [No]
  children  = BOOL           [No]
  debug     = BOOL           [No]
  control   = NAME
  ...
}
```

name = NAME

Sets the name of the EventFilter, for usage with the `ctx.control()` method.

command = SCRIPT (argument: eventPropertyMap [, control, QEvent])

Defines a script command that is called for each event that matched the filter. For details on the event properties, see below. The optional control parameter can be used to directly access the EventFilter control. The optional QEvent parameter allows to directly access the Qt event for advanced usage. Make sure to `import PythonQt.QtGui` in your Python code if you want to access the QEvent directly.

filter = NAMELIST

A list of event names that should be filtered.

eatEvent = BOOL (default: No)

Sets whether the filtered events are eaten automatically (i.e., eaten events are not delivered to other controls).

children = BOOL (default: No)

Sets whether the filter is applied to all subwidgets or just to the given controls.

debug = BOOL (default: No)

Sets whether all events are printed to the console (just to see which events happen and which you might be interested in).

control = NAME

Sets the name of the control to filter events on. This tag can appear multiple times so that the filter listens to multiple controls at a time.

The filter can contain a number of Event names. These names are taken from Qt. You can find the event details at <http://doc.qt.io/qt-6/qevent.html>.

All events share the `type` property, which can be checked if multiple events are filtered. To print all properties of an event, just print the passed event property map in Python.

The most useful events are:

`MouseButtonPress`, `MouseButtonRelease`, `MouseButtonDblClick`, `MouseMove`
 Reacts on mouse button press or release and movement.

Event properties: `x`, `y`, `globalX`, `globalY`, `button` (one of "left", "mid", "right"), `ctrlKey`, `shiftKey`, `altKey`

`Show`, `Hide`

Reacts on a control being shown or hidden.

Event properties: none (except type)

`Enter`, `Leave`

Reacts on mouse entering or leaving the control area.

Event properties: none (except type)

`DragEnter`, `DragMove`, `Drop`

Handles drag-and-drop on a low level.

Event properties: `x`, `y`, `globalX`, `globalY`

`Wheel`

Handles the mouse wheel event.

Event properties: `x`, `y`, `globalX`, `globalY`, `delta`, `orientation` (one of "vertical", "horizontal"), `ctrlKey`, `shiftKey`, `altKey`

`Resize`

Handles resize event.

Event properties: `width`, `height`, `oldWidth`, `oldHeight`

`KeyPress`, `KeyRelease`

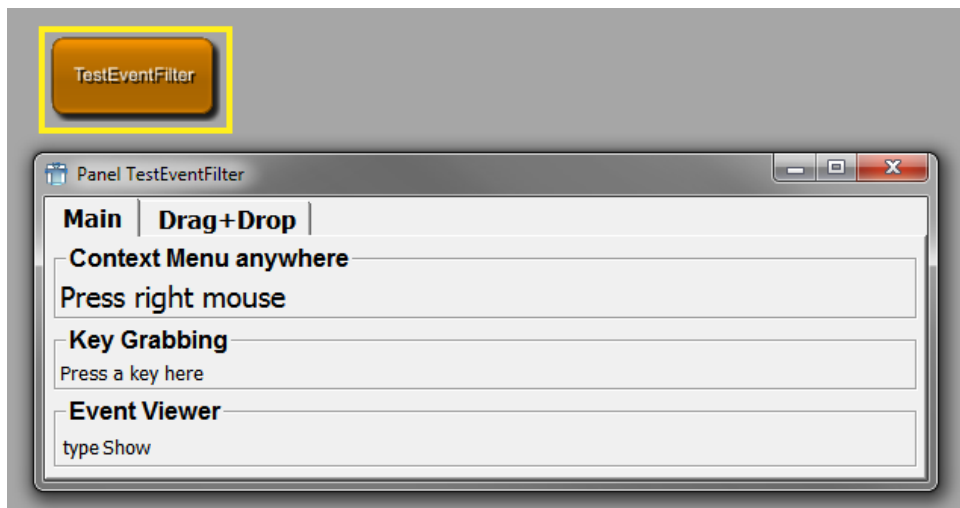
Handles the key press event, where "ascii" is the ASCII char, the text is unicode, and the key can be used to access special keys, e.g., "Left", "Right" for cursor keys. See the Qt key defines or have a look at the example in `TestEventFilter`.

Event properties: `ascii`, `text`, `key`, `ctrlKey`, `shiftKey`, `altKey`

Example 4.29. EventFilter

Have a look at the module **TestEventFilter**. This module features the reacting of certain areas of the GUI on defined mouse actions (button pressed, mouse enter, mouse leave, etc.) and the implementation of dragging and dropping of files or images.

Figure 4.20. TestEventFilter Module



4.9. Other Design Options

This chapter explains other options used in many GUI controls: the layout engine, RichText, and the MDL styles.

4.9.1. Align Groups

By default, various GUI Controls are laid out depending on each other, e.g., Field controls in a Vertical automatically get the same label size. This behavior can explicitly be specified by the concept of "Align Groups". A group is specified by its unique name that you have to choose. All controls in the same group are aligned according to the type of the group.

There are three type of groups (given by their tag names):

- **alignGroupX** (alias: **alignGroup**) - All child widgets of the control get the maximum width of all child widgets in that column.
- **alignGroupY** - All child widgets of the controls get the maximum height of all child widgets in that row.
- **labelAlignGroup** - All controls get the same maximum label size.

In simpler terms: if two controls, e.g., Fields in the same Vertical, have the same **alignGroup** tag, all the subwidgets in the Field controls are aligned well in their widths.

The labelAlignGroup can be used to just align the labels, so that the other children of a Control will not be aligned. Have a look at the `TestLayouter` MacroModule in MeVisLab, which shows the differences.



Important

Please note that the term "alignment" in this section might be misleading. In this context, alignment means getting the same width or height as another control. This does not necessarily mean a visual alignment, since the controls may be located at completely different positions. Also note that the alignment is a one-time process when the window is created, so it might get unaligned if you allow expanding of the controls via **expandX**, **expandY**.

In addition to the above tags, which are used directly inside of a control that should be aligned, you can also use the **childAlignGroupX** (alias **childAlignGroup**) and **childAlignGroupY** tags, which can be specified in any control that has children. This causes all "simple" controls inside this control to get the specified align group. This way, you can just see it as a helper tag that helps you write less tags:

```
Vertical {
  childAlignGroup = group1
  Box {
    Field test1 { }
    Field test2 { }
  }
  Box {
    Field test3 { }
    Field test4 { }
  }
}
```

This is identical to the following, note that the boxes do not get the alignGroup and that the childAlignGroup tag works recursively.

```
Vertical {
  Box {
    Field test1 { alignGroup = group1 }
    Field test2 { alignGroup = group1 }
  }
  Box {
    Field test3 { alignGroup = group1 }
    Field test4 { alignGroup = group1 }
  }
}
```

}

The `labelAlignGroup` tag can also be used at a higher level and it causes all "simple" controls to get their labels aligned. See the `TestLayouter` MacroModule in MeVisLab for an example of the above tags.

4.9.2. RichText

The following tables give you an overview of which tags are available in RichText. The RichText can be used in tooltips, whatsthis boxes, Label, HyperText, HyperLabel, and various other places. The syntax is a simple subset of HTML, including lists, tables, images, and links. Have a look at the `TestHyperText` module in MeVisLab to see some examples.

Table tags	Notes
<code><table>...</table></code>	<p>A table. Tables support the following attributes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <code>bgcolor</code> -- The background color. <code>width</code> -- The table width. This is either an absolute pixel width or a relative percentage of the table's width, for example <code>width=80%</code>. <code>border</code> -- The width of the table border. The default is 0 (= no border). <code>cellspacing</code> -- Additional space around the table cells. The default is 2. <code>cellpadding</code> -- Additional space around the contents of table cells. The default is 1.
<code><tr>...</tr></code>	<p>A table row. This is only valid within a table. Rows support the following attribute:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <code>bgcolor</code> -- The background color.
<code><th>...</th></code>	A table header cell. Similar to <code>td</code> , but defaults to center alignment and a bold font.
<code><td>...</td></code>	<p>A table data cell. This is only valid within a table row. Cells support the following attributes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <code>bgcolor</code> -- The background color. <code>width</code> -- The cell width. This is either an absolute pixel width or a relative percentage of table's width, for example <code>width=50%</code>. <code>colspan</code> -- Specifies how many columns this cell spans. The default is 1. <code>rowspan</code> -- Specifies how many rows this cell spans. The default is 1. <code>align</code> -- Horizontal alignment; possible values are <code>left</code>, <code>right</code>, and <code>center</code>. The default is <code>left</code>. <code>valign</code> -- Vertical alignment; possible values are <code>top</code>, <code>middle</code>, and <code>bottom</code>. The default is <code>middle</code>.

Special tags	Notes
<code></code>	<p>An image. The image name for the MIME source factory is given in the source attribute, for example, <code></code>. The image tag also understands the attributes <code>width</code> and <code>height</code> that determine the size of the image. If the pixmap does not fit the specified size, it will be scaled automatically. The <code>align</code> attribute determines where the image is placed. By default, an image is placed inline just like a normal character. Specify <code>left</code> or <code>right</code> to place the image at the respective side.</p>

Special tags	Notes
<code><hr></code>	A horizontal line.
<code>
</code>	A line break.
<code><nobr>...</nobr></code>	No break; prevents word wrap.

Style tags	Notes
<code>...</code>	Emphasized. By default, this is the same as <code><i>...</i></code> (italic).
<code>...</code>	Strong. By default, this is the same as <code>...</code> (bold).
<code><i>...</i></code>	Italic font style.
<code>...</code>	Bold font style.
<code><u>...</u></code>	Underlined font style.
<code><s>...</s></code>	Strike out font style.
<code><big>...</big></code>	A larger font size.
<code><small>...</small></code>	A smaller font size.
<code><code>...</code></code>	Indicates code. By default, this is the same as <code><tt>...</tt></code> (typewriter). For larger chunks of code, use the block-tag <code><pre></code> .
<code><tt>...</tt></code>	Typewriter font style.
<code>...</code>	Customize the font size, family, and text color. The tag can have the following attributes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <code>color</code> -- The text color, for example, <code>color="red"</code> or <code>color="#FF0000"</code>. <code>size</code> -- The logical size of the font. Logical sizes 1 to 7 are supported. The value may either be absolute (for example, <code>size=3</code>) or relative (<code>size=-2</code>). In the latter case, the sizes are simply added. <code>face</code> -- The family of the font, for example, <code>face="times"</code>.

Anchor tags	Notes
<code><a>...</code>	An anchor or link. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A link is created by using an <code>href</code> attribute, for example, <code>Link Text</code>. Links to targets within a document are written in the same way as for HTML, for example, <code>Link Text</code>. A target is created by using a <code>name</code> attribute, for example, <code><h2>Sub Title</h2></code>.

Structuring tags	Notes
<code><qt>...</qt></code>	A Qt RichText document. It can have the following attributes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <code>title</code> -- The caption of the document. <code>type</code> -- The type of the document. The default type is "page". It indicates that the document is displayed in a page of its own. Another style is "detail", which can be used to explain certain expressions in more detail in a few sentences. Note that links will not work in documents with <code><qt type="detail">...</qt></code>. <code>bgcolor</code> -- The background color, for example, <code>bgcolor="yellow"</code> or <code>bgcolor="#0000FF"</code>.

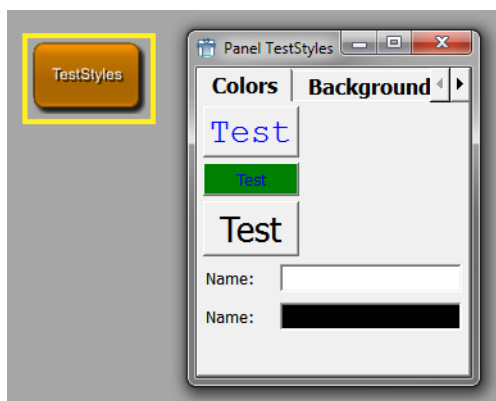
Structuring tags	Notes
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <code>background</code> -- The background pixmap, for example, <code>background="granite.xpm"</code>. The pixmap name needs to have an absolute path, e.g., use <code>\$(LOCAL)/image.png</code>. • <code>text</code> -- The default text color, for example, <code>text="red"</code>. • <code>link</code> -- The link color, for example, <code>link="green"</code>.
<code><h1>...</h1></code>	A top-level heading.
<code><h2>...</h2></code>	A sub-level heading.
<code><h3>...</h3></code>	A sub-sub-level heading.
<code><p>...</p></code>	A left-aligned paragraph. Adjust the alignment with the <code>align</code> attribute. Possible values are <code>left</code> , <code>right</code> and <code>center</code> .
<code><center>...</center></code>	A centered paragraph.
<code><blockquote>...</blockquote></code>	An indented paragraph that is useful for quotes.
<code>...</code>	An unordered list. You can also pass a <code>type</code> argument to define the bullet style. The default is <code>type="disc"</code> ; other types are <code>circle</code> and <code>square</code> .
<code>...</code>	An ordered list. You can also pass a <code>type</code> argument to define the enumeration label style. The default is <code>type="1"</code> ; other types are <code>"a"</code> and <code>"A"</code> .
<code>...</code>	A list item. This tag can be used only within the context of <code></code> or <code></code> .
<code><pre>...</pre></code>	For larger chunks of code. Whitespaces in the contents are preserved. For small bits of code, use the inline-style code.

4.9.3. Styles

Styles can be defined globally but also locally in a user interface to change the GUI appearance. Every control supports the `style` tag, where you can give a style by its name (declared with `DefineStyle`) or by just opening a local style and deriving from the current style.

Example: See **TestStyles** macro module in MeVisLab.

Figure 4.21. TestStyles Module



4.9.3.1. DefineStyle

`DefineStyle` allows to define a new GUI style, either complete or just extending an existing style. The style provided with MeVisLab is called "default". Old ILAB4 styles are also supported, being `defaultVerySmall`, `defaultSmall`, `defaultBig`, `defaultHuge`. These styles should no longer be used and are replaced by the

scale tag, with which you can resize all fonts in a GUI control by just giving the scale tag and a positive or negative integer for bigger/smaller fonts and spacings.

Styles can be used to change the entire user interface appearance or just to change a single color/font in a given control. See below for an example on how to do that.

A style contains Fonts, Colors, and Prototypes. You can specify a different font for each of the following roles:

- Titles (`titleFont` tag)
- Editable text (`editFont` tag)
- TabBar text (`tabFont` tag)
- Box group titles (`boxFont` tag)

There are two different sets of colors, the default `colors` and the `disabledColors`, which specify which colors a control uses when it is drawn. The `disabledColors` are used when a control is not enabled (also called "grayed out").

```
DefineStyle NAME {
    derive = NAME

    // Font for titles in the GUI (Buttons, Labels, etc.)
    titleFont {
        family      = NAME
        size        = INT
        weight      = ENUM
        italic      = BOOL
        fixedPitch  = BOOL
    }

    // Font for editing components in the GUI (NumberEdit, TextView, etc.)
    editFont {
        // see titleFont
    }

    // Font for TabViews
    tabFont {
        // see titleFont
    }

    // Font for Box group titles
    boxFont {
        // see titleFont
    }

    colors {
        fg          = COLOR
        bg          = COLOR
        button      = COLOR
        buttonText  = COLOR
        editText    = COLOR
        editBg      = COLOR
        base        = COLOR
        alternateBase = COLOR
        light       = COLOR
        midlight    = COLOR
        dark        = COLOR
        mid         = COLOR
        shadow      = COLOR
        highlight   = COLOR
        highlightedText = COLOR
        brightText  = COLOR
        link        = COLOR
        linkVisited = COLOR
        boxText     = COLOR
        tabText     = COLOR
        toolTipBase = COLOR
        toolTipText = COLOR
    }
    disabledColors {
        // same as above colors
    }
}
```

derive = NAME

Selects a style to derive from, all attributes are copied and you may overwrite any of the tags, e.g., just the font sizes, an individual color.

titleFont, **editFont**, **boxFont**, **tabFont**

Defines properties of a font. You do not need to specify all tags, reasonable defaults are taken from the underlying system settings.

family = NAME

Specifies a font family name; possible names are: Helvetica, Courier, etc.

size = INT

Sets the point size of the font.

weight = ENUM

Sets the weight of the font.

Possible values: Light, Normal, DemiBold, Bold, Black

italic = BOOL

Sets whether font should be italic.

fixedPitch = BOOL

Sets whether the font should be fixed pitch (depends on the font family).

colors, **disabledColors**

Defines the normal colors and the disabled colors for all controls in this style.

The syntax for COLOR in the style is:

colorname[:imagefilename]

where colorname can be one of:

- #rrggbb
- X11 color name (also on Windows)
- A name specified in the Colors section

and imagefilename can be an extra image used as a brush for that color. Using images is especially interesting for the background colors bg, editBg, and button.

Examples:

```
bg = black:$(LOCAL)/someBackgroundImage.png
editBg = white
```

fg = COLOR

The foreground text color used in Labels, etc.

Aliases: foreground, windowText

bg = COLOR

The background color.

Aliases: background, window

button = COLOR

The background color of buttons.

buttonText = COLOR

The text color on buttons.

editText = COLOR **editBg** = COLOR

The color for editable text and background for text edits and list views.

base = COLOR

Same as [editBg](#).

alternateBase = COLOR

Defines the alternate background color for [ItemModelViews](#) that have the [alternatingRowColors](#) attribute set.

light = COLOR **midlight** = COLOR **dark** = COLOR **mid** = COLOR **shadow** = COLOR

Colors used for drawing sunken and raised panels and buttons.

highlight = COLOR **highlightedText** = COLOR

Highlight background and text color, e.g., for text selection and ListViews.

brightText = COLOR

Text with good contrast to "dark" color.

link = COLOR **linkVisited** = COLOR

The color used for drawing links and visited links (in RichText).

boxText = COLOR

The color of box titles.

tabColor = COLOR

The color of TabBar titles.

toolTipBase = COLOR **toolTipText** = COLOR

The background and text color of tooltips.

Chapter 5. Translations

MeVisLab supports translations by using the [internationalization framework of Qt](#).

Modules that use translations must have the tag [hasTranslation](#) set to Yes. The languages for the translations must be declared using the [translationLanguages](#) tag. It is also possible to provide the names of other modules that will also be translated: [translationModules](#).

Strings to translate are taken from MDL tags and from occurrences of `ctx.translate()` in Python scripts of the translated modules. Please only use direct strings as argument for `ctx.translate`, do not use expressions or variables. Panels of other modules that are incorporated into the GUI of referenced modules through the Panel control will also automatically be searched for translatable strings.

After changing the MDL scripts and Python code, it is necessary to create the translation files (`.ts`). This is done from the context menu of the MeVisLab module: **Translations** → **Create/Update**. The translation files can then be edited with the [Qt Linguist](#) tool, which is available through **Translations** → **Edit**.

The translation files must be compiled into runtime translation files (`.qm`) before they can be used. This can be done with the Qt Linguist tool from the main menu: **File** → **Release**. This step is not necessary when building standalone applications, because MeVisLab will then automatically compile the `.ts` files to `.qm` files. The `.qm` files will be included in the installer.

Usually, the operating system localization will determine which language is chosen. To force MeVisLab to select a different language, it is possible to provide the preferences variable `Locale`, e.g., to `en_EN`. For testing this can also be achieved by selecting **Translations** → **Set Language And Reload** and then selecting the desired language value.

Chapter 6. Test Cases

The MDL syntax for defining test cases is explained in the Test Center Reference.

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M

MDL Tags

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