

CoCoA-5 - Bug #1537

EmacsUI: strange colours, sometimes

13 Nov 2020 14:48 - Anna Maria Bigatti

Status:	Closed	Start date:	13 Nov 2020
Priority:	Low	Due date:	
Assignee:	John Abbott	% Done:	100%
Category:	EmacsUI	Estimated time:	1.79 hour
Target version:	CoCoA-5.4.0	Spent time:	1.80 hour
Description			
<pre>-1/- 2;</pre>			
makes "/- 2" red (colour for comments)			
There are also other similar cases. Why?			
Related issues:			
Related to CoCoALib - Design #1538: RingElem from string (ReadExpr)		Closed	13 Nov 2020

History

#1 - 17 Nov 2020 13:49 - John Abbott

- Status changed from New to In Progress

I have tried a few tests. slash-minus seems to be recognised as a comment start; I have tried slash-char where char was all other symbols on my kbd, and none was recognized as a comment (except slash-slash and slash-star, of course).

Possibly relevant source code in **cocoa5.el** around line 2130.

What is the difference between comment-start (line 2125) and comment-start-skip (line 2130)?

PS as far as I can see, the code which colours the text (font-lock?) treats slash-minus the same as slash-slash.

#2 - 17 Nov 2020 19:48 - John Abbott

- % Done changed from 0 to 10

As far as I can tell the following "digraphs" are recognized as starting a comment:

slash-star, slash-slash, slash-minus,
minus-star, minus-slash, minus-minus.

It seems that slash-star and minus-star make emacs look for a matching star-slash to end the comment.

star-slash, star-star, and star-minus do not seem to start a comment.

#3 - 17 Nov 2020 20:02 - John Abbott

Around line 335 in cocoa5.el there is this

```
; -- comments
(modify-syntax-entry ?- ". 12" cocoa5-mode-syntax-table)
; // and /* */ comments
(modify-syntax-entry ?/ ". 124" cocoa5-mode-syntax-table)
```

At the moment I have no idea how to interpret this, but suspect that the problem could well be here.

#4 - 17 Nov 2020 20:11 - John Abbott

Here is some doc about emacs;

http://www.gnu.org/software/emacs/manual/html_node/elisp/Syntax-Flags.html

#5 - 17 Nov 2020 20:26 - John Abbott

This is probably not solvable :-)

I changed the emacs syntax declaration for "minus" into just a plain "." (punctuation, without any special flags about being a marker for the start of a comment) and the unexpected colouring went away... but of course, minus-minus was no longer recognised as a comment start.

I did also try setting the syntax description to ". 12c" which means first & second char of a comment of class "c", but that did not solve the unexpected colouring.

It seems to me that problem stems from emacs wanting to give context-independent descriptions of the syntax of single chars. I have no idea how to solve this.

#6 - 17 Nov 2020 20:28 - John Abbott

- *Related to Design #1538: RingElem from string (ReadExpr) added*

#7 - 17 Nov 2020 20:31 - John Abbott

A possible way to address the problem is to discourage users from typing `/-` by making it issue a warning.

As already stated in issue [#1538](#) I do not much like allowing input such as `2*-3` or `2/-3` (and also `2*+3` and `2/+3`), because they look more like typos to me. A leading plus or minus would be allowed only at the very start of an expr (e.g. also inside brackets); in other contexts we could issue a warning...

#8 - 20 Nov 2020 12:03 - Anna Maria Bigatti

- *Target version changed from CoCoA-5.4.0 to CoCoA-5.4.2*

#9 - 26 Nov 2020 16:24 - Anna Maria Bigatti

John Abbott wrote:

A possible way to address the problem is to discourage users from typing `/-` by making it issue a warning.

that's a good point ;-)

#10 - 23 Feb 2021 10:27 - John Abbott

- *Status changed from In Progress to Resolved*
- *Assignee set to John Abbott*
- *Target version changed from CoCoA-5.4.2 to CoCoA-5.4.0*
- *% Done changed from 10 to 80*

I have just updated issue [#1538](#). This can probably be considered as an acceptable resolution of the problem reported in this issue. What do you think?

#11 - 24 Sep 2021 22:32 - John Abbott

- *Status changed from Resolved to Closed*
- *% Done changed from 80 to 100*
- *Estimated time set to 1.79 h*

I have not seen the problem of unexpected colours for some time. Reading through the notes suggests that Emacs's way of recognising comments is rather too crude, but we are stuck with it.

I think we can close this now.