1 Equation Alignment

Suppose we have the equations:

$$x + w + z = 1 + 2 + 3 \tag{1}$$

$$a - b - c - d = 3 - 4 - 5 - z \tag{2}$$

By default these will be typeset right-justified.

1.1 Setting the Alignment

If we wish to align the equations, put the cursor before the character to use for alignment in each equation and click on Edit – Set alignment (Alt E – T – T). Here we're aligning on the 3s; to see the green dot signifying alignment you'll need to have View – Invisibles turned on:

$$x + w + z = 1 + 2{+}3 \tag{3}$$

$$a - b - c - d ={3} - 4 - 5 - z \tag{4}$$

1.2 The pitfall and its solution

At first glance this seems unreliable: the same equation aligned on the 3s (it looks the same in the Scientific Word/WorkPlace editing window) can give the results below:

$$x + w + z = 1 + 2 + 3 \tag{5}$$

$$a - b - c - d = 3 - 4 - 5 - z \tag{6}$$

The reason is that there is a cursor movement in the displayed expressions $1+2+3$ and $3-4-5-z$ between the left of the 3 and the $+$ or $=$ before it: you need your Alignment mark to be immediately after the $+$ or $=$ and not immediately to the left of the 3, although this difference is not visible in the editing window. (If you're looking at it on the Source tab, the <maligngroup/> needs to be before the <mn>3</mn>, not in the middle of it.)

1.3 Correcting it if you get the alignment wrong

To correct the placing of an incorrect Set Alignment mark, delete the original mark first before inserting another Set Alignment in the correct place.

1.4 Fine-tuning any spacing issues

In Equations 3 and 4 above we achieved the result of aligning on the 3s. However, you'll notice in the typeset PDF that the spacing was incorrect around the 3s; we have reported this b*g for correction in a future version. In the meantime, you can correct this manually using Insert – Spacing objects – Horizontal space – Required space between the Alignment marks and the 3s as necessary:

$$x + w + z = 1 + 2 + 3 \tag{7}$$

$$a - b - c - d \ = 3 - 4 - 5 - z \tag{8}$$

Our apologies for the inconvenience.