

# The minibox package

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## 1 Introduction

It's sometimes useful to be able to stack text over lines in a small box; this is similar to paragraph text broken over lines, but for small amounts of text when automatic line breaking is not required. In other words, I'm looking for an `\mbox` that allows manual line breaks.

abcd  
efg  
h

This sort of thing is a little awkward in plain  $\text{T}_\text{E}\text{X}$  and  $\text{L}^{\text{A}}\text{T}_\text{E}\text{X}$ .

```
\vbox{\hbox{abcd}\hbox{efg}\hbox{h}}
```

## 2 The command `\minibox`

`\minibox` This package defines the `\minibox` command to write this more conveniently separately lines with `\\`. Various options are allowed to control the alignment and whether to frame the box, shown in Table 1.

### 2.1 Horizontal alignment of the text

Here's an example adjusting the horizontal alignment.

```
\def\x{abcd\\efg\\h}  
\minibox{\x}    \minibox[c]{\x}    \minibox[r]{\x}
```

abcd  
efg  
h

abcd  
efg  
h

abcd  
efg  
h

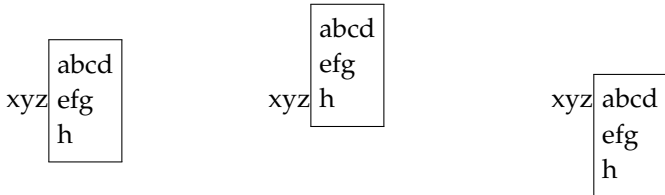
<code>frame(=true)</code>	Has a frame
<code>frame=false</code>	Has not a frame (default)
<code>rule=&lt;dim&gt;</code>	Thickness of the rule (default 0.4pt)
<code>pad=&lt;dim&gt;</code>	Space on the inside of the frame (default 3.0pt)
<code>l</code>	Left-aligned text (default)
<code>c</code>	Centred text
<code>r</code>	Right-aligned text
<code>b</code>	Align the box with the bottom line
<code>m</code>	Vertically centre the box (default)
<code>t</code>	Align the box with the top line

Table 1: Optional arguments for the `\minibox` command.

## 2.2 Vertical alignment of the box

Here's an example adjusting the vertical alignment.

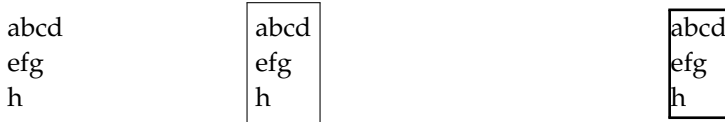
```
\def\x{abcd\\efg\\h}
xyz\minibox{\x}   xyz\minibox[b]{\x}   xyz\minibox[t]{\x}
```



## 2.3 Framing your box

The boxes which are showed in these examples are not displayed by default; use the `frame` option to make them appear:

```
\def\x{abcd\\efg\\h}
\minibox{\x}   \minibox[frame]{\x}   \minibox[frame,rule=1pt,pad=0pt]{\x}
```



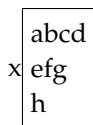
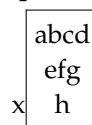
Negative values can be input for `pad`.

*L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X experts: while these padding and rule options are internally controlled by `\fboxsep` and `\fboxrule`, changing these variables will have no effect on `\minibox`'s behaviour. Use `\miniboxsetup` as described next to change these options globally.*

## 2.4 Setting options

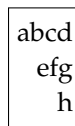
Obviously, any combination of these options can be applied:

```
\def\x{abcd\\efg\\h}
x\minibox[frame]{\x}  x\minibox[frame,c,b]{\x}
```

`\miniboxsetup` You can change the defaults of `\minibox` using this command.

```
\def\x{abcd\\efg\\h}
\miniboxsetup{frame,r}
\minibox{\x}  \minibox{\x}
```

## 2.5 Cautionary note, perhaps

If you look at the source you'll see that the way `\minibox` command is implemented lends itself to begin mis-used to input generic tabular material; this is not the intention of the command, however, and any such usage may break in future versions of this package.

## 3 Licence

This package is freely modifiable and distributable under the terms and conditions of the L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X Project Public Licence, version 1.3c or greater (your choice). The latest version of this license is available at: <http://www.latex-project.org/lppl.txt>. This work is maintained by WILL ROBERTSON.

# File I

## Implementation

```

1 \RequirePackage{expl3}
2 \ProvidesExplPackage
3   {minibox}
4   {2013/04/20}
5   {0.2}
6   {Another type of box.}

7 \bool_new:N \l_minibox_frame_bool
8 \keys_define:nn {minibox}
9 {
10  frame .choice: ,
11  frame / true .code:n = { \bool_set_true:N \l_minibox_frame_bool } ,
12  frame / false .code:n = { \bool_set_false:N \l_minibox_frame_bool } ,
13  frame .default:n = { true } ,
14
15  l .code:n = { \tl_set:Nn \l_minibox_tabular_preamble_tl {l} } ,
16  c .code:n = { \tl_set:Nn \l_minibox_tabular_preamble_tl {c} } ,
17  r .code:n = { \tl_set:Nn \l_minibox_tabular_preamble_tl {r} } ,
18
19  t .code:n = { \tl_set:Nn \l_minibox_tabular_valign_tl {t} } ,
20  m .code:n = { \tl_set:Nn \l_minibox_tabular_valign_tl {c} } ,
21  b .code:n = { \tl_set:Nn \l_minibox_tabular_valign_tl {b} } ,
22
23  rule .dim_set:N = \l_minibox_rule_dim ,
24  pad .dim_set:N = \l_minibox_pad_dim ,
25 }

26 \cs_new:Npn \miniboxsetup #1 { \keys_set:nn {minibox} {#1} }
27 \miniboxsetup {l,m,rule=\fboxrule,pad=\fboxsep}

28 \newcommand\minibox[2] []
29 {
30   \group_begin:
31   \keys_set:nn {minibox} {#1}
32   \bool_if:NTF \l_minibox_frame_bool
33     {
34       \setlength\fboxrule{\l_minibox_rule_dim}
35       \setlength\fboxsep{\l_minibox_pad_dim}
36       \fbox
37     }
38     { \use:n }
39     {
40       \begin{tabular}

```

```

41      [\l_minibox_tabular_valign_t1]
42      { @{} \l_minibox_tabular_preamble_t1 @{} }
43      #2
44      \end{tabular}
45    }
46  \group_end:
47 }

```