

The bidi Package



Support for bidirectional typesetting in plain T_EX
and L^AT_EX 2_ε

<https://github.com/vafa/bidi>

Vafa Khalighi
vafakhl@gmail.com

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How to file bug reports and follow development of **bidi** package

The **bidi** package is developed on <https://github.com/vafa/bidi>.
Users are encouraged to offer suggestions and file bug reports on the github issue
tracker: <https://github.com/vafa/bidi/issues>.

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Introduction

`bid` provides a convenient interface for typesetting bidirectional texts in plain $\text{T}_{\text{E}}\text{X}$ and \LaTeX .

The `bid` package at the moment only works with $\text{XeT}_{\text{E}}\text{X}$ engine, but we will support other $\text{T}_{\text{E}}\text{X}$ engines as well in the future.

`bid` Info On The Terminal and In The Log File

If you use `bid` package to write any input $\text{T}_{\text{E}}\text{X}$ document, and then run `xelatex` on your document, `bid` writes some information about itself to the terminal and to the log file. The information is something like:

```
bid package (Support for bidirectional typesetting in plain TeX
and LaTeX)
Description: A convenient interface for typesetting
bidirectional texts
in plain TeX and LaTeX. The package includes adaptations for use
with many other commonly-used packages.
Copyright (c) 2009-2012 Vafa Khalighi
v11.161, 2012/07/25
License: LaTeX Project Public License, version 1.3c or higher (
your choice)
Location on CTAN: /macros/latex/contrib/bid
```

Part I

\LaTeX Manual

1 Basics

1.1 Loading The Package

You can load the package in the ordinary way;

```
\usepackage [Options] {bid}
```

Where `options` of the package are explained later in [subsection 1.6](#).

When loading the package, it is important to know that:

- ❶ `bid` should be the last package that you load, because otherwise you are certainly going to overwrite `bid`'s definitions and consequently, you will not get the expected output.
- ❷ In fact, `bid` makes sure that some specific packages are loaded before `bid`; these are those packages that `bid` modifies them for bidirectional typesetting.

If you load `bidi` before any of these packages, then you will get an error saying that you should load `bidi` as your last package.

For instance, consider the following minimal example:

```
1 \documentclass{minimal}
2 \usepackage{bidi}
3 \usepackage{graphicx}
4 \begin{document}
5 This is just a test.
6 \end{document}
```

Where `graphicx` is loaded after `bidi`. If you run `xelatex` on this document, you will get an error which looks like this:

```
! Package bidi Error: Oops! you have loaded package
graphicx after bidi package. Please load package graphicx
before bidi package, and then try to run xelatex on your
document again.
```

```
See the bidi package documentation for explanation.
Type H <return> for immediate help.
...
```

```
1.4 \begin{document}
```

```
?
```

1.2 `bidi`'s Symbol


As you may know lion symbolizes \TeX but lion does not symbolizes `bidi`. **Simorgh**¹ (shown on the first page of this documentation) symbolizes `bidi`.

1.3 Version of `bidi` package

Version of `bidi` package tends to **12** and finally, the version number of `bidi` package becomes **12**².

1.4 Commands for Version number, and Date of The Package

```
\bidiversion \bididate
```

 `\bidiversion` gives the current version of the package.

¹**Simorgh** is an Iranian benevolent, mythical flying creature which has been shown on the titlepage of this documentation. For more details see <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Simurgh>

²This is because number **12** has been a sacred number between Iranians since ancient times. For instance, in the battles of Rostam against Keykavous, Esfandiyar against Arjasp, Goudarz for the revenge of Siavash, and Bahram Mehran (Chobineh) against Turks, the number of Iranian army were 12000 and in all these battles, Iranians defeated enemy.

☞ `\bididate` gives the current date of the package.

```
1 \documentclass{article}
2 \usepackage{bidi}
3 \begin{document}
4 This is typeset by \textsf{bidi} package, \bidiversion, \
  bididate.
5 \end{document}
```

1.5 Turning TeX--XeT features on and off

The bidirectional typesetting in Xe_{TeX} is based on TeX--XeT algorithm and `bidi` package automatically turns the feature on for typesetting bidirectional texts. As the internal data structures built by TeX--XeT differ from those built by \TeX , the typesetting of a document by TeX--XeT may therefore differ from that performed by \TeX . So you may notice that some packages behave differently when TeX--XeT feature is on and you may want to turn the feature off for a part of the text so that you get the default behaviour of original \TeX . Two commands are provided for this purpose:

```
\TeXXeTOn \TeXXeTOff
```

☞ `\TeXXeTOn` turns TeX--XeT feature on, which is active by default when `bidi` package is loaded.

☞ `\TeXXeTOff` turns TeX--XeT feature off.

1.6 Options of The Package

There are three options, namely `RTLdocument` and `rldocument`, which are essentially equivalent. If you pass any of these options to the package, you will be typesetting a document containing mainly RTL texts with some LTR texts. These options activate `\setRTL` (explained in [subsection 5.4](#)), `\RTLdblcol` (explained in [subsection 1.11](#)) and `\autofootnoterule` (explained in [subsection 1.10.1](#)).

It is clear that if you do not pass any of these options to the package, you will be typesetting a document containing mainly LTR texts with some RTL texts.

There is also `extrafootnotefeatures` option that allows footnotes to be typeset in different formats:

```

\normalfootnotes
\twocolumnfootnotes \threecolumnfootnotes \fourcolumnfootnotes
\fivecolumnfootnotes \sixcolumnfootnotes \sevencolumnfootnotes
\eightcolumnfootnotes \ninecolumnfootnotes \tencolumnfootnotes
\RTLcolumnfootnotes \LTRcolumnfootnotes
\paragraphfootnotes
\setLTRparagraphfootnotes \setRTLparagraphfootnotes

```

- ☞ `\normalfootnotes` typesets footnotes in Standard \TeX format.
- ☞ `\twocolumnfootnotes` to `\tencolumnfootnotes`, typeset footnotes in two-columns to ten-columns, respectively.
- ☞ `\RTLcolumnfootnotes` typesets footnotes columns RTL (first column on the RHS and each next column to the left of the previous column) and `\LTRcolumnfootnotes` typesets footnotes columns LTR (first column on the LHS and each next column to the right of the previous column). `\LTRcolumnfootnotes` is active by default.
- ☞ `\paragraphfootnotes` typesets footnotes in paragraph format.
- ☞ `\setLTRparagraphfootnotes` makes footnotes run from left to right. This command is active by default.
- ☞ `\setRTLparagraphfootnotes` makes footnotes run from right to left.
- ☞ When using `extrafootnotefeatures`, `\textwidthfootnoterule` is active.

1.7 Paragraph Switching Commands

```

\setLTR \setLR \unsetRL \unsetRTL
\setRTL \setRL \unsetLTR

```

- ☞ With any of the commands in the first row, you can typeset LTR paragraphs.
- ☞ With any of the commands in the second row, you can typeset RTL paragraphs.

```

1 \documentclass{article}
2 \usepackage{fontspec}
3 \newfontfamily\Parsifont[Script=Arabic]{Yas}
4 \usepackage{bidi}
5 \begin{document}
6 \setRTL%
7 Anyone who reads Old and Middle English literary texts will be
8 familiar with the mid-brown volumes of the EETS, with the
symbol

```

```

9 of Alfred's jewel embossed on the front cover.
10
11 \setLTR% Notice the blank line before \setLTR
12 Anyone who reads Old and Middle English literary texts will be
13 familiar with the mid-brown volumes of the EETS, with the
14 symbol
15 of Alfred's jewel embossed on the front cover.
\end{document}

```

1.8 Paragraph Switching Environments

```

\begin{LTR} <text> \end{LTR}
\begin{RTL} <text> \end{RTL}

```

☞ With LTR environment, you can typeset LTR paragraphs.

☞ With RTL environment, you can typeset RTL paragraphs.

```

1 \documentclass{article}
2 \usepackage{bidi}
3 \begin{document}
4 \begin{RTL}
5 Anyone who reads Old and Middle English literary texts will be
6 familiar
7 with the mid-brown volumes of the EETS, with the symbol
8 of Alfred's jewel embossed on the front cover.
9 \begin{LTR}
10 Anyone who reads Old and Middle English literary texts will be
11 familiar
12 with the mid-brown volumes of the EETS, with the symbol
13 of Alfred's jewel embossed on the front cover.
14 \end{LTR}
15 And we are still typesetting RTL.
\end{RTL}
\end{document}

```

1.9 Typesetting Short LTR and RTL Texts

```

\LRE{<text>} \LR{<text>}
\RLE{<text>} \RL{<text>}

```

☞ With any of the commands in the first row, you can typeset short LTR text inside RTL paragraphs.

☞ With any of the commands in the second row, you can typeset short RTL text inside LTR paragraphs.

```

1 \begin{document}
2 \begin{RTL}
3 Anyone who reads Old and Middle English \LRE{Short LTR text}
4 literary texts will be familiar
5 with the mid-brown volumes of the EETS, with the symbol
6 of Alfred's jewel embossed on the front cover.
7 \begin{LTR}
8 Anyone who reads Old and Middle English \RLE{Short RTL text}
9 literary texts will be familiar
10 with the mid-brown volumes of the EETS, with the symbol
11 of Alfred's jewel embossed on the front cover.
12 \end{LTR}
13 \end{RTL}
14 \end{document}

```

1.10 Footnotes

```

\footnote [num] {<text>} \LTRfootnote [num] {<text>} \RTLfootnote [num] {<text>}
\setfootnoteRL \setfootnoteLR \unsetfootnoteRL
\thanks{<text>} \LTRthanks{<text>} \RTLthanks{<text>}

```

- ☞ `\footnote` in RTL mode produces an RTL footnote while in LTR mode it produces an LTR footnote.
- ☞ `\LTRfootnote` will always produce an LTR footnote, independent on the current mode.
- ☞ `\RTLfootnote` will always produce an RTL footnote, independent on the current mode.
- ☞ Specifying a `\setfootnoteRL` command anywhere will make `\footnote` produce an RTL footnote.
- ☞ Specifying either a `\setfootnoteLR` or an `\unsetfootnoteRL` command anywhere will make `\footnote` produce an LTR footnote.
- ☞ `\thanks` (to be used only inside `\author` or `\title` argument) in RTL mode produces an RTL footnote while in LTR mode it produces an LTR footnote.
- ☞ `\LTRthanks` (to be used only inside `\author` or `\title` argument) will always produce an LTR footnote, independent on the current mode.
- ☞ `\RTLthanks` (to be used only inside `\author` or `\title` argument) will always produce an RTL footnote, independent on the current mode.


```
\footnotetext [num] {<text>} \LTRfootnotetext [num] {<text>}
\RTLfootnotetext [num] {<text>}
```

- ☞ `\footnotetext` used in conjunction with `\footnotemark`, in RTL mode produces an RTL footnote while in LTR mode it produces an LTR footnote.
- ☞ `\LTRfootnotetext` used in conjunction with `\footnotemark`, will always produce an LTR footnote, independent on the current mode.
- ☞ `\RTLfootnotetext` used in conjunction with `\footnotemark`, will always produce an RTL footnote, independent on the current mode.

1.10.1 Footnote Rule

The behavior of footnote rules can also be controlled.

```
\autofootnoterule \rightfootnoterule \leftfootnoterule
\LRfootnoterule \textwidthfootnoterule
```

- ☞ `\autofootnoterule` will draw the footnote rule right or left aligned based on the direction of the first footnote following the rule (i.e., put in the current page).
- ☞ `\rightfootnoterule` will put footnote rule on the right-hand side.
- ☞ `\leftfootnoterule` or `\LRfootnoterule` will put footnote rule on the left-hand side.
- ☞ `\textwidthfootnoterule` will draw the footnote rule with a width equal to `\textwidth`.

1.11 Two Column Typesetting

```
\RTLdblcol \LTRdblcol
```

If you pass the `twocolumn` option to the class file and if the main direction of the document is RTL, then you get RTL two column and if the main direction of the document is LTR, then you get LTR two column. In addition, `\RTLdblcol` allows you to have RTL two column typesetting and `\LTRdblcol` allows you to have LTR two column typesetting as the options of the class file.

1.12 RTL cases

```
\RTLcases{\text{<brach1>}\cr\text{<brach2>}\cr\text{<brach3>}...}
\text{<main>}
```

`\RTLcases` is defined in `bidi` for typesetting RTL cases. `\text` is defined in `amsmath` package, so this means that you need to load `amsmath` package too.

`\RTLcases` command was previously known as `\rcases` command but since there was a clash with `mathtools` package (`mathtools` defines `rcases` environment), we had to rename `\rcases` command to `\RTLcases` command.

```

1 \documentclass{article}
2 \usepackage{amsmath}
3 \usepackage{bidi}
4 \begin{document}
5 \setRTL
6 \[ \RTLcases{\text{men}\cr\text{women}}
7 \text{Humans Beings}
8 \]
9 \end{document}

```

1.13 Typesetting Logos

```
\XeTeX \XeLaTeX
```

bidi defines XeTeX and XeLaTeX logos and in addition, it makes sure that logos, T_EX, L^AT_EX, L^AT_EX 2_ε are typeset LTR.

1.14 Separation Mark

```
\SepMark{<mark>} \@SepMark
```

Generally in Standard L^AT_EX, dot is used for separation between section numbers, equation numbers any anything else which needs to be separated. You can use \SepMark to use any other mark as the separation mark instead a dot.

```

1 \documentclass{article}
2 \usepackage{bidi}
3 \SepMark{-}
4 \begin{document}
5 \section{First}
6 \subsection{Second}
7 \subsubsection{Third}
8 \end{document}

```

If you decide to change the numbering of chapters, sections, subsections, equations, figures and ..., you should either load amsmath package and use \numberwithin macro to do this or do the ordinary way, but instead dot write \@SepMark. Using dot instead \@SepMark will certainly make trouble.

```

1 \documentclass{article}
2 \usepackage{bidi}
3 \SepMark{-}
4 \makeatletter
5 \renewcommand\theequation{\thesection\@SepMark\@arabic\c@equation}
6 \makeatother
7 \begin{document}
8 \section{First}

```

```

9 \begin{equation}
10 x^2+y^2=z^2
11 \end{equation}
12 \end{document}

```

1.15 `\raggedright`, `\raggedleft` commands, `flushleft` and `flushright` Environments

`\raggedright` command and `flushleft` environment put the text on the left hand side and `\raggedleft` command and `flushright` environment put the text on the right hand side, independent on the current mode.

1.16 Primitive-like commands

```
\hboxR \hboxL \vboxR \vboxL
```

- ☞ The syntax of `\hboxR` is exactly the same as the syntax of `\hbox`, but its contents is always typeset RTL.
- ☞ The syntax of `\hboxL` is exactly the same as the syntax of `\hbox`, but its contents is always typeset LTR.
- ☞ The syntax of `\vboxR` is exactly the same as the syntax of `\vbox`, but its contents is always typeset RTL.
- ☞ The syntax of `\vboxL` is exactly the same as the syntax of `\vbox`, but its contents is always typeset LTR.

1.17 Something To know about `\hbox`

If you enable RTL typesetting and typeset an horizontal box at the beginning of the document:

```

1 \documentclass{article}
2 \usepackage{bidi}
3 \setRTL
4 \begin{document}
5 \hbox{This is a Test}
6 \end{document}

```

You see that even you have used `\setRTL`, the horizontal box appears LTR (It appears on the left hand side and its content is typeset left to right). This is because when \TeX starts, it is in the vertical mode so if you need to have that `\hbox` appear RTL, then write `\leavevmode` before `\hbox`:

```

1 \documentclass{article}
2 \usepackage{bidi}
3 \setRTL

```

```

4 \begin{document}
5 \leavevmode\hbox{This is a Test}
6 \end{document}

```

1.18 \bidillap and \bidirlap Commands

In RTL mode, \llap and \rlap do oposite things. Since these two macros are used in a lot of classes and packages, instead modifying these two macros, we have created two new macros \bidillap and \bidirlap which give logical results.

1.19 LTRitems and RTLitems Environments

If you typeset an itemize, or an enumerate, or a description environment where all \items are one directional, you have no problem at all as shown below:

```

1 \documentclass{article}
2 \begin{document}
3 Anyone who reads Old and Middle English literary texts will be
  familiar with the mid-brown volumes of the EETS, with the symbol
  of Alfred's
4 \begin{enumerate}
5 \item Anyone who reads Old and Middle English literary texts
  will be familiar with the mid-brown volumes of the EETS, with
  the symbol of Alfred's
6 \item Anyone who reads Old and Middle English literary texts
  will be familiar with the mid-brown volumes of the EETS, with
  the symbol of Alfred's
7 \end{enumerate}
8 \end{document}

```

However if the above example becomes bidirectional, as shown below:

```

1 \documentclass{article}
2 \usepackage{bidi}
3 \begin{document}
4 Anyone who reads Old and Middle English literary texts will be
  familiar with the mid-brown volumes of the EETS, with the symbol
  of Alfred's
5 \begin{enumerate}
6 \item Anyone who reads Old and Middle English literary texts
  will be familiar with the mid-brown volumes of the EETS, with
  the symbol of Alfred's
7 \setRTL
8 \item Anyone who reads Old and Middle English literary texts
  will be familiar with the mid-brown volumes of the EETS, with
  the symbol of Alfred's
9 \end{enumerate}
10 \end{document}

```

Then some people may argue that this typographically does not look promising. For this purpose, RTLitems environment is provided which has the following syntax:

```
\begin{RTLitems}
  \item <text>
  ...
\end{RTLitems}
```

By using the RTLitems environment, the previous example will look like the following:

```
1 \documentclass{article}
2 \usepackage{bidi}
3 \begin{document}
4 Anyone who reads Old and Middle English literary texts will be
  familiar with the mid-brown volumes of the EETS, with the symbol
  of Alfred's
5 \begin{enumerate}
6 \item Anyone who reads Old and Middle English literary texts
  will be familiar with the mid-brown volumes of the EETS, with
  the symbol of Alfred's
7 \begin{RTLitems}
8 \item Anyone who reads Old and Middle English literary texts
  will be familiar with the mid-brown volumes of the EETS, with
  the symbol of Alfred's
9 \end{RTLitems}
10 \end{enumerate}
11 \end{document}
```

Similarly, LTRitems environment is defined which has the following syntax:

```
\begin{LTRitems}
  \item <text>
  ...
\end{LTRitems}
```

1.20 LTRbibitems and RTLbibitems Environments

The syntax of LTRbibitems and RTLbibitems environments is exactly like the syntax of LTRitems and RTLitems environments but there are few differences:

- ☞ LTRitems and RTLitems environments should only be used for list-like environments (such as itemize, enumerate and description environments) but LTRbibitems and RTLbibitems environments should only be used for the bibliography environment.
- ☞ Clearly instead of `\item`, you have `\bibitem` inside LTRbibitems and RTLbibitems environments.

1.21 `\setLTRbibitems`, `\setRTLbibitems`, and `\setdefaultbibitems` commands

`\setLTRbibitems` `\setRTLbibitems` `\setdefaultbibitems`

- ☞ If your whole thebibliography environment is inside RTL mode, but all your `\bibitems` are LTR and you actually want to have `\bibname` to appear on the RHS, you can use `\setLTRbibitems` command before thebibliography environment.
- ☞ If your whole thebibliography environment is inside LTR mode, but all your `\bibitems` are RTL and you actually want to have `\bibname` to appear on the LHS, you can use `\setRTLbibitems` command before thebibliography environment.
- ☞ `\setdefaultbibitems` is the default, when your `\bibitems` are a mixture of LTR and RTL and it does not matter what mode (LTR or RTL) your thebibliography environment is in. Please note that you do not have to use `\setdefaultbibitems` command in this case at all.

Consider an example that your thebibliography environment is inside LTR mode and you have, say two `\bibitems`. The first `\bibitem` is LTR and the second `\bibitem` is RTL. One could typeset this senario as shown below:

```
1 \documentclass{article}
2 \usepackage{bidi}
3 \begin{document}
4 \begin{thebibliography}{99}
5 \bibitem This is the first bibitem which is LTR.
6 \begin{RTLbibitems}
7 \bibitem This is the second bibitem which is RTL.
8 \end{RTLbibitems}
9 \end{thebibliography}
10 \end{document}
```

1.22 Typesetting margin par

By default, in RTL mode, `\marginpar` appears on LHS and its content is typeset RTL and in LTR mode, `\marginpar` appears on RHS and its content is typeset LTR. In addition, the following commands are provided:

`\setRTLmarginpar` `\setLTRmarginpar` `\setdefaultmarginpar`
`\LTRmarginpar [⟨left-text⟩] {⟨right-text⟩}`
`\RTLmarginpar [⟨left-text⟩] {⟨right-text⟩}`

- ☞ `\setRTLmarginpar` always makes `\marginpar` to appear on LHS and the content of `\marginpar` is typeset RTL (this is independent of the current mode).

- ☞ `\setLTRmarginpar` always makes `\marginpar` to appear on RHS and the content of `\marginpar` is typeset LTR (this is independent of the current mode).
- ☞ `\setdefaultmarginpar` gives the default behaviour of `\marginpar` as described above.
- ☞ `\LTRmarginpar` typesets *⟨left-text⟩* and *⟨right-text⟩* always LTR.
- ☞ `\RTLmarginpar` typesets *⟨left-text⟩* and *⟨right-text⟩* always RTL.
- ☞ in RTL mode, places of *⟨left-text⟩* and *⟨right-text⟩* swaps.

1.23 Typesetting of Headers and Footers

If the main direction of the document is RTL, then headers and footers are typeset RTL and if the main direction of the document is LTR, then headers and footers are typeset LTR.

1.24 Tabular Typesetting

In RTL mode, tabular are typeset RTL and in LTR mode, tabular are typeset LTR.

1.25 Equation Numbers

For `reqno`, equation numbers are on the right hand side and for `leqno`, equation numbers are on the left hand side, independent on the current mode.

2 Support For Various Packages and Classes

The `bidir` package supports `amsmath`, `amsthm`, `array`, `arydshln`, `breqn`, `caption`, `color`, `colortbl`, `crop`, `cutwin`, `dblfnote`, `draftwatermark`, `empheq`, `fancyhdr`, `float`, `flowfram`, `framed`, `graphicx`, `hvfloa`, `hyperref`, `lettrine`, `listings`, `minitoc`, `multicol`, `multienum`, `pdfpages`, `pstricks`, `quotchap`, `picinpar`, `ragged2e`, `sidecap`, `stabular`, `subfig`, `subfigure`, `supertabular`, `xtab`, `tbls`, `tabularray`, `PGF & TIKZ`, `tocbibind`, `tocloft`, `tocstyle`, `wrapfig`, `xcolor`, `xltxtra` packages, `amsart`, `amsbook`, `artikel1`, `artikel2`, `artikel3`, `extarticle`, `flashcards`, `standrad article`, `boek`, `boek3`, `standard book`, `bookest`, `extbook`, `extletter`, `scrlettr`, `standard letter`, `memoir`, `extreport`, `rapport1`, `rapport3`, `refrep`, `standard report`, `scartcl`, `scrbook`, `scrreprt` classes and any other packages and classes that relies on these packages and classes. This means, you can use all these packages and classes in addition to other packages and classes that rely on these packages and classes and use their functionality fully for your bidirectional documents.

We now give some details that you should know about the supported packages or classes.

2.1 Color

You can use `color` and `xcolor` packages to typeset texts in colours and colour boxes produced by `\colorbox` and `\fcolorbox` commands. Please note that your Coloured text should not span more than a line, if your text spans more than a line, you will be in trouble which means your whole document, page or paragraph may be coloured. If your texts spans more than a line, then you should use `xecolour` package.

Also if you are going to use `\color` command to colour the text at the beginning of a paragraph, then you should have `\leavevmode` before `\color` command.

For having coloured tabular, you can use `colortbl` package.

2.2 The dblfnote package

The `dblfnote` package makes footnotes double-columned. In addition `bidi` package adds bidirectional support for the `dblfnote` package by providing the following commands:

`\RTLdfnmakecol` `\LTRdfnmakecol`

☞ `\RTLdfnmakecol` makes footnotes double-columned RTL.

☞ `\LTRdfnmakecol` makes footnotes double-columned LTR.

☞ If the main direction of the document is RTL, `\RTLdfnmakecol` is active and if the main direction of the document is LTR, `\LTRdfnmakecol` is active.

2.3 Hyperref

The `hyperref` package works fine with bidirectional documents if and only if, your link will not span more than a line. If your link spans more than a line, then your whole document, or page or paragraph may be linked.

2.4 flowfram Package

You can use `flowfram` package for your bidirectional documents. Please note that `flowfram` package provides support for bidirectional column typesetting, for details, see its manual.

2.5 Multicolumn Typesetting

In the previous versions of `bidi` package, it was recommended that you need to use `fmultico` package instead the original `multicol` package for RTL multicolumn typesetting. This is not the case any more and you should not use buggy `fmultico` package any more. Simply load the original `multicol` package before loading `bidi`. `bidi` now supports `multicol` package and you can typeset bidirectional multi columns.

In addition, you also can use `vwcol` package for variable width bidirectional column typesetting.

3 Extra bidi Packages and Classes

3.1 Typesetting T_EX and L^AT_EX Codes

The L^AT_EX codes in this manual are typeset using the `bidicode` package. In standard L^AT_EX you can not use footnotes inside `\chapter`, `\part`, `\section`, `\subsection`, `\subsubsection` and any other section-like commands, `\caption` and tabular environment.

`bidi` package provides `bidiftnxtra` package that solves the issue of footnote in standard L^AT_EX. `bidiftnxtra` package should be loaded after `bidi` package.

3.2 Typesetting Poems

The `bidi` package provides `bidipoem` package for typesetting Persian poems. It provides four environments, `traditionalpoem`, `modernpoem` and starred version of these. In the starred version of these environments you do not need to type `\\` and that is the only difference with the normal version of the environments. The `traditionalpoem` environment and its starred version are also useful for typesetting Classic Arabic poetry, in fact this package may also be useful for other RTL languages.

When using `bidipoem` package, at least you need to run `xelatex` twice on your document. In fact, if you run `xelatex` just once on your document, you get a message saying “Unjustified poem. Rerun XeLaTeX to get poem right”.

When you typeset your poems, you might get underfull `\hbox` messages. This is absolutely normal and if you want to get rid of these underfull `\hbox` messages, then you would need to use `Kashida`.

If you need to change the default distance between two verses, you can do just that by:

```
\renewcommand\poemcolsepskip{\length}
```

```
\begin{traditionalpoem}  
<verse1>&<verse2>\\  
<verse3>&<verse4>\\  
...  
\end{traditionalpoem}
```

```
\begin{traditionalpoem*}  
<verse1>&<verse2>  
<verse3>&<verse4>  
...  
\end{traditionalpoem*}
```

3.3 Typesetting Résumé

The `bidi` package provides `bidimoderncv`³ class for typesetting resumé. There are two examples, namely `test-casualcv.tex` and `test-classiccv.tex`, in the doc

³This class is the modified version of `moderncv` class.

folder than you can look and learn how you can use it.

3.4 Print Two Pages On A Single Page

bidipresentation package provides bidi2in1 package for printing two pages on a single (landscape) A4 page. Page numbers appear on the included pages, and not on the landscape 'container' page.

3.5 Producing Presentations

At the moment, there is only one class that you can prepare your presentations with.

3.5.1 bidipresentation Class

bidipresentation is a simple class for presentations to be shown on screen or beamer. It is derived from L^AT_EX's article class. The "virtual paper size" of documents produced by this class: width=128mm, height=96mm. bidipresentation requires that the fancyhdr and geometry packages are available on the system. Enhancements to the bidipresentation class are easily made available by other packages, these include slides with a background from a bitmap (eso-pic package).

Usage: The class is used with

`\documentclass [Options] {bidipresentation}`

Options of the article class are also available to bidipresentation, e. g. 10pt, 11pt, 12pt for selection of font size. However, not all options of the article class will be appropriate for a presentation class, e. g. twocolumn.

A simple example document:

```
1 \documentclass[12pt]{bidipresentation}
2 \usepackage{eso-pic}
3 \usepackage[RTLdocument]{bidi}
4 \pagestyle{pres}
5 \AddToShipoutPicture{
6   \includegraphics{gradient2.png}
7 }
8 \begin{document}
9   \begin{titlepage}
10    \centering
11     \distance{1}
12     {
13      \Huge \bfseries Title of the presentation \par
14     }
15     \vspace{1.3ex} \large
16     Author\ \[2ex]Institution
17     \distance{2}
18   \end{titlepage}
```

```

19 \begin{plainslide}[Title of Page]
20 The first page
21 \end{plainslide}
22 \begin{rawslide}
23 The second page
24 \end{rawslide}
25 \end{document}

```

The title page can be created within the `titlepage` environment, the `\maketitle` command is not available. Slides may be created with the `plainslide` environment, you may add the title of the slide with the optional parameter. The contents of the slide are centered vertically. Another environment generating a slide is `rawslide`: slides are written without title, contents are not vertically centered.

The `\distance{<number>}` command allows to introduce vertical space into slides constructed with the `rawslide` and `titlepage` environments. You should use pairs of `\distance{}` commands with numbers indicating the relative height of empty space, see the titlepage in the example above.

Pictures can be included with the `\includegraphics` command of the `graphicx` package. Please be aware that the dimensions of the pages are 128mm × 96mm and therefore included graphics are scaled appropriately.

Enhancements to **bidipresentation**:

Fill background of a presentation with bitmaps: `eso-pic` package allows you to paint the background with a picture:

```

1 \usepackage{eso-pic}
2 ...
3 \AddToShipoutPicture{
4 \includegraphics{gradient2.png}
5 }

```

`\AddToShipoutPicture{}` puts the picture on every page, `\AddToShipoutPicture*{}` puts it on to the current page, `\ClearShipoutPicture` clears the background beginning with the current page. Details of `eso-pic`'s commands can be found in its own documentation.

4 Some Useful Internal Macros and Programming Tips

There are some useful internal macros and programming tips that might be helpful for you. This section, explains all these useful internals and programming tips.

4.1 Equating Conditionals

`\eqnewif{<\newconditional1>}{<\newconditional2>}`

In standard \TeX , `\newif` command is provided that you can define a new conditional with it. `\eqnewif` command is similar to `\newif` command but:

- ☞ With `\eqnewif` command, you can define two new conditionals instead one, so clearly it has two mandatory arguments.
- ☞ `\newconditional1` will be identical to `\newconditional2`, so that whenever `\newconditional1` is true, then `\newconditional2` is also true and whenever `\newconditional1` is false, then `\newconditional2` is also false and vice versa.

4.2 RTL Conditional

`\if@RTL`

`\if@RTL` conditional is true inside RTL mode and it is false in LTR mode.

4.3 Main RTL Conditional

`\if@RTLmain`

If the main direction of the document is RTL, `\if@RTLmain` is true and if the main direction of the document is LTR, `\if@RTLmain` is false.

4.4 Latin Conditional

`\if@Latin`

`\if@Latin` inside any environment that uses Latin font is true and inside any environment that uses RTL font is false.

4.5 Tags Internal Macro

`\@iftagsloaded{<tags name>}{<do thing(s) if the tag is loaded>}`
`{<do thing(s) if the tag is not loaded>}`

As you can see, the syntax of `\@iftagsloaded` is exactly the same as the syntax of `\@ifpackageloaded` and `\@ifclassloaded`. By tags, we mean things like `leqno` or `reqno`. Please note that in the argument `<tags name>`, the extension `clo` should not be given.

4.6 Definition File Loaded Internal Macro

```
\@ifdefinitionfileloaded{<definition file name>}  
{<do thing(s) if the definition file is loaded>}  
{<do thing(s) if the definition file is not loaded>}
```

As you can see, the syntax of `\@ifdefinitionfileloaded` is exactly the same as the syntax of `\@ifpackageloaded` and `\@ifclassloaded`. By definition file, we mean things like `hyperref-bidi.def` or `wrapfig-bidi.def`. Please note that in the argument `<definition file name>`, the extension `def` should not be given.

4.7 Tabular Conditional

```
\if@RTLtab
```

If the tabular is typeset RTL, `\if@RTLtab` is true and if the tabular is typeset LTR, `\if@RTLtab` is false.

4.8 Footnote Conditional

```
\if@RTL@footnote
```

When footnotes are typeset RTL, `\if@RTL@footnote` is true and when footnotes are typeset LTR, `\if@RTL@footnote` is false.

4.9 Direction Ensuring Macros

```
\@ensure@RTL{<text>} \@ensure@RL{<text>} \@ensure@LTR{<text>}  
\@ensure@LR{<text>} \@ensure@dir{<text>} \@ensure@maindir{<text>}
```

☞ `\@ensure@RTL` and `\@ensure@RL` internals make sure that `<text>` is always typeset RTL, independent on the current mode.

☞ `\@ensure@LTR` and `\@ensure@LR` internals make sure that `<text>` is always typeset LTR, independent on the current mode.

☞ `\@ensure@dir` and `\@ensure@maindir` if used in RTL mode, they put `<text>` inside `\RLE` and if used in LTR mode, they put the text as it is.

4.10 Reset Direction Macro

```
\save@dir \saved@@dir \reset@dir
```

☞ `\save@dir`, if the direction of typesetting is RTL, defines `\saved@@dir` to be RTL and if the direction of typesetting is LTR, defines `\saved@@dir` to be LTR.

☞ `\reset@dir`, if `\saved@@dir` is defined as RTL, inserts `\setRTL` otherwise, if `\saved@@dir` is defined as LTR, inserts `\setLTR`, otherwise does nothing.

Part II

Plain TeX Manual

5 Basics

5.1 Loading The Package

You can load the package in the ordinary way;

```
\input bidi
```

When loading the package, it is important to know that: `bidi` should be the last package that you load, because otherwise you are certainly going to overwrite `bidi`'s definitions and consequently, you will not get the expected output.

5.2 Commands for Version number, and Date of The Package

```
\bidiversion \bididate
```

☞ `\bidiversion` gives the current version of the package.

☞ `\bididate` gives the current date of the package.

```
1 \input bidi
2 This is typeset by \textsf{bidi} package, \bidiversion, \
  bididate.
3 \end
```

5.3 Turning TeX--XeT features on and off

The bidirectional typesetting in XeTeX is based on TeX--XeT algorithm and `bidi` package automatically turns the feature on for typesetting bidirectional texts. As the internal data structures built by TeX--XeT differ from those built by TeX, the typesetting of a document by TeX--XeT may therefore differ from that performed by TeX. So you may notice that some packages behave differently when TeX--XeT feature is on and you may want to turn the feature off for a part of the text so that you get the default behaviour of original TeX. Two commands are provided for this purpose:

```
\TeXeTOn \TeXeTOff
```

☞ `\TeXeTOn` turns TeX--XeT feature on, which is active by default when `bidi` package is loaded.

☞ `\TeXeTOff` turns TeX--XeT feature off.

5.4 Paragraph Switching Commands

```
\setLTR \setLR \unsetRL \unsetRTL  
\setRTL \setRL \unsetLTR
```

☞ With any of the commands in the first row, you can typeset LTR paragraphs.

☞ With any of the commands in the second row, you can typeset RTL paragraphs.

```
1 \input bidi  
2 \setRTL%  
3 Anyone who reads Old and Middle English literary texts will be  
4 familiar with the mid-brown volumes of the EETS, with the  
5 symbol  
6 of Alfred's jewel embossed on the front cover.  
7 \setLTR% Notice the blank line before \setLTR  
8 Anyone who reads Old and Middle English literary texts will be  
9 familiar with the mid-brown volumes of the EETS, with the  
10 symbol  
11 of Alfred's jewel embossed on the front cover.  
12 \end
```

5.5 Paragraph Switching Environments

```
\LTR <text> \endLTR  
\RTL <text> \endRTL
```

☞ With LTR environment, you can typeset LTR paragraphs.

☞ With RTL environment, you can typeset RTL paragraphs.

```
1 \input bidi  
2 \RTL  
3 Anyone who reads Old and Middle English literary texts will be  
4 familiar  
5 with the mid-brown volumes of the EETS, with the symbol  
6 of Alfred's jewel embossed on the front cover.  
7 \LTR
```

```

7 | Anyone who reads Old and Middle English literary texts will be
  | familiar
8 | with the mid-brown volumes of the EETS, with the symbol
9 | of Alfred's jewel embossed on the front cover.
10 | \endLTR
11 | And we are still typesetting right to left.
12 | \endRTL
13 | \end

```

5.6 Typesetting Short LTR and RTL Texts

```

\LRE{<text>} \LR{<text>}
\RLE{<text>} \RL{<text>}

```

☞ With any of the commands in the first row, you can typeset short LTR text inside RTL paragraphs.

☞ With any of the commands in the second row, you can typeset short RTL text inside LTR paragraphs.

```

1 | \input bidi
2 | \RTL
3 | Anyone who reads Old and Middle English \LRE{Short left to right
  | text} literary texts will be familiar
4 | with the mid-brown volumes of the EETS, with the symbol
5 | of Alfred's jewel embossed on the front cover.
6 | \LTR
7 | Anyone who reads Old and Middle English \RLE{Short right to left
  | text} literary texts will be familiar
8 | with the mid-brown volumes of the EETS, with the symbol
9 | of Alfred's jewel embossed on the front cover.
10 | \endLTR
11 | \endRTL
12 | \end

```

5.7 Primitive-like commands

```

\hboxR \hboxL \vboxR \vboxL

```

☞ The syntax of `\hboxR` is exactly the same as the syntax of `\hbox`, but its contents is always typeset RTL.

☞ The syntax of `\hboxL` is exactly the same as the syntax of `\hbox`, but its contents is always typeset LTR.

☞ The syntax of `\vboxR` is exactly the same as the syntax of `\vbox`, but its contents is always typeset RTL.

☞ The syntax of `\vboxL` is exactly the same as the syntax of `\vbox`, but its contents is always typeset LTR.

5.8 Something To know about `\hbox`

If you enable RTL typesetting and typeset an horizontal box at the beginning of the document:

```
1 \input bidi
2 \setRTL
3 \hbox{This is a Test}
4 \end
```

You see that even you have used `\setRTL`, the horizontal box appears LTR (It appears on the left hand side and its content is typeset left to right). This is because when `TEX` starts, it is in the vertical mode so if you need to have that `\hbox` appear RTL, then write `\leavevmode` before `\hbox`:

```
1 \input bidi
2 \setRTL
3 \leavevmode\hbox{This is a Test}
4 \end
```

5.9 Typesetting Logos

```
\XeTeX
```

`bidi` defines `XeTEX` logo and in addition, it makes sure that the logo, `TEX` is typeset LTR.

6 Some Useful Internal Macros and Programming Tips

There are some useful internal macros and programming tips that might be helpful for you. This section, explains all these useful internals and programming tips.

6.1 RTL Conditional

```
\if@RTL
```

`\if@RTL` conditional is true inside RTL mode and it is false in LTR mode.

6.2 Main RTL Conditional

```
\if@RTLmain
```

If the main direction of the document is RTL, `\if@RTLmain` is true and if the main direction of the document is LTR, `\if@RTLmain` is false.

6.3 Direction Ensuring Macros

<code>\@ensure@RTL{<text>}</code>	<code>\@ensure@RL{<text>}</code>	<code>\@ensure@LTR{<text>}</code>
<code>\@ensure@LR{<text>}</code>	<code>\@ensure@dir{<text>}</code>	<code>\@ensure@maindir{<text>}</code>

- ☞ `\@ensure@RTL` and `\@ensure@RL` internals make sure that `<text>` is always typeset RTL, independent on the current mode.
- ☞ `\@ensure@LTR` and `\@ensure@LR` internals make sure that `<text>` is always typeset LTR, independent on the current mode.
- ☞ `\@ensure@dir` and `\@ensure@maindir` if used in RTL mode, they put `<text>` inside `\RLE` and if used in LTR mode, they put the text as it is.

6.4 Reset Direction Macro

<code>\save@dir</code>	<code>\saved@@dir</code>	<code>\reset@dir</code>
------------------------	--------------------------	-------------------------

- ☞ `\save@dir`, if the direction of typesetting is RTL, defines `\saved@@dir` to be RTL and if the direction of typesetting is LTR, defines `\saved@@dir` to be LTR.
- ☞ `\reset@dir`, if `\saved@@dir` is defined as RTL, inserts `\setRTL` otherwise, if `\saved@@dir` is defined as LTR, inserts `\setLTR`, otherwise does nothing.