

# The `bytefield` package<sup>\*</sup>

Scott Pakin  
`scott+bf@pakin.org`

January 25, 2011

## Abstract

The `bytefield` package helps the user create illustrations for network protocol specifications and anything else that utilizes fields of data. These illustrations show how the bits and bytes are laid out in a packet or in memory.

WARNING: `bytefield` version 2.x breaks compatibility with older versions of the package. See Section 2.6 for help porting documents to the new interface.

## 1 Introduction

Network protocols are usually specified in terms of a sequence of bits and bytes arranged in a field. This is portrayed graphically as a grid of boxes. Each row in the grid represents one word (frequently, 32 bits), and each column represents a bit within a word. The `bytefield` package makes it easy to typeset these sorts of figures.

`bytefield` lets one draw protocol diagrams that contain:

- Words of any arbitrary number of bits
- Column headers showing bit positions
- Multiword fields—even non-word-aligned and even if the total number of bits is not a multiple of the word length
- Word labels on either the left or right of the figure
- “Skipped words” within fields

---

<sup>\*</sup>This document corresponds to `bytefield` v2.0, dated 2011/01/25.

Because `bytefield` draws its figures using only the  $\text{\LaTeX}$  `picture` environment, these figures are not specific to any particular backend, do not require PostScript support, and do not need support from external programs. Furthermore, unlike an imported graphic, `bytefield` pictures can include arbitrary  $\text{\LaTeX}$  constructs, such as mathematical equations, `\refs` and `\cites` to the surrounding document, and macro calls.

## 2 Usage

### 2.1 Basic commands

This section explains how to use the `bytefield` package. It lists all the exported environments, commands, and variables in decreasing order of usefulness.

```
\begin{bytefield} [\langle parameters \rangle] {\langle bit-width \rangle}
\langle fields \rangle
\end{bytefield}
```

The `bytefield` package’s top-level environment is called, not surprisingly, “`bytefield`”. It takes one mandatory argument, which is the number of bits in each word, and one optional argument, which is a set of parameters, described in Section 2.2, for formatting the bit-field’s layout. One can think of a `bytefield` as being analogous to a `tabular`: words are separated by “`\`”, and fields within a word are separated by “`&`”.

```
\bitbox [\langle sides \rangle] {\langle width \rangle} {\langle text \rangle}
\wordbox [\langle sides \rangle] {\langle height \rangle} {\langle text \rangle}
```

The two main commands one uses within a `bytefield` environment are `\bitbox` and `\wordbox`. The former typesets a field that is one or more bits wide and a single word tall. The latter typesets a field that is one or more words tall and an entire word wide.

The optional argument, `\langle sides \rangle`, is a list of letters specifying which sides of the field box to draw—`[l]`eft, `[r]`ight, `[t]`op, and/or `[b]`ottom. The default is “`lrbt`” (i.e., all sides are drawn). `\langle text \rangle` is the text to include within the `\bitbox` or `\wordbox`. It is typeset horizontally centered within a vertically centered `\parbox`. Hence, words will wrap, and “`\`” can be used to break lines manually.

The following example shows how to produce a simple 16-bit-wide field:

```
\begin{bytefield}{16}
\wordbox{1}{A 16-bit field} \\\
\bitbox{8}{8 bits} & \bitbox{8}{8 more bits} \\\
\wordbox{2}{A 32-bit field. Note that text wraps within the box.}
\end{bytefield}
```

The resulting bit field looks like this:

A 16-bit field	
8 bits	8 more bits
A 32-bit field. Note that text wraps within the box.	

It is the user’s responsibility to ensure that the total number of bits in each row adds up to the number of bits in a single word (the mandatory argument to the `bytefield` environment); `bytefield` does not currently check for under- or overruns.

Within a `\bitbox` or `\wordbox`, the `bytefield` package defines `\height`, `\depth`, `\totalheight`, and `\width` to the corresponding dimensions of the box. Section 2.3 gives an example of how these lengths may be utilized.

<code>\bitheader [<i>endianness</i>] {<i>bit-positions</i>}</code>
--

To make the bit field more readable, it helps to label bit positions across the top. The `\bitheader` command provides a flexible way to do that. The optional argument, *endianness*, is one of “b” or “l” and specifies whether the bits in each word are numbered in big-endian style (right to left) or little-endian style (left to right). The default is little-endian (l).

`\bitheader`’s mandatory argument, *bit-positions*, is a comma-separated list of bit positions to label. For example, “0,2,4,6,8,10,12,14” means to label those bit positions. The numbers must be listed in increasing order. (Use *endianness* to display the header in reverse order.) Hyphen-separated ranges are also valid. For example, “0–15” means to label all bits from 0 to 15, inclusive. While not particularly useful, ranges and single numbers can be intermixed, as in “0–3,8,12–15”.

The following example shows how `\bitheader` may be used:

```
\begin{bytefield}{32}
  \bitheader{0-31} \\
  \bitbox{4}{Four} & \bitbox{8}{Eight} &
  \bitbox{16}{Sixteen} & \bitbox{4}{Four}
\end{bytefield}
```

The resulting bit field looks like this:

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Four				Eight				Sixteen								Four															

```

\begin{rightwordgroup} {\langle text \rangle}
\langle rows of bit boxes and word boxes \rangle
\end{rightwordgroup}

\begin{leftwordgroup} {\langle text \rangle}
\langle rows of bit boxes and word boxes \rangle
\end{leftwordgroup}

```

When a set of words functions as a single, logical unit, it helps to group these words together visually. All words defined between `\begin{rightwordgroup}` and `\end{rightwordgroup}` will be labeled on the right with  $\langle text \rangle$ . Similarly, all words defined between `\begin{leftwordgroup}` and `\end{leftwordgroup}` will be labeled on the left with  $\langle text \rangle$ . `\begin{\langle side \rangle wordgroup}` must lie at the beginning of a row (i.e., right after a “\”), and `\end{\langle side \rangle wordgroup}` must lie right *before* the end of the row (i.e., right before a “\”).

Unlike other L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X environments, `rightwordgroup` and `leftwordgroup` do not have to nest properly with each other. However, they cannot overlap themselves. In other words, `\begin{rightwordgroup}...\begin{leftwordgroup}...\end{rightwordgroup}...\end{leftwordgroup}` is a valid sequence, but `\begin{rightwordgroup}...\begin{rightwordgroup}...\end{rightwordgroup}...\end{rightwordgroup}` is not.

The following example presents the basic usage of `\begin{rightwordgroup}` and `\end{rightwordgroup}`:

```

\begin{bytefield}{16}
  \bitheader{0,7,8,15} \\\
  \begin{rightwordgroup}{Header}
    \bitbox{4}{Tag} & \bitbox{12}{Mask} \\\
    \bitbox{8}{Source} & \bitbox{8}{Destination}
  \end{rightwordgroup} \\\
  \wordbox{3}{Data}
\end{bytefield}

```

Note the juxtaposition of “\” to the `\begin{rightwordgroup}` and the `\end{rightwordgroup}` in the above. The resulting bit field looks like this:

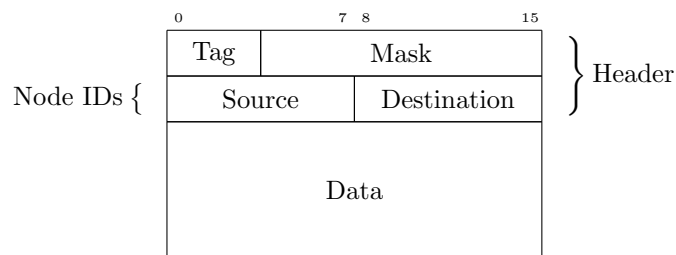
0	7	8	15	
Tag	Mask			} Header
Source	Destination			
Data				

As a more complex example, the following nests left and right labels:

```

\begin{bytefield}{16}
  \bitheader{0,7,8,15} \\
  \begin{rightwordgroup}{Header}
    \bitbox{4}{Tag} & \bitbox{12}{Mask} \\
    \begin{leftwordgroup}{Node IDs}
      \bitbox{8}{Source} & \bitbox{8}{Destination}
    \end{leftwordgroup}
  \end{rightwordgroup} \\
  \wordbox{3}{Data}
\end{bytefield}

```



Because `rightwordgroup` and `leftwordgroup` are not required to nest properly, the resulting bit field would look the same if the `\end{leftwordgroup}` and `\end{rightwordgroup}` were swapped. Again, note the juxtaposition of “\\” to the various word-grouping commands in the above.

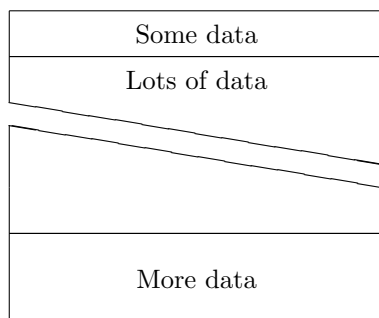
`\skippedwords`

Draw a graphic representing a number of words that are not shown. `\skippedwords` is intended to work with the *<sides>* argument to `\wordbox`, as in the following example:

```

\begin{bytefield}{16}
  \wordbox{1}{Some data} \\
  \wordbox[lrt]{1}{Lots of data} \\
  \skippedwords \\
  \wordbox[lrb]{1}{} \\
  \wordbox{2}{More data}
\end{bytefield}

```



`\bytefieldsetup {⟨key=value list⟩}`

Alter the formatting of all subsequent bit fields. Section 2.2 describes the possible values for each *⟨key=value⟩* item in the (comma-separated) list that `\bytefieldsetup` accepts as its argument. Note that changes made with `\bytefieldsetup` are local to their current scope. Hence, if used within an environment (e.g., `figure`), `\bytefieldsetup` does not impact bit fields drawn outside that environment.

## 2.2 Formatting options

A document author can customize many of the `bytefield` package’s figure-formatting parameters, either globally or on a per-figure basis. The parameters described below can be specified in any of three locations:

- as package options (i.e., in the `\usepackage[⟨options⟩]{bytefield}` line), which affects all `bytefield` environments in the entire document,
- anywhere in the document using the `\bytefieldsetup` command, which affects all subsequent `bytefield` environments in the current scope, or
- as the optional argument to a `\begin{bytefield}`, which affects only that single bit-field figure.

Unfortunately,  $\text{\LaTeX} 2_{\epsilon}$  tends to abort with a “`TeX capacity exceeded`” or “`Missing \endcsname inserted`” error when a control sequence (i.e., `\⟨name⟩`) or `\⟨symbol⟩`) is encountered within the optional argument to `\usepackage`. Hence, parameters that typically expect a control sequence in their argument—in particular, `bitformatting`, `boxformatting`, `leftcurly`, and `rightcurly`—should best be avoided within the `\usepackage[⟨options⟩]{bytefield}` line.

`bitwidth = ⟨length⟩`  
`bitheight = ⟨length⟩`

The above parameters represent the width and height of each bit in a bit field. The default value of `bitwidth` is the width of “`\tiny 99i`”, i.e., the width of a

two-digit number plus a small amount of extra space. This enables `\bitheader` to show two-digit numbers without overlap. The default value of `bitheight` is `2ex`, which should allow a normal piece of text to appear within a `\bitbox` or `\wordbox` without abutting the box’s top or bottom edge.

As a special case, if `bitwidth` is set to the word “auto”, it will be set to the width of “99i” in the current bit-number formatting (cf. `bitformatting` below). This feature provides a convenient way to adjust the bit width after a formatting change.

`bitformatting` =  $\langle command \rangle$  or  $\{\langle commands \rangle\}$

The numbers that appear in a bit header are typeset in the `bitformatting` style, which defaults to `\tiny`. To alter the style of bit numbers in the bit header, set `bitformatting` to a macro that takes a single argument (like `\textbf`) or no arguments (like `\small`). Groups of commands (e.g., `\large\itshape`) are also acceptable.

When `bitformatting` is set, `bitwidth` usually needs to be recalculated as well to ensure that a correct amount of spacing surrounds each number in the bit header. As described above, setting `bitwidth=auto` is a convenient shortcut for recalculating the bit-width in the common case of bit fields containing no more than 99 bits per line and no particularly wide labels in bit boxes that contain only a few bits.

The following example shows how to use `bitformatting` and `bitwidth` to format a bit header with small, boldface text:

```
\begin{bytefield}[bitformatting={\small\bfseries},bitwidth=auto]{20}
  \bitheader[b]{0-19} \\\
  \bitbox{1}{\tiny F/E} & \bitbox{1}{\tiny T0} & \bitbox{1}{\tiny T1}
  & \bitbox{1}{\tiny Fwd} & \bitbox{16}{Data value} \\\
\end{bytefield}
```

The resulting bit field looks like this:

19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
F/E	T0	T1	Fwd	Data value															

`boxformatting` =  $\langle command \rangle$  or  $\{\langle commands \rangle\}$

The text that appears in a `\bitbox` or `\wordbox` is formatted in the `boxformatting` style, which defaults to `\centering`. To alter the style of bit numbers in the bit header, set `boxformatting` to a macro that takes a single argument (like `\textbf` but not `\textbf`—see below) or no arguments (like `\small`). Groups of commands (e.g., `\large\itshape`) are also acceptable.

If `boxformatting` is set to a macro that takes an argument, the macro must be defined as a “long” macro, which means it can accept more than one paragraph as an argument. Commands defined with `\newcommand` are automatically made long, but commands defined with `\newcommand*` are not. L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X’s `\text...` formatting commands (e.g., `\textbf`) are not long and therefore cannot be used directly in `boxformatting`; use the zero-argument versions (e.g., `\bfseries`) instead.

The following example shows how to use `boxformatting` to format the text within each box horizontally centered and italicized:

```
\begin{bytefield}[boxformatting={\centering\itshape},
                  bitwidth=1.5em]{20}
  \bitheader[b]{0-19} \\\
  \bitbox{1}{\tiny F/E} & \bitbox{1}{\tiny T0} & \bitbox{1}{\tiny T1}
  & \bitbox{1}{\tiny Fwd} & \bitbox{16}{Data value} \\\
\end{bytefield}
```

The resulting bit field looks like this:

19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
<i>F/E</i>	<i>T0</i>	<i>T1</i>	<i>Fwd</i>	<i>Data value</i>															

$\text{leftcurly} = \langle \textit{delimiter} \rangle$ $\text{rightcurly} = \langle \textit{delimiter} \rangle$
---

Word groups are normally indicated by a curly brace spanning all of its rows. However, the curly brace can be replaced by any other extensible math delimiter (i.e., a symbol that can meaningfully follow `\left` or `\right` in math mode) via a suitable redefinition of `leftcurly` or `rightcurly`. As in math mode, “.” means “no symbol”, as in the following example (courtesy of Steven R. King):

```
\begin{bytefield}[rightcurly=., rightcurlyspace=0pt]{32}
  \bitheader[b]{0,7,8,15,16,23,24,31} \\\
  \begin{rightwordgroup}{0Ch}
    \bitbox{8}{Byte 15} \\\ \tiny (highest address)}
    & \bitbox{8}{Byte 14}
    & \bitbox{8}{Byte 13}
    & \bitbox{8}{Byte 12}
  \end{rightwordgroup} \\\
  \begin{rightwordgroup}{08h}
    \bitbox{32}{Long 0}
  \end{rightwordgroup} \\\
  \begin{rightwordgroup}{04h}
    \bitbox{16}{Word 1} & \bitbox{16}{Word 0}
  \end{rightwordgroup} \\\
  \begin{rightwordgroup}{00h}
```



```

\bitbox{8}{Byte 3}
& \bitbox{8}{Byte 2}
& \bitbox{8}{Byte 1}
& \bitbox{8}{Byte 0} \tiny (lowest address)}
\end{rightwordgroup} \\\
\end{bytefield}

```

31	24 23	16 15	8 7	0	
Byte 15 (highest address)	Byte 14	Byte 13	Byte 12		0Ch
Long 0					08h
Word 1		Word 0			04h
Byte 3	Byte 2	Byte 1	Byte 0 (lowest address)		00h

```

leftcurlyspace =  $\langle length \rangle$ 
rightcurlyspace =  $\langle length \rangle$ 
curlyspace =  $\langle length \rangle$ 

```

`leftcurlyspace` and `rightcurlyspace` specify the space to insert between the bit field and the curly brace in a left or right word group (default: `1ex`). Setting `curlyspace` is a shortcut for setting both `leftcurlyspace` and `rightcurlyspace` to the same value.

```

leftlabelspace =  $\langle length \rangle$ 
rightlabelspace =  $\langle length \rangle$ 
labelspace =  $\langle length \rangle$ 

```

`leftlabelspace` and `rightlabelspace` specify the space to insert between the curly brace and the text label in a left or right word group (default: `0.5ex`). Setting `labelspace` is a shortcut for setting both `leftlabelspace` and `rightlabelspace` to the same value.

Figure 1 illustrates the juxtaposition of `rightcurlyspace` and `rightlabelspace` to a word group and its label. The `leftcurlyspace` and `leftlabelspace` parameters are symmetric.

```

leftcurlyshrinkage =  $\langle length \rangle$ 
rightcurlyshrinkage =  $\langle length \rangle$ 
curlyshrinkage =  $\langle length \rangle$ 

```

In  $\text{T}_{\text{E}}\text{X}/\text{L}_{\text{A}}\text{T}_{\text{E}}\text{X}$ , the height of a curly brace does not include the tips. Hence, in a word group label, the tips of the curly brace will extend beyond the height of

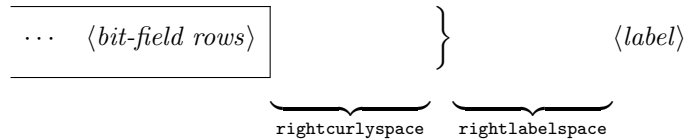


Figure 1: Role of `rightcurlyspace` and `rightlabel space`

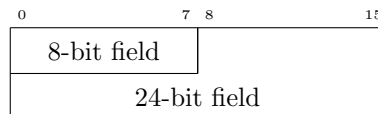
the word group. `leftcurlyshrinkage`/`rightcurlyshrinkage` is an amount by which to reduce the height of the curly brace in a left/right word group's label. Setting `curlyshrinkage` is a shortcut for setting both `leftcurlyshrinkage` and `rightcurlyshrinkage` to the same value. Shrinkages default to 5pt, and it is extremely unlikely that one would ever need to change them. Nevertheless, these parameters are included here in case a document is typeset with a math font containing radically different curly braces from the ones that come with T<sub>E</sub>X/L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X or that replaces the curly braces (using `leftcurly`/`rightcurly`, described above) with symbols of substantially different heights.

## 2.3 Common tricks

This section shows some clever ways to use `bytefield`'s commands to produce some useful effects.

**Odd-sized fields** To produce a field that is, say,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  words long, use a `\bitbox` for the fractional part and specify appropriate values for the various `<sides>` parameters. For instance:

```
\begin{bytefield}{16}
  \bitheader{0,7,8,15} \\
  \bitbox{8}{8-bit field} & \bitbox[lrt]{8}{} \\
  \wordbox[lrb]{1}{24-bit field}
\end{bytefield}
```



**Ellipses** To skip words that appear the middle of enumerated data, put some `\vdots` in a `\wordbox` with empty `<sides>`:

```
\begin{bytefield}{16}
  \bitbox{8}{Type} & \bitbox{8}{\# of nodes} \\
  \wordbox[lrb]{1}{\vdots}
```

```

\wordbox{1}{Node~1} \\
\wordbox{1}{Node~2} \\
\wordbox[]{1}{$\vdots$} \\[1ex] \\
\wordbox{1}{Node~$N$} \\
\end{bytefield}

```

Type	# of nodes
Node 1	
Node 2	
⋮	
Node $N$	

The extra `1ex` of vertical space helps center the `\vdots` a bit better.

**Narrow fields** There are a number of options for labeling a narrow field (e.g., one occupying a single bit):

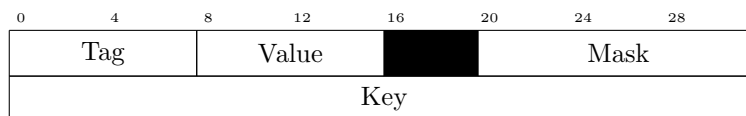
<i>Default:</i>	<table><tr><td>OK</td><td>Data</td></tr></table>	OK	Data
OK	Data		
<code>\bytefieldsetup{% bitwidth=\widthof{OK~}}:</code>	<table><tr><td>OK</td><td>Data</td></tr></table>	OK	Data
OK	Data		
<code>\tiny OK:</code>	<table><tr><td>OK</td><td>Data</td></tr></table>	OK	Data
OK	Data		
<code>\tiny O \ K:</code>	<table><tr><td>O K</td><td>Data</td></tr></table>	O K	Data
O K	Data		
<code>\rotatebox{90}{\small OK}:</code>	<table><tr><td>OK</td><td>Data</td></tr></table>	OK	Data
OK	Data		

**Unused bits** Because `\width` and `\height` are defined within bit boxes (also word boxes), we can represent unused bits by filling a `\bitbox` with a rule of size `\width × \height`:

```

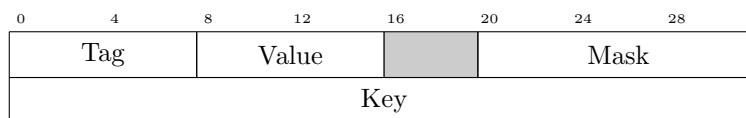
\begin{bytefield}{32}
\bitheader{0,4,8,12,16,20,24,28} \\
\bitbox{8}{Tag} & \bitbox{8}{Value} &
\bitbox{4}{\rule{\width}{\height}} &
\bitbox{12}{Mask} \\
\wordbox{1}{Key}
\end{bytefield}

```



The effect is much better when the `color` package is used to draw the unused bits in color. (Gray looks nice.)

```
\definecolor{lightgray}{gray}{0.8}
\begin{bytefield}{32}
  \bitheader{0,4,8,12,16,20,24,28} \
  \bitbox{8}{Tag} & \bitbox{8}{Value} &
  \bitbox{4}{\color{lightgray}\rule{\width}{\height}} &
  \bitbox{12}{Mask} \
  \wordbox{1}{Key}
\end{bytefield}
```



**Aligning text on the baseline** Because `bytefield` internally uses L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X's `picture` environment and that environment's `\makebox` command to draw bit boxes and word boxes, the text within a box is centered vertically with no attention paid to the text's baseline. As a result, some bit fields appear somewhat askew:

```
\begin{bytefield}[bitwidth=1.5em]{2}
  \bitbox{1}{M} & \bitbox{1}{y} \
\end{bytefield}
```



A solution is to use the `boxformatting` option to trick `\makebox` into thinking that all text has the same height and depth. Here we use `\raisebox` to indicate that all text is as tall as a “W” and does not descend at all below the baseline:

```
\newlength{\maxheight}
\setlength{\maxheight}{\heightof{W}}

\newcommand{\baselinealign}[1]{%
  \centering
```

```

\raisebox{0pt}{\maxheight}[0pt]{#1}%
}

\begin{bytefield}[boxformatting=\baselinealign,
                 bitwidth=1.5em]{2}
\bitbox{1}{M} & \bitbox{1}{y} \\
\end{bytefield}

```

M	y
---	---

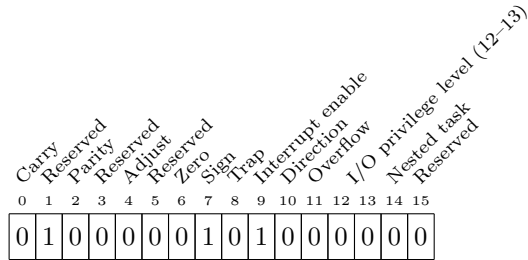
**Register contents** Sometimes, rather than listing the *meaning* of each bit field within each `\bitbox` or `\wordbox`, it may be desirable to list the *contents*, with the meaning described in an additional label above each bit number in the bit header. Although the `register` package is more suited to this form of layout, `bytefield` can serve in a pinch with the help of the `\turnbox` macro from the `rotating` package:

```

\newcommand{\bitlabel}[2]{%
  \bitbox[]{#1}{%
    \raisebox{0pt}[4ex][0pt]{%
      \turnbox{45}{\fontsize{7}{7}\selectfont#2}%
    }%
  }%
}

\begin{bytefield}[bitwidth=1em]{16}
\bitlabel{1}{Carry} & \bitlabel{1}{Reserved} &
\bitlabel{1}{Parity} & \bitlabel{1}{Reserved} &
\bitlabel{1}{Adjust} & \bitlabel{1}{Reserved} &
\bitlabel{1}{Zero} & \bitlabel{1}{Sign} &
\bitlabel{1}{Trap} & \bitlabel{1}{Interrupt enable} &
\bitlabel{1}{Direction} & \bitlabel{1}{Overflow} &
\bitlabel{2}{I/O privilege level (12--13)} &
\bitlabel{1}{Nested task} & \bitlabel{1}{Reserved} \\
\bitheader{0-15} \\
\bitbox{1}{0} & \bitbox{1}{1} & \bitbox{1}{0} & \bitbox{1}{0} &
\bitbox{1}{0} & \bitbox{1}{0} & \bitbox{1}{0} & \bitbox{1}{1} &
\bitbox{1}{0} & \bitbox{1}{1} & \bitbox{1}{0} & \bitbox{1}{0} &
\bitbox{1}{0} & \bitbox{1}{0} & \bitbox{1}{0} & \bitbox{1}{0} \\
\end{bytefield}

```



## 2.4 Not-so-common tricks

**Colored fields** A similar approach to that utilized to indicate unused bits can be applied to coloring an individual bit field. The trick is to use the `TEX` `\rlap` primitive to draw a colored box that overlaps whatever follows it to the right:

```
\begingroup
\small
\newcommand{\colorbitbox}[3]{%
  \rlap{\bitbox{#2}{\color{#1}\rule{\width}{\height}}}%
  \bitbox{#2}{#3}}
\definecolor{lightcyan}{rgb}{0.84,1,1}
\definecolor{lightgreen}{rgb}{0.64,1,0.71}
\definecolor{lightred}{rgb}{1,0.7,0.71}

\begin{bytefield}[bitheight=\widthof{~Sign~}]{32}
  \bitheader[b]{31,23,0} \\\
  \colorbitbox{lightcyan}{1}{\rotatebox{90}{Sign}} &
  \colorbitbox{lightgreen}{8}{Exponent} &
  \colorbitbox{lightred}{23}{Mantissa} \\\
\end{bytefield}
\endgroup
```



**Renumbered bit headers** The `\bitheader` macro always numbers bits starting from 0. However, one may occasionally want to begin numbering from a different value. (This was in fact a feature request from Chris L'Esperance.) The way to accomplish this is to define a macro that adds a value to its argument and specify this macro to the `bitformatting` parameter. This works because the argument passed to a macro named by `bitformatting` is always numeric except when called from `bitwidth=auto`. (Caveat: This happens automatically at the `\begin{document}`.) However, `bytefield` sometimes passes a `bitformatting`-named macro the value 1234567890 to measure the height of a formatted bit number. The examples below include a case in which this value needs to be

checked explicitly to ensure that the height is correct even when the formatted number is rotated by 90°.

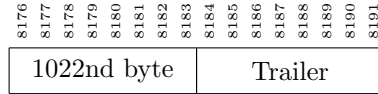
```
\begin{bytefield}{16}
  \bitheader{0-15} \\\
  \bitbox{8}{Header} & \bitbox{8}{First byte} \\\
\end{bytefield}
```

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Header								First byte							

```
\newcommand{\formatplusXVI}[1]{%
  \tiny
  \count10=#1
  \advance\count10 by 16
  \the\count10
}
\begin{bytefield}[bitformatting=\formatplusXVI]{16}
  \bitheader{0-15} \\\
  \bitbox{8}{Second byte} & \bitbox{8}{Third byte} \\\
\end{bytefield}
```

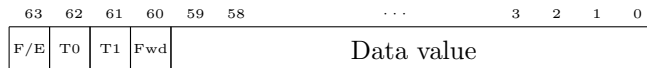
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Second byte								Third byte							

```
\newcommand{\formatplusMMMMMMCLXXVI}[1]{%
  \tiny
  \count10=#1
  \ifnum\count10=1234567890
    \rotatebox[origin=B]{90}{8191}%
  \else
    \advance\count10 by 8176
    \rotatebox[origin=B]{90}{\the\count10}%
  \fi
}
\begin{bytefield}[bitformatting=\formatplusMMMMMMCLXXVI]{16}
  \bitheader{0-15} \\\
  \bitbox{8}{1022nd byte} & \bitbox{8}{Trailer} \\\
\end{bytefield}
```



As an even trickier example of modifying bit numbers, the following shows how to *conditionally* modify the bit number: If the number is 1234567890 (for `bytefield`'s bit-height calculation, the number is used as is; numbers greater than 9 are increased by 48; numbers less than 4 are unmodified; the number 6 is replaced by an ellipsis; and all other numbers are discarded.

```
\newcommand{\fakesixtyfourbits}[1]{%
  \tiny
  \ifnum#1=1234567890
    #1
  \else
    \ifnum#1>9
      \count32=#1
      \advance\count32 by 48
      \the\count32%
    \else
      \ifnum#1<4
        #1%
      \else
        \ifnum#1=6
          $\cdots$%
        \fi
      \fi
    \fi
  \fi
}
\begin{bytefield}[%
  bitwidth=\widthof{\tiny Fwd~},
  bitformatting=\fakesixtyfourbits]{16}
  \bitheader[b]{0-15} \\\
  \bitbox{1}{\tiny F/E} & \bitbox{1}{\tiny T0} & \bitbox{1}{\tiny T1}
  & \bitbox{1}{\tiny Fwd} & \bitbox{12}{Data value} \\\
\end{bytefield}
```



**Memory-map diagrams** While certainly not the intended purpose of the `bytefield` package, one can utilize word boxes with empty *sides* and word labels to produce memory-map diagrams:



```

\newcommand{\descbox}[2]{\parbox[c][3.8\baselineskip]{0.95\width}{%
  \raggedright #1\vfill #2}}
\begin{bytefield}[bitheight=4\baselineskip]{32}
\begin{rightwordgroup}{Partition 4}
  \bitbox[] {8}{\texttt{0xFFFFFFFF} \\\[2\baselineskip]
    \texttt{0xC0000000}} &
  \bitbox{24}{\descbox{1\,GB area for VxDs, memory manager,
    file system code; shared by all processes.}{Read/writable.}}
\end{rightwordgroup} \\\
\begin{rightwordgroup}{Partition 3}
  \bitbox[] {8}{\texttt{0xBFFFFFFF} \\\[2\baselineskip]
    \texttt{0x80000000}} &
  \bitbox{24}{\descbox{1\,GB area for memory-mapped files,
    shared system \textsc{dll}s, file system code; shared by all
    processes.}{Read/writable.}}
\end{rightwordgroup} \\\
\begin{rightwordgroup}{Partition 2}
  \bitbox[] {8}{\texttt{0x7FFFFFFF} \\\[2\baselineskip]
    \texttt{0x00400000}} &
  \bitbox{24}{\descbox{$\sim$,GB area private to process,
    process code, and data.}{Read/writable.}}
\end{rightwordgroup} \\\
\begin{rightwordgroup}{Partition 1}
  \bitbox[] {8}{\texttt{0x003FFFFF} \\\[2\baselineskip]
    \texttt{0x00001000}} &
  \bitbox{24}{\descbox{4\,MB area for MS-DOS and Windows~3.1
    compatibility.}{Read/writable.}} \\\
  \bitbox[] {8}{\texttt{0x0000FFFF} \\\[2\baselineskip]
    \texttt{0x00000000}} &
  \bitbox{24}{\descbox{4096~byte area for MS-DOS and Windows~3.1
    compatibility.}{Protected---catches \textsc{null}
    pointers.}}
\end{rightwordgroup} \\\

```

0xFFFFFFFF	1 GB area for VxDs, memory manager, file system code; shared by all processes.	} Partition 4
0xC0000000	Read/writable.	
0xBFFFFFFF	1 GB area for memory-mapped files, shared system DLLs, file system code; shared by all processes.	} Partition 3
0x80000000	Read/writable.	
0x7FFFFFFF	~2 GB area private to process, process code, and data.	} Partition 2
0x00400000	Read/writable.	
0x003FFFFF	4 MB area for MS-DOS and Windows 3.1 compatibility.	} Partition 1
0x00001000	Read/writable.	
0x00000FFF	4096 byte area for MS-DOS and Windows 3.1 compatibility.	
0x00000000	Protected—catches NULL pointers.	

## 2.5 Putting it all together

The following code showcases most of `bytefield`'s features in a single figure.

```
\begin{bytefield}[bitheight=2.5\baselineskip]{32}
  \bitheader{0,7,8,15,16,23,24,31} \
  \begin{rightwordgroup}{\parbox{6em}{\raggedright These words were taken
    verbatim from the TCP header definition (RFC~793).}}
    \bitbox{4}{Data offset} & \bitbox{6}{Reserved} &
    \bitbox{1}{\tiny U\R\G} & \bitbox{1}{\tiny A\C\K} &
    \bitbox{1}{\tiny P\S\H} & \bitbox{1}{\tiny R\S\T} &
    \bitbox{1}{\tiny S\Y\N} & \bitbox{1}{\tiny F\I\N} &
    \bitbox{16}{Window} \
    \bitbox{16}{Checksum} & \bitbox{16}{Urgent pointer}
  \end{rightwordgroup} \
  \wordbox[lrt]{1}{Data octets} \
  \skippedwords \
  \wordbox[lrb]{1}{} \
  \begin{leftwordgroup}{\parbox{6em}{\raggedright Note that we can display,
    for example, a misaligned 64-bit value with clever use of the
    optional argument to \texttt{\string\wordbox} and
    \texttt{\string\bitbox}.}}
    \bitbox{8}{Source} & \bitbox{8}{Destination} &
    \bitbox[lrt]{16}{} \
  \end{leftwordgroup}
```

```

\wordbox[lr]{1}{Timestamp} \\
\begin{rightwordgroup}{\parbox{6em}{\raggedright Why two Length fields?
No particular reason.}}
\bitbox[lrb]{16}{} & \bitbox{16}{Length}
\end{leftwordgroup} \\
\bitbox{6}{Key} & \bitbox{6}{Value} & \bitbox{4}{Unused} &
\bitbox{16}{Length}
\end{rightwordgroup} \\
\wordbox{1}{Total number of 16-bit data words that follow this
header word, excluding the subsequent checksum-type value} \\
\bitbox{16}{Data~1} & \bitbox{16}{Data~2} \\
\bitbox{16}{Data~3} & \bitbox{16}{Data~4} \\
\bitbox[]{16}{$\vdots$} \\[1ex] &
\bitbox[]{16}{$\vdots$} \\[1ex] \\
\bitbox{16}{Data~$N-1$} & \bitbox{16}{Data~$N$} \\
\bitbox{20}{\left[ \mbox{A5A5}_{\scriptsize H} \oplus
\left( \sum_{i=1}^N \mbox{Data}_i \right) \bmod 2^{20} \right]} &
\bitbox{12}{Command} \\
\wordbox{2}{64-bit random number}
\end{bytefield}

```

Figure 2 shows the resulting protocol diagram.

## 2.6 Upgrading from older versions

bytefield’s user interface changed substantially with the introduction of version 2.0. Because documents written for bytefield v1.x will not build properly under later versions of the package, this section shows how to convert documents to the new interface.

```

\wordgroup
\endwordgroup

```

These have been replaced with the `rightwordgroup` environment to make their invocation more L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X-like. Use `\begin{rightwordgroup}` instead of `\wordgroup` and `\end{rightwordgroup}` instead of `\endwordgroup`.

```

\wordgroup1
\endwordgroup1

```

These have been replaced with the `leftwordgroup` environment to make their invocation more L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X-like. Use `\begin{leftwordgroup}` instead of `\wordgroup1` and `\end{leftwordgroup}` instead of `\endwordgroup1`.

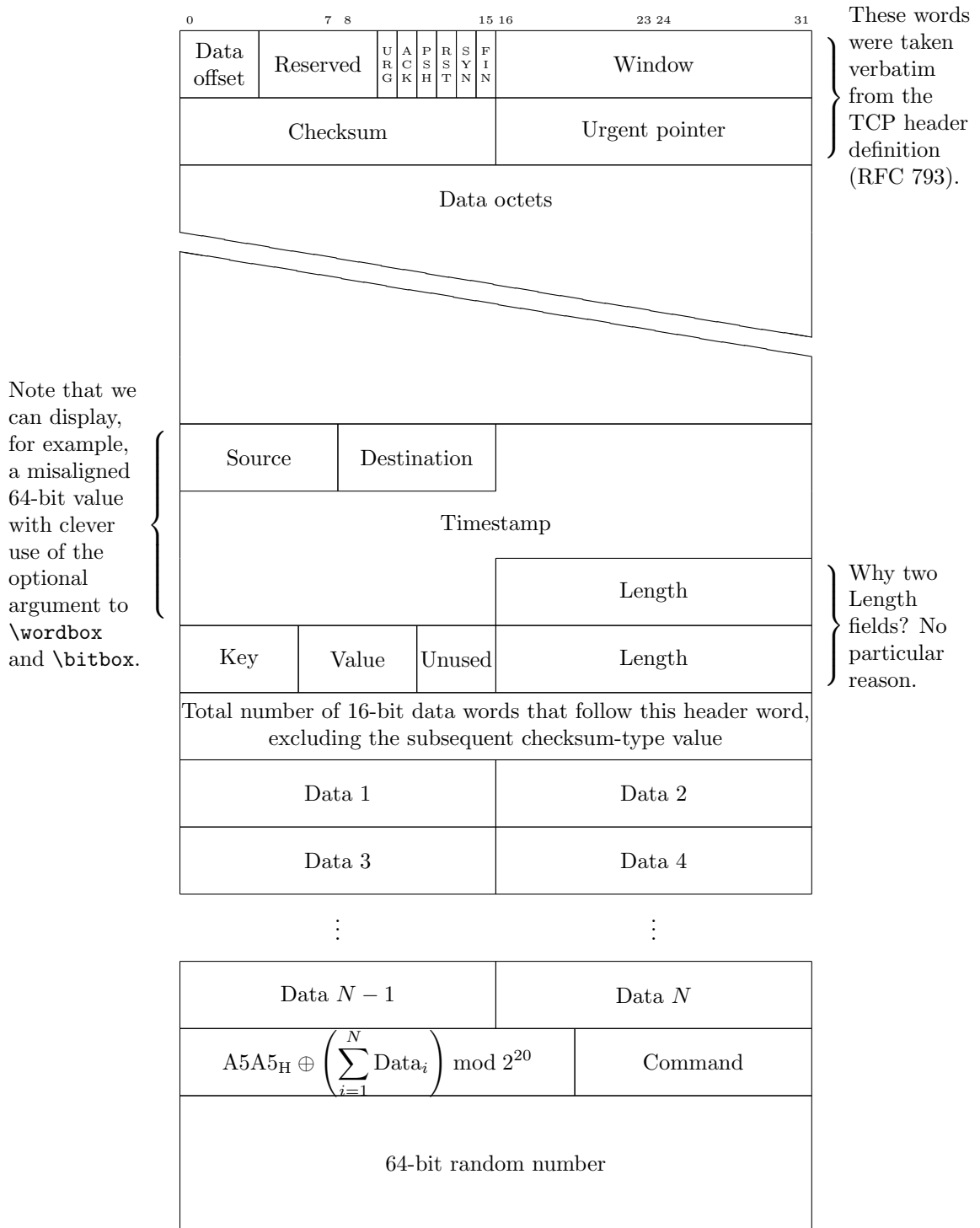


Figure 2: Complex protocol diagram drawn with the `bytefield` package

`\bitwidth`

Instead of changing bit widths with `\setlength{\bitwidth}{\langle width \rangle}`, use `\bytefieldsetup{bitwidth=\langle width \rangle}`.

`\byteheight`

Instead of changing bit heights with `\setlength{\byteheight}{\langle height \rangle}`, use `\bytefieldsetup{bitheight=\langle height \rangle}` (and note the change from “byte” to “bit” for consistency with `bitwidth`).

`\curlyspace`  
`\labelspace`

Instead of using `\setlength{\curlyspace}{\langle dist \rangle}` and `\setlength{\labelspace}{\langle dist \rangle}` to alter the horizontal space that appears before and after a curly brace, use `\bytefieldsetup{curlyspace=\langle dist \rangle}` and `\bytefieldsetup{labelspace=\langle dist \rangle}`. Note that, as described in Section 2.1, left and right spacing can be set independently if desired.

`\curlyshrinkage`

Instead of using `\setlength{\curlyshrinkage}{\langle dist \rangle}` to reduce the vertical space occupied by a curly brace, use `\bytefieldsetup{curlyshrinkage=\langle dist \rangle}`. Note that, as described in Section 2.1, left and right curly-brace height can be reduced independently if desired.

As a crutch to help build older documents with minimal modification, `bytefield` provides a `compat1` package option that restores the old interface. This option, invoked with `\usepackage[compat1]{bytefield}`, may disappear in a future version of the package and should therefore not be relied upon as a long-term approach to using `bytefield`.

### 3 Implementation

This section contains the complete source code for `bytefield`. Most users will not get much out of it, but it should be of use to those who need more precise documentation and those who want to extend (or debug ☺) the `bytefield` package.

In this section, macros marked in the margin with a “★” are intended to be called by the user (and were described in Section 2). All other macros are used only internally by `bytefield`.

### 3.1 Required packages

Although `\widthof` and `\heightof` were introduced in June 1998,  $\text{\TeX}$  2.0—still in widespread use at the time of this writing (2005)—ships with an earlier `calc.sty` in the `source` directory. Because a misconfigured system may find the `source` version of `calc.sty` we explicitly specify a later date when loading the `calc` package.

```
1 \RequirePackage{calc}[1998/07/07]
2 \RequirePackage{keyval}
```

### 3.2 Utility macros

The following macros in this section are used by the box-drawing macros and the “skipped words”-drawing macros.

`\bf@newdimen` `\newdimen` defines new  $\langle dimen \rangle$ s globally. `\bf@newdimen` defines them locally.  
`\allocationnumber` It simply merges  $\text{\LaTeX} 2_{\epsilon}$ ’s `\newdimen` and `\alloc@` macros while omitting `\alloc@`’s “`\global`” declaration.

```
3 \def\bf@newdimen#1{\advance\count11 by 1
4   \ch@ck1\insc@unt\dimen
5   \allocationnumber=\count11
6   \dimendef#1=\allocationnumber
7   \wlog{\string#1=\string\dimen\the\allocationnumber\space (locally)}%
8 }
```

`\bf@newdimen` If we’re using  $\epsilon\text{-TeX}$  then we have access to many more  $\langle dimen \rangle$ s than in original  $\text{\TeX}$ . The `etex` package makes these extra  $\langle dimen \rangle$ s available via the `\locdimen` macro. At the start of the document we check if `\locdimen` is defined and, if so, replace the preceding definition of `\bf@newdimen` with `etex`’s `\locdimen`.

```
9 \AtBeginDocument{%
10   \begingroup\expandafter\expandafter\expandafter\endgroup
11   \expandafter\ifx\csname locdimen\endcsname\relax
12   \else
13     \let\bf@newdimen\locdimen
14   \fi
15 }
```

`\bytefield@height` When `\ifcounting@words` is `TRUE`, add the height of the next `picture` environment to `\bytefield@height`. We set `\counting@wordstrue` at the beginning of each word, and `\counting@wordsfalse` after each `\bitbox`, `\wordbox`, or `\skippedwords` picture.

```
16 \newlength{\bytefield@height}
17 \newif\ifcounting@words
```

`\inc@bytefield@height` We have to define a special macro to increment `\bytefield@height` because the `calc` package’s `\addtolength` macro doesn’t seem to see the global value. So we `\setlength` a temporary (to get `calc`’s nice infix features) and `\advance \bytefield@height` by that amount.

```

18 \newlength{\bytefield@height@increment}
19 \DeclareRobustCommand{\inc@bytefield@height}[1]{%
20   \setlength{\bytefield@height@increment}{#1}%
21   \global\advance\bytefield@height by \bytefield@height@increment}

```

### 3.3 Top-level environment

**bits@wide** The number of bits in each word (i.e., the argument to the `\bytefield` environment).

```
22 \newcounter{bits@wide}
```

**\entire@bytefield@picture** A box containing the entire bytefield. By storing everything in a box and then typesetting it later (at the `\end{bytefield}`), we can center the bit field, put a box around it, and do other operations on the entire figure.

```
23 \newsavebox{\entire@bytefield@picture}
```

★

**bytefield** Environment containing the layout of bits in a sequence of bytes. This is the main environment defined by the `bytefield` package. The argument is the number of bits wide the bytefield should be. We turn `&` into a space character so the user can think of a `bytefield` as being analogous to a `tabular` environment, even though we're really setting the bulk of the picture in a single column. (Row labels go in separate columns, however.)

```

24 \newenvironment{bytefield}[2] []{%
25   \bf@bytefieldsetup{#1}%
26   \setcounter{bits@wide}{#2}%
27   \let\old@nl=\%
28   \let&=\%
29   \catcode'\&=10
30   \openup -1pt
31   \setlength{\bytefield@height}{0pt}%
32   \setlength{\unitlength}{1pt}%
33   \global\counting@wordstrue
34   \begin{lrbox}{\entire@bytefield@picture}%

```

`\` We redefine `\` within the `bytefield` environment to make it aware of curly braces that surround the protocol diagram.

```

35   \renewcommand{\}{%
36     \unskip
37     \amp\show@wordlabelr\cr
38     \ignorespaces\global\counting@wordstrue\make@lspace\amp}%

39   \vbox\bgroup\ialign\bgroup##\amp##\amp##\cr\amp
40 }{%
41   \amp\show@wordlabelr\cr\egroup\egroup
42   \end{lrbox}%
43   \usebox{\entire@bytefield@picture}}

```

## 3.4 Box-drawing macros

### 3.4.1 Drawing (proper)

`\bf@bitformatting` Formats a bit number in the bit header. `\bf@bitformatting` may be redefined to take either a single argument (à la `\textbf`) or no argument (à la `\small`).

```
44 \newcommand*{\bf@bitformatting}{\tiny}
```

`\bf@boxformatting` Formats the text within a bit box or word box. `\bf@boxformatting` takes either a single argument (à la `\textbf`) or no argument (à la `\small`). The text that follows `\bf@boxformatting` is guaranteed to be a group that ends in `\par`, so if `\bf@boxformatting` accepts an argument, the macro should be defined with `\long` (e.g., with `\newcommand` but not with `\newcommand*`).

```
45 \newcommand*{\bf@boxformatting}{\centering}
```

`\bf@bitwidth` The width of a single bit. Note that this is wide enough to display a two-digit number without it running into adjacent numbers. For larger words, be sure to `\setlength` this larger.

```
46 \newlength{\bf@bitwidth}
```

```
47 \settowidth{\bf@bitwidth}{\bf@bitformatting{99i}}
```

`\bf@bitheight` The height of a single bit within the bit field.

```
48 \newlength{\bf@bitheight}
```

```
49 \setlength{\bf@bitheight}{4ex}
```

`\units@wide` Scratch variables for storing the width and height (in points) of the box we're about to draw.

`\units@tall`

```
50 \newlength{\units@wide}
```

```
51 \newlength{\units@tall}
```

★ `\bitbox` Put some text (#3) in a box that's a given number of bits (#2) wide and one byte tall. An optional argument (#1) specifies which lines to draw—[l]eft, [r]ight, [t]op, and/or [b]ottom (default: lrtb).

```
52 \DeclareRobustCommand{\bitbox}[3][lrtb]{%
```

```
53 \setlength{\units@wide}{\bf@bitwidth * #2}%
```

```
54 \parse@bitbox@arg{#1}%
```

```
55 \draw@bit@picture{\strip@pt\units@wide}{\strip@pt\bf@bitheight}{#3}}
```

★ `\wordbox` Put some text (#3) in a box that's a given number of bytes (#2) tall and one word (`bits@wide` bits) wide. An optional argument (#1) specifies which lines to draw—[l]eft, [r]ight, [t]op, and/or [b]ottom (default: lrtb).

```
56 \DeclareRobustCommand{\wordbox}[3][lrtb]{%
```

```
57 \setlength{\units@wide}{\bf@bitwidth * \value{bits@wide}}%
```

```
58 \setlength{\units@tall}{\bf@bitheight * #2}%
```

```
59 \parse@bitbox@arg{#1}%
```

```
60 \draw@bit@picture{\strip@pt\units@wide}{\strip@pt\units@tall}{#3}}
```



`\draw@bit@picture` Put some text (`#3`) in a box that's a given number of units (`#1`) wide and a given number of units (`#2`) tall. We format the text with a `\parbox` to enable word-wrapping and explicit line breaks. In addition, we define `\height`, `\depth`, `\totalheight`, and `\width` (à la `\makebox` and friends), so the user can utilize those for special effects (e.g., a `\rule` that fills the entire box). As an added bonus, we define `\widthunits` and `\heightunits`, which are the width and height of the box in multiples of `\unitlength` (i.e., `#1` and `#2`, respectively).

```
61 \DeclareRobustCommand{\draw@bit@picture}[3]{%
62   \begin{picture}(\#1,\#2)%
```

```

\height First, we plot the user's text, with all sorts of useful lengths predefined.
\depth 63   \put(0,0){\makebox(\#1,\#2){\parbox{\#1\unitlength}{%
\totalheight 64     \bf@newdimen\height
\width 65     \bf@newdimen\depth
\widthunits 66     \bf@newdimen\totalheight
\heightunits 67     \bf@newdimen\width
68     \height=\#2\unitlength
69     \depth=0pt%
70     \totalheight=\#2\unitlength
71     \width=\#1\unitlength
72     \def\widthunits{\#1}%
73     \def\heightunits{\#2}%
74     \bf@boxformatting{\#3\par}}}%

```

Next, we draw each line individually. I suppose we could make a special case for “all lines” and use a `\framebox` above, but the following works just fine.

```

75   \ifbitbox@top
76     \put(0,\#2){\line(1,0){\#1}}
77   \fi
78   \ifbitbox@bottom
79     \put(0,0){\line(1,0){\#1}}
80   \fi
81   \ifbitbox@left
82     \put(0,0){\line(0,1){\#2}}
83   \fi
84   \ifbitbox@right
85     \put(\#1,0){\line(0,1){\#2}}
86   \fi
87   \end{picture}%

```

Finally, we indicate that we're no longer at the beginning of a word. The following code structure (albeit with different arguments to `\inc@bytefield@height`) is repeated in various places throughout this package. We document it only here, however.

```

88   \ifcounting@words
89     \inc@bytefield@height{\unitlength * \real{\#2}}%
90     \global\counting@wordsfalse
91   \fi
92   \ignorespaces}

```

### 3.4.2 Parsing arguments

The macros in this section are used to parse the optional argument to `\bitbox` or `\wordbox`, which is some subset of  $\{l, r, t, b\}$ .

<code>\ifbitbox@top</code>	These macros are set to TRUE if we're to draw the corresponding edge on the
<code>\ifbitbox@bottom</code>	subsequent <code>\bitbox</code> or <code>\wordbox</code> .
<code>\ifbitbox@left</code>	93 <code>\newif\ifbitbox@top</code>
<code>\ifbitbox@right</code>	94 <code>\newif\ifbitbox@bottom</code>
	95 <code>\newif\ifbitbox@left</code>
	96 <code>\newif\ifbitbox@right</code>
<code>\parse@bitbox@arg</code>	This main parsing macro merely resets the above conditionals and calls a helper function, <code>\parse@bitbox@sides</code> .
	97 <code>\def\parse@bitbox@arg#1{%</code>
	98 <code>\bitbox@topfalse</code>
	99 <code>\bitbox@bottomfalse</code>
	100 <code>\bitbox@leftfalse</code>
	101 <code>\bitbox@rightfalse</code>
	102 <code>\parse@bitbox@sides#1X}</code>
<code>\parse@bitbox@sides</code>	The helper function for <code>\parse@bitbox@arg</code> parses a single letter, sets the appropriate conditional to TRUE, and calls itself tail-recursively until it sees an "X".
	103 <code>\def\parse@bitbox@sides#1{%</code>
	104 <code>\ifx#1X%</code>
	105 <code>\else</code>
	106 <code>\ifx#1t%</code>
	107 <code>\bitbox@toptrue</code>
	108 <code>\else</code>
	109 <code>\ifx#1b%</code>
	110 <code>\bitbox@bottomtrue</code>
	111 <code>\else</code>
	112 <code>\ifx#1l%</code>
	113 <code>\bitbox@lefttrue</code>
	114 <code>\else</code>
	115 <code>\ifx#1r%</code>
	116 <code>\bitbox@righttrue</code>
	117 <code>\fi</code>
	118 <code>\fi</code>
	119 <code>\fi</code>
	120 <code>\fi</code>
	121 <code>\expandafter\parse@bitbox@sides</code>
	122 <code>\fi}</code>

### 3.5 Skipped words

`\units@high` The height of each diagonal line in the `\skippedwords` graphic. Note that `\units@high = \units@tall - optional argument to \skippedwords`.

123 `\newlength{\units@high}`

★ `\skippedwords` Output a fancy graphic representing skipped words. The optional argument is the vertical space between the two diagonal lines (default: 2ex).

```

124 \DeclareRobustCommand{\skippedwords}[1][2ex]{%
125   \setlength{\units@wide}{\bf@bitwidth * \value{bits@wide}}%
126   \setlength{\units@high}{1pt * \ratio{\units@wide}{6.0pt}}%
127   \setlength{\units@tall}{#1 + \units@high}%
128   \edef\num@wide{\strip@pt\units@wide}%
129   \edef\num@tall{\strip@pt\units@tall}%
130   \edef\num@high{\strip@pt\units@high}%
131   \begin{picture}(\num@wide,\num@tall)
132     \put(0,\num@tall){\line(6,-1){\num@wide}}
133     \put(\num@wide,0){\line(-6,1){\num@wide}}
134     \put(0,0){\line(0,1){\num@high}}
135     \put(\num@wide,\num@tall){\line(0,-1){\num@high}}
136   \end{picture}%
137   \ifcounting@words
138     \inc@bytefield@height{\unitlength * \real{\num@tall}}%
139     \global\counting@wordsfalse
140   \fi}

```

### 3.6 Bit-position labels

★ `\bitheader` Output a header of numbered bit positions. The optional argument (#1) is “1” for little-endian (default) or “b” for big-endian. The required argument (#2) is a list of bit positions to label. It is composed of comma-separated ranges of numbers, for example, “0-31”, “0,7-8,15-16,23-24,31”, or even something odd like “0-7,15-23”. Ranges must be specified in increasing order; use the optional argument to `\bitheader` to reverse the labels’ direction.

```

141 \DeclareRobustCommand{\bitheader}[2][1]{%
142   \parse@bitbox@arg{lr}tb}%
143   \setlength{\units@wide}{\bf@bitwidth * \value{bits@wide}}%
144   \setlength{\units@tall}{\heightof{\bf@bitformatting{1234567890}}}%
145   \setlength{\units@high}{\units@tall * -1}%
146   \def\bit@endianness{#1}%
147   \begin{picture}(\strip@pt\units@wide,\strip@pt\units@tall)%
148     (0,\strip@pt\units@high)
149     \parse@range@list#2,X,
150   \end{picture}%
151   \ifcounting@words
152     \inc@bytefield@height{\unitlength * \real{\strip@pt\units@tall}}%
153     \global\counting@wordsfalse
154   \fi
155   \ignorespaces}

```

`\parse@range@list` Helper function #1 for `\bitheader`—parse a comma-separated list of ranges, calling `\parse@range` on each range.

```

156 \def\parse@range@list#1,{%

```

```

157 \ifx X#1
158 \else
159 \parse@range#1-#1-#1\relax
160 \expandafter\parse@range@list
161 \fi}

\header@xpos Miscellaneous variables used internally by \parse@range— $x$  position of header,
header@val current label to output, and maximum label to output (+1).
max@header@val 162 \newlength{\header@xpos}
163 \newcounter{header@val}
164 \newcounter{max@header@val}

\parse@range Helper function #2 for \bitheader—parse a hyphen-separated pair of numbers
(or a single number) and display the number at the correct bit position.
165 \def\parse@range#1-#2-#3\relax{%
166 \setcounter{header@val}{#1}
167 \setcounter{max@header@val}{#2 + 1}
168 \loop
169 \ifnum\value{header@val}<\value{max@header@val}%
170 \if\bit@endianness b%
171 \setlength{\header@xpos}{%
172 \bf@bitwidth * (\value{bits@wide}-\value{header@val}-1)}
173 \else
174 \setlength{\header@xpos}{\bf@bitwidth * \value{header@val}}
175 \fi
176 \put(\strip@pt\header@xpos,0){%
177 \makebox(\strip@pt\bf@bitwidth,\strip@pt\units@tall){%
178 \bf@bitformatting{\theheader@val}}}
179 \addtocounter{header@val}{1}
180 \repeat}

```

## 3.7 Word labels

### 3.7.1 Curly-brace manipulation

**\bf@leftcurlyshrinkage** Reduce the height of a left (right) curly brace by **\bf@leftcurlyshrinkage** (**\bf@rightcurlyshrinkage**) so its ends don't overlap whatever is above or below it. The default value (5 pt.) was determined empirically and shouldn't need to be changed. However, on the off-chance the user employs a math font with very different curly braces from Computer Modern's, **\bf@leftcurlyshrinkage** and **\bf@rightcurlyshrinkage** can be modified.

```

181 \def\bf@leftcurlyshrinkage{5pt}
182 \def\bf@rightcurlyshrinkage{5pt}

```

**\bf@leftcurlyspace** Space to insert before a curly brace and before a word label (i.e., after a curly brace).

**\bf@rightcurlyspace**

```

\bf@leftlabelspace 183 \def\bf@leftcurlyspace{0pt}
\bf@rightlabelspace 184 \def\bf@rightcurlyspace{0pt}

```

```

185 \def\bf@leftlabelspace{0pt}
186 \def\bf@rightlabelspace{0pt}

187 \gdef\bf@leftcurlyspace{1ex}
188 \gdef\bf@rightcurlyspace{1ex}
189 \gdef\bf@leftlabelspace{0.5ex}
190 \gdef\bf@rightlabelspace{0.5ex}

\bf@leftcurly Symbols to use as left and right curly braces. These symbols must be extensible
\bf@rightcurly math symbols (i.e., they will immediately follow \left or \right in math mode).

191 \let\bf@leftcurly=\{
192 \let\bf@rightcurly=\}

\curly@box Define a box in which to temporarily store formatted curly braces.

193 \newbox{\curly@box}

\store@rcurly Store a “}” that’s #2 tall in box #1. The only unintuitive thing here is that we
\curly@height have to redefine \fontdimen22—axis height—to 0 pt. before typesetting the curly
\half@curly@height brace. Otherwise, the brace would be vertically off-center by a few points. When
\curly@shift we’re finished, we reset it back to its old value.
\old@axis
194 \def\store@rcurly#1#2{%
195   \begingroup
196     \bf@newdimen\curly@height
197     \setlength{\curly@height}{#2 - \bf@rightcurlyshrinkage}%
198     \bf@newdimen\half@curly@height
199     \setlength{\half@curly@height}{0.5\curly@height}%
200     \bf@newdimen\curly@shift
201     \setlength{\curly@shift}{\bf@rightcurlyshrinkage}%
202     \setlength{\curly@shift}{\half@curly@height + 0.5\curly@shift}%
203     \global\sbox{#1}{\raisebox{\curly@shift}{%
204       $\xdef\old@axis{\the\fontdimen22\textfont2}$%
205       $\fontdimen22\textfont2=0pt%
206       \left.
207         \vrule height\half@curly@height
208           width 0pt
209           depth\half@curly@height\right\bf@rightcurly$%
210       $\fontdimen22\textfont2=\old@axis$}}%
211   \endgroup
212 }

\store@lcurly Same as \store@rcurly, but using a “{” instead of a “}”.
\curly@height
\half@curly@height
\curly@shift
213 \def\store@lcurly#1#2{%
214   \begingroup
215     \bf@newdimen\curly@height
216     \setlength{\curly@height}{#2 - \bf@leftcurlyshrinkage}%
217     \bf@newdimen\half@curly@height
218     \setlength{\half@curly@height}{0.5\curly@height}%
219     \bf@newdimen\curly@shift
220     \setlength{\curly@shift}{\bf@leftcurlyshrinkage}%

```

```

221 \setlength{\curly@shift}{\half@curly@height + 0.5\curly@shift}%
222 \global\sbox{#1}{\raisebox{\curly@shift}{%
223   $\xdef\old@axis{\the\fontdimen22\textfont2}$%
224   $\fontdimen22\textfont2=0pt%
225   \left\bf@leftcurly
226   \vrule height\half@curly@height
227           width 0pt
228           depth\half@curly@height\right.$%
229   $\fontdimen22\textfont2=\old@axis$}}%
230 \endgroup
231 }

```

### 3.7.2 Right-side labels

`\show@wordlabelr` This macro is output in the third column of every row of the `\ialigned` bytefield table. It's normally a no-op, but `\end{rightwordgroup}` defines it to output the word label and then reset itself to a no-op.

```
232 \def\show@wordlabelr{}
```

`\wordlabelr@start` The starting and ending height (in points) of the set of rows to be labelled on the right.

`\wordlabelr@end`

```
233 \newlength{\wordlabelr@start}
234 \newlength{\wordlabelr@end}
```

★

`rightwordgroup` Label the words defined between `\begin{rightwordgroup}` and `\end{rightwordgroup}` on the right side of the bit field. The argument is the text of the label. The label is typeset to the right of a large curly brace, which groups the words together.

```
235 \newenvironment{rightwordgroup}[1]{%
```

We begin by ending the group that `\begin{rightwordgroup}` created. This lets the `rightwordgroup` environment span rows (because we're technically no longer within the environment).

```
236 \endgroup
```

`\wordlabelr@start` `\begin{rightwordgroup}` merely stores the starting height in `\wordlabelr@start` and the user-supplied text in `\wordlabelr@text`. `\end{rightwordgroup}` does most of the work.

`\wordlabelr@text`

```
237 \global\wordlabelr@start=\bytefield@height
238 \gdef\wordlabelr@text{#1}%
239 \ignorespaces
240 }{%
```

`\wordlabelr@end` Because we already ended the group that `\begin{rightwordgroup}` created we now have to begin a group for `\end{rightwordgroup}` to end.

```
241 \begingroup
```

```
242 \global\wordlabelr@end=\bytefield@height
```

`\show@wordlabelr` Redefine `\show@wordlabelr` to output `\bf@rightcurlyspace` space, followed by a large curly brace (in `\curlybox`), followed by `\bf@rightlabelspace` space, followed by the user's text (previously recorded in `\wordlabelr@text`). We typeset `\wordlabelr@text` within a `tabular` environment, so  $\text{\LaTeX}$  will calculate its width automatically.

```

243 \gdef\show@wordlabelr{%
244   \sbox{\word@label@box}{%
245     \begin{tabular}[b]{@{}l@{}}\wordlabelr@text\end{tabular}}%
246   \settowidth{\label@box@width}{\usebox{\word@label@box}}%
247   \setlength{\label@box@height}{\wordlabelr@end-\wordlabelr@start}%
248   \store@rcurly{\curly@box}{\label@box@height}%
249   \bf@newdimen\total@box@width
250   \setlength{\total@box@width}{%
251     \bf@rightcurlyspace +
252     \widthof{\usebox{\curly@box}} +
253     \bf@rightlabelspace +
254     \label@box@width}%
255   \begin{picture}(\strip@pt\total@box@width,0)
256     \put(0,0){%
257       \hspace*{\bf@rightcurlyspace}%
258       \usebox{\curly@box}%
259       \hspace*{\bf@rightlabelspace}%
260       \makebox(\strip@pt\label@box@width,\strip@pt\label@box@height){%
261         \usebox{\word@label@box}}
262     \end{picture}%

```

The last thing `\show@wordlabelr` does is redefine itself back to a no-op.

```

263 \gdef\show@wordlabelr{}}%

```

`\@currenvir`

```

264 % Because of our meddling with |\begingroup| and |\endgroup|, the
265 % current environment is all messed up. We therefore force the
266 % |\end{rightwordgroup}| to succeed, even if it doesn't match the preceding
267 % |\begin|.
268 \def\@currenvir{rightwordgroup}%
269 \ignorespaces
270 }

```

### 3.7.3 Left-side labels

`\wordlabell@start` The starting and ending height (in points) of the set of rows to be labelled on the left.

`\wordlabell@end`

```

271 \newlength{\wordlabell@start}
272 \newlength{\wordlabell@end}

```

`\total@box@width` The total width of the next label to typeset on the left of the bit field, that is, the aggregate width of the text box, curly brace, and spaces on either side of the curly brace.

```

273 \newlength{\total@lbox@width}

```

`\make@lspace` This macro is output in the first column of every row of the `\ialigned` bytefield table. It's normally a no-op, but `\begin{leftwordgroup}` defines it to output enough space for the next word label and then reset itself to a no-op.

```
274 \gdef\make@lspace{}
```

★

`leftwordgroup` This environment is essentially the same as the `rightwordgroup` environment but puts the label on the left. However, the following code is not symmetric to that of `rightwordgroup`. The problem is that we encounter `\begin{leftwordgroup}` after entering the second (i.e., figure) column, which doesn't give us a chance to reserve space in the first (i.e., left label) column. When we reach the `\end{leftwordgroup}`, we know the height of the group of words we wish to label. However, if we try to label the words in the subsequent first column, we won't know the vertical offset from the "cursor" at which to start drawing the label, because we can't know the height of the subsequent row until we reach the second column.<sup>1</sup>

Our solution is to allocate space for the box the next time we enter a first column. As long as space is eventually allocated, the column will expand to fit that space. `\end{leftwordgroup}` outputs the label immediately. Even though `\end{leftwordgroup}` is called at the end of the *second* column, it puts the label at a sufficiently negative  $x$  location for it to overlap the first column. Because there will eventually be enough space to accomodate the label, we know that the label won't overlap the bit field or extend beyond the bit-field boundaries.

```
275 \newenvironment{leftwordgroup}[1]{%
```

We begin by ending the group that `\begin{rightwordgroup}` created. This lets the `leftwordgroup` environment span rows (because we're technically no longer within the environment).

```
276 \endgroup
```

`\wordlabell@start` We store the starting height and label text, which are needed by the `\wordlabell@text` `\end{leftwordgroup}`.

```
277 \global\wordlabell@start=\bytefield@height
```

```
278 \gdef\wordlabell@text{#1}%
```

Next, we typeset a draft version of the label into `\word@label@box`, which we measure (into `\total@lbox@width`) and then discard. We can't typeset the final version of the label until we reach the `\end{leftwordgroup}`, because that's when we learn the height of the word group. Without knowing the height of the word group, we don't how how big to make the curly brace. In the scratch version, we make the curly brace 5 cm. tall. This should be more than large enough to reach the maximum curly-brace width, which is all we really care about at this point.

```
279 \sbox{\word@label@box}{%
```

```
280 \begin{tabular}[b]{@{}l@{}}\wordlabell@text\end{tabular}}%
```

```
281 \settowidth{\label@box@width}{\usebox{\word@label@box}}%
```

```
282 \store@lcurly{\curly@box}{5cm}%
```

<sup>1</sup>Question: Is there a way to push the label up to the *top* of the subsequent row, perhaps with `\vfill`?



```

283 \setlength{\total@lbox@width}{%
284   \bf@leftcurlyspace +
285   \widthof{\usebox{\curly@box}} +
286   \bf@leftlabelspace +
287   \label@box@width}%
288 \global\total@lbox@width=\total@lbox@width

```

`\make@lspace` Now we know how wide the box is going to be (unless, of course, the user is using some weird math font that scales the width of a curly brace proportionally to its height). So we redefine `\make@lspace` to output `\total@lbox@width`'s worth of space and then redefine itself back to a no-op.

```

289 \gdef\make@lspace{%
290   \hspace*{\total@lbox@width}%
291   \gdef\make@lspace{}}%
292 \ignorespaces
293 }{%

```

Because we already ended the group that `\begin{leftwordgroup}` created we have to start the `\end{leftwordgroup}` by beginning a group for `\end{leftwordgroup}` to end.

```

294 \begingroup

```

The `\end{leftwordgroup}` code is comparatively straightforward. We calculate the final height of the word group, and then output the label text, followed by `\bf@leftlabelspace` space, followed by a curly brace (now that we know how tall it's supposed to be), followed by `\bf@leftcurlyspace` space. The trick, as described earlier, is that we typeset the entire label in the second column, but in a  $0 \times 0$  `picture` environment and with a negative horizontal offset (`\starting@point`), thereby making it overlap the first column.

```

295 \global\wordlabell@end=\bytefield@height
296 \bf@newdimen\starting@point
297 \setlength{\starting@point}{%
298   -\total@lbox@width - \bf@bitwidth*\value{bits@wide}}%
299 \sbox{\word@label@box}{%
300   \begin{tabular}[b]{@{}l@{}}\wordlabell@text\end{tabular}}%
301 \settowidth{\label@box@width}{\usebox{\word@label@box}}%
302 \setlength{\label@box@height}{\wordlabell@end-\wordlabell@start}%
303 \store@lcurly{\curly@box}{\label@box@height}%
304 \begin{picture}(0,0)
305   \put(\strip@pt\starting@point,0){%
306     \makebox(\strip@pt\label@box@width,\strip@pt\label@box@height){%
307       \usebox{\word@label@box}}%
308     \hspace*{\bf@leftlabelspace}%
309     \usebox{\curly@box}%
310     \hspace*{\bf@leftcurlyspace}}
311 \end{picture}%

```

`\@currentvir`

```

312 % Because of our meddling with |\begingroup| and |\endgroup|, the

```

```

313 % current environment is all messed up. We therefore force the
314 % |\end{leftwordgroup}| to succeed, even if it doesn't match the preceding
315 % |\begin|.
316 \def\@currentvir{leftwordgroup}%
317 \ignorespaces}

```

### 3.7.4 Scratch space

<pre> \label@box@width \label@box@height \word@label@box </pre>	<p>Scratch storage for the width, height, and contents of the word label we're about to output.</p> <pre> 318 \newlength{\label@box@width} 319 \newlength{\label@box@height} 320 \newsavebox{\word@label@box} </pre>
---	--

## 3.8 Compatibility mode

`\bf@enter@compatibility@mode@i` bytefield's interface changed substantially with the move to version 2.0. To give version 1.x users a quick way to build their old documents, we provide a version 1.x compatibility mode. We don't enable this by default because it exposes a number of extra length registers (a precious resource) and we therefore want to encourage users to migrate to the new interface.

```

321 \newcommand{\bf@enter@compatibility@mode@i}{%

```

<pre> \bitwidth \byteheight \curlyspace \labelspace \curlyshrinkage </pre>	<p>Define a handful of lengths that the user was allowed to <code>\setlength</code> explicitly in bytefield 1.x.</p> <pre> 322 \PackageInfo{bytefield}{Entering version 1 compatibility mode}% 323 \newlength{\bitwidth}% 324 \newlength{\byteheight}% 325 \newlength{\curlyspace}% 326 \newlength{\labelspace}% 327 \newlength{\curlyshrinkage}% 328 \settowidth{\bitwidth}{\tiny 99i}% 329 \setlength{\byteheight}{4ex}% 330 \setlength{\curlyspace}{1ex}% 331 \setlength{\labelspace}{0.5ex}% 332 \setlength{\curlyshrinkage}{5pt}% </pre>
--	---

<pre> \newbytefield \endnewbytefield bytefield </pre>	<p>Redefine the <code>bytefield</code> environment in terms of the existing (new-interface) <code>bytefield</code> environment. The difference is that the redefinition utilizes all of the preceding lengths.</p>
---	--

```

333 \let\newbytefield=\bytefield
334 \let\endnewbytefield=\endbytefield
335 \renewenvironment{bytefield}[1]{%
336 \begin{newbytefield}[%
337 bitwidth=\bitwidth,
338 bitheight=\byteheight,
339 curlyspace=\curlyspace,

```

```

340     labelspace=\labelpace,
341     curlyshrinkage=\curlyshrinkage]{##1}%
342 }{%
343     \end{newbytefield}%
344 }

\wordgroup  Define \wordgroup, \endwordgroup, \wordgroup1, and \endwordgroup1 in
\endwordgroup terms of the new rightwordgroup and leftwordgroup environments.
\wordgroup1 345 \def\wordgroup{\begin{rightwordgroup}}
\endwordgroup1 346 \def\endwordgroup{\end{rightwordgroup}}
347 \def\wordgroup1{\begin{leftwordgroup}}
348 \def\endwordgroup1{\end{leftwordgroup}}

\bytefieldsetup Disable \bytefieldsetup in compatibility mode because it doesn't work as expected. (Every use of the compatibility-mode bytefield environment overwrites all of the figure-formatting values.)
349 \renewcommand{\bytefieldsetup}[1]{%
350     \PackageError{bytefield}{%
351         The \protect\bytefieldsetup\space macro is not available in\MessageBreak
352         version 1 compatibility mode%
353     }{%
354         Remove [compat1] from the \protect\usepackage{bytefield} line to
355         make \protect\bytefieldsetup\MessageBreak
356         available to this document.\space\space (The document may also need
357         to be modified to use\MessageBreak
358         the new bytefield interface.)
359     }%
360 }%
361 }

\wordgroup  Issue a helpful error message for the commands that were removed in bytefield v2.0.
\endwordgroup While this won't help users who first invalid action is to modify a no-longer-extant
\wordgroup1 length register such as \bitwidth or \byteheight, it may benefit at least a few
\endwordgroup1 users who didn't realize that the bytefield interface has changed substantially with
version 2.0.
362 \newcommand{\wordgroup}{%
363     \PackageError{bytefield}{%
364         Macros \protect\wordgroup, \protect\wordgroup1, \protect\endwordgroup,
365         \MessageBreak
366         and \protect\endwordgroup1\space no longer exist%
367     }{%
368         Starting with version 2.0, bytefield uses \protect\begin{wordgroup}...
369         \MessageBreak
370         \protect\end{wordgroup} and \protect\begin{wordgroup1}...%
371         \protect\end{wordgroup1}\MessageBreak
372         to specify word groups and a new \protect\bytefieldsetup\space macro to
373         \MessageBreak
374         change bytefield's various formatting parameters.%
375     }%

```

```

376 }
377 \let\endwordgroup=\wordgroup
378 \let\wordgroup1=\wordgroup
379 \let\endwordgroup1=\wordgroup

```

### 3.9 Option processing

We use the `keyval` package to handle option processing. Because all of `bytefield`'s options have local impact, options can be specified either as package arguments or through the use of the `\bytefieldsetup` macro.

`\KV@bytefield@bitwidth` Specify the width of a bit number in the bit header. If the special value “auto” is given, set the width to the width of a formatted “99i”.

```

\bf@bw@arg
\bf@auto
380 \define@key{bytefield}{bitwidth}{%
381   \def\bf@bw@arg{#1}%
382   \def\bf@auto{auto}%
383   \ifx\bf@bw@arg\bf@auto
384     \settowidth{\bf@bitwidth}{\bf@bitformatting{99i}}%
385   \else
386     \setlength{\bf@bitwidth}{#1}%
387   \fi
388 }

```

`\KV@bytefield@bf@bitheight` Specify the height of a bit in a `\bitbox` or `\wordbox`.

```

389 \define@key{bytefield}{bitheight}{\setlength{\bf@bitheight}{#1}}

```

`\KV@bytefield@bitformatting` Specify the style of a bit number in the bit header. This should be passed an expression that takes either one argument (e.g., `\textit`) or no arguments (e.g., `{\small\bfseries}`).

```

390 \define@key{bytefield}{bitformatting}{\def\bf@bitformatting{#1}}

```

`\KV@bytefield@boxformatting` Specify a style to be applied to the contents of every bit box and word box. This should be passed an expression that takes either one argument (e.g., `\textit`) or no arguments (e.g., `{\small\bfseries}`).

```

391 \define@key{bytefield}{boxformatting}{\def\bf@boxformatting{#1}}

```

`\KV@bytefield@leftcurly` Specify the symbol to use for bracketing a left or right word group. This must be an extensible math delimiter (i.e., something that can immediately follow `\left` or `\right` in math mode).

```

392 \define@key{bytefield}{leftcurly}{\def\bf@leftcurly{#1}}
393 \define@key{bytefield}{rightcurly}{\def\bf@rightcurly{#1}}

```

`\KV@bytefield@leftcurlyspace` Specify the amount of space between the bit fields in a word group and the adjacent left or right curly brace. The `curlyspace` option is a shortcut that puts the same space before both left and right curly braces.

```

394 \define@key{bytefield}{leftcurlyspace}{\def\bf@leftcurlyspace{#1}}
395 \define@key{bytefield}{rightcurlyspace}{\def\bf@rightcurlyspace{#1}}

```

```

396 \define@key{bytefield}{curlyspace}{%
397   \def\bf@leftcurlyspace{#1}%
398   \def\bf@rightcurlyspace{#1}%
399 }

\KV@bytefield@leftlabelspace Specify the amount of space between a left or right word group's curly brace and
\KV@bytefield@rightlabelspace the associated label text. The labelspace option is a shortcut that puts the same
\KV@bytefield@labelspace space after both left and right curly braces.
400 \define@key{bytefield}{leftlabelspace}{\def\bf@leftlabelspace{#1}}
401 \define@key{bytefield}{rightlabelspace}{\def\bf@rightlabelspace{#1}}
402 \define@key{bytefield}{labelspace}{%
403   \def\bf@leftlabelspace{#1}%
404   \def\bf@rightlabelspace{#1}%
405 }

\KV@bytefield@leftcurlyshrinkage Specify the number of points by which to reduce the height of a curly brace (left,
\KV@bytefield@rightcurlyshrinkage right, or both) so its ends don't overlap whatever's above or below it.
\KV@bytefield@curlyshrinkage
406 \define@key{bytefield}{leftcurlyshrinkage}{\def\bf@leftcurlyshrinkage{#1}}
407 \define@key{bytefield}{rightcurlyshrinkage}{\def\bf@rightcurlyshrinkage{#1}}
408 \define@key{bytefield}{curlyshrinkage}{%
409   \def\bf@leftcurlyshrinkage{#1}%
410   \def\bf@rightcurlyshrinkage{#1}%
411 }

★ \bytefieldsetup Reconfigure values for various bytefield parameters. Internally to the package we
\bf@bytefieldsetup use the \bf@bytefieldsetup macro instead of \bytefieldsetup. This enables us
to redefine \bytefieldsetup when entering version 1 compatibility mode without
impacting the rest of bytefield.
412 \newcommand{\bf@bytefieldsetup}{\setkeys{bytefield}}
413 \let\bytefieldsetup=\bf@bytefieldsetup

We define only a single option that can be used only as a package option, not as
an argument to \bytefieldsetup: compat1 instructs bytefield to enter version 1
compatibility mode—at the cost of a number of additional length registers and the
inability to specify parameters in the argument to the bytefield environment.
414 \DeclareOption{compat1}{\bf@enter@compatibility@mode@i}

\bf@package@options We want to use \bf@bytefieldsetup to process bytefield package options. Un-
\next fortunately, \DeclareOption doesn't handle  $\langle key \rangle = \langle value \rangle$  arguments. Hence,
we use \DeclareOption* to catch all options, each of which it appends to
\bf@package@options. \bf@package@options is passed to \bf@bytefieldsetup
only at the beginning of the document so that the options it specifies (a) can re-
fer to ex-heights and (b) override the default values, which are also set at the
beginning of the document.
415 \def\bf@package@options{}
416 \DeclareOption*{%
417   \edef\next{%
418     \noexpand\g@addto@macro\noexpand\bf@package@options{,\CurrentOption}%

```

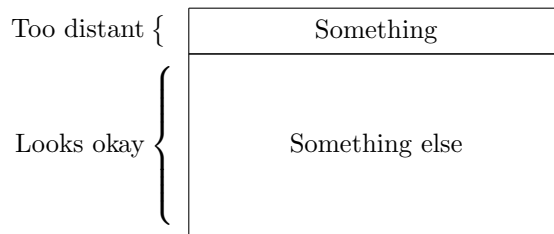
```

419 }%
420 \next
421 }
422 \ProcessOptions\relax
423 \expandafter\bf@bytefieldsetup\expandafter{\bf@package@options}

```

## 4 Future work

`bytefield` is my first  $\text{\LaTeX}$  package, and, as such, there are a number of macros that could probably have been implemented a lot better. For example, `bytefield` is somewhat wasteful of  $\langle\textit{dimen}\rangle$  registers (although it did get a lot better with version 1.1 and again with version 1.3). The package should really get a major overhaul now that I’ve gotten better at  $\text{\TeX}/\text{\LaTeX}$  programming. One minor improvement I’d like to make in the package is to move left, small curly braces closer to the bit field. In the following figure, notice how distant the small curly appears from the bit-field body:



The problem is that the curly braces are left-aligned relative to each other, while they should be right-aligned.

## Change History

v1.0	General: Initial version . . . . . 1	v1.2	<code>\curly@box</code> : Bug fix: Defined <code>\curly@box</code> globally (suggested by Stefan Ulrich) . . . . . 29
v1.1	General: Restructured the <code>.dtx</code> file 1		
	<code>\allocationnumber</code> : Bug fix: Added <code>\bf@newdimen</code> to greatly reduce the likelihood of “No room for a new <code>\dimen</code> ” errors (reported by Vitaly A. Repin) . . . . . 22	v1.2a	General: Specified an explicit package date when loading the <code>calc</code> package to avoid loading an outdated version. Thanks to Kevin Quick for discovering that outdated versions of <code>calc</code> are still being included in $\text{\TeX}$ distributions. . . . . 22
	<code>\parse@range@list</code> : Bug fix: Swapped order of arguments to <code>\ifx</code> test (suggested by Hans-Joachim Widmaier) . . . . . 27		

v1.3			
	<code>\bf@newdimen</code> :	Added support for $\varepsilon$ -TeX's larger local $\langle dimen \rangle$ pool (code provided by Heiko Oberdiek) . . . . .	22
v1.4			
	General:	Made assignments to <code>\counting@words</code> global to prevent vertical-spacing problems with back-to-back word groups (bug fix due to Steven R. King)	1
		Split <code>\curlyspace</code> , <code>\labelspace</code> , and <code>\curlyshrinkage</code> into left and right versions . . . . .	1
	<code>\bf@bitformatting</code> :	Introduced this macro at Steven R. King's request to enable users to alter the bit header's font size . . . .	24
v2.0			
	General:	Made a number of non-backwards-compatible changes, including replacing <code>\wordgroup</code> and <code>\endwordgroup</code> with a <code>rightwordgroup</code> environment and <code>\wordgroup1</code> and <code>\endwordgroup1</code> with a <code>leftwordgroup</code> environment and also replacing a slew of user-visible lengths and macros with a single <code>\bytefieldsetup</code> macro . . . . .	1
	<code>\bytefieldsetup</code> :	Introduced this macro to provide a more convenient way of configuring byte-field's parameters . . . . .	37

## Index

Numbers written in *italic* refer to the page where the corresponding entry is described; numbers underlined refer to the code line of the definition; numbers in roman refer to the code lines where the entry is used.

Symbols		
<code>\&amp;</code> . . . . .	29	
<code>\@currentvir</code> . . . . .	264, 312	
<code>\%</code> . . . . .	27, 35	
<code>\{</code> . . . . .	191	
<code>\}</code> . . . . .	192	
A		
<code>\allocationnumber</code> . . . . .	3	
<code>\amp</code> . . . . .	24, 37, 38, 39, 41	
<code>\AtBeginDocument</code> . . . . .	9	
B		
<code>\bf@auto</code> . . . . .	380	
<code>\bf@bitformatting</code> . . . . .	44, 47, 144, 178, 384, 390	
<code>\bf@bitheight</code> . . . . .	48, 55, 58, 389	
<code>\bf@bitwidth</code> . . . . .	46, 53, 57, 125, 143, 172, 174, 177, 298, 384, 386	
<code>\bf@boxformatting</code> . . . . .	45, 74, 391	
<code>\bf@bw@arg</code> . . . . .	380	
<code>\bf@bytefieldsetup</code> . . . . .	25, 412, 423	
<code>\bf@center@compatibility@mode@i</code> . . . . .	321, 414	
<code>\bf@leftcurly</code> . . . . .	191, 225, 392	
<code>\bf@leftcurlyshrinkage</code> . . . . .	181, 216, 220, 406, 409	
<code>\bf@leftcurlyspace</code> . . . . .	183, 284, 310, 394, 397	
<code>\bf@leftlabelspace</code> . . . . .	183, 286, 308, 400, 403	
<code>\bf@newdimen</code> 3, 9, 64, 65, 66, 67, 196, 198, 200, 215, 217, 219, 249, 296		
<code>\bf@package@options</code> . . . . .	415	
<code>\bf@rightcurly</code> . . . . .	191, 209, 393	
<code>\bf@rightcurlyshrinkage</code> . . . . .	181, 197, 201, 407, 410	
<code>\bf@rightcurlyspace</code> . . . . .	183, 251, 257, 395, 398	
<code>\bf@rightlabelspace</code> . . . . .	183, 253, 259, 401, 404	
<code>\bit@endianness</code> . . . . .	146, 170	
<code>\bitbox</code> . . . . .	2, 52	
<code>\bitbox@bottomfalse</code> . . . . .	99	

<code>\bitbox@bottomtrue</code> . . . . .	110		
<code>\bitbox@leftfalse</code> . . . . .	100		
<code>\bitbox@lefttrue</code> . . . . .	113		
<code>\bitbox@rightfalse</code> . . . . .	101		
<code>\bitbox@righttrue</code> . . . . .	116		
<code>\bitbox@topfalse</code> . . . . .	98		
<code>\bitbox@toptrue</code> . . . . .	107		
<code>bitformatting</code> (option) . . . . .	6, 7, 14		
<code>\bitheader</code> . . . . .	3, <a href="#">141</a>		
<code>bitheight</code> (option) . . . . .	6, 7		
<code>\bits@wide</code> . . . . .	<a href="#">22</a>		
<code>\bitwidth</code> . . . . .	<a href="#">21</a> , <a href="#">322</a> , <a href="#">337</a>		
<code>bitwidth</code> (option) . . . . .	6, 7, <a href="#">21</a>		
<code>boxformatting</code> (option) . . . . .	6–8, <a href="#">12</a>		
<code>\bytefield</code> . . . . .	<a href="#">333</a>		
<code>bytefield</code> (package) . . . . .	1–3, 6, 10, <a href="#">12–14</a> , <a href="#">16</a> , <a href="#">18–21</a> , <a href="#">23</a> , <a href="#">34–39</a>		
<code>bytefield</code> (environment) . . . . .	<a href="#">2</a> , <a href="#">24</a> , <a href="#">333</a>		
<code>\bytefield@height</code> . . . . .	<a href="#">16</a> , <a href="#">21</a> , <a href="#">31</a> , <a href="#">237</a> , <a href="#">242</a> , <a href="#">277</a> , <a href="#">295</a>		
<code>\bytefield@height@increment</code> . . . . .	<a href="#">18</a> , <a href="#">20</a> , <a href="#">21</a>		
<code>\bytefieldsetup</code> . . . . .	6, <a href="#">349</a> , <a href="#">372</a> , <a href="#">412</a>		
<code>\byteheight</code> . . . . .	<a href="#">21</a> , <a href="#">322</a> , <a href="#">338</a>		
<b>C</b>			
<code>calc</code> (package) . . . . .	<a href="#">22</a> , <a href="#">38</a>		
<code>\centering</code> . . . . .	<a href="#">45</a>		
<code>color</code> (package) . . . . .	<a href="#">12</a>		
<code>\counting@wordsfalse</code> . . . . .	<a href="#">90</a> , <a href="#">139</a> , <a href="#">153</a>		
<code>\counting@wordstrue</code> . . . . .	<a href="#">33</a> , <a href="#">38</a>		
<code>\curly@box</code> . . . . .	<a href="#">193</a> , <a href="#">248</a> , <a href="#">252</a> , <a href="#">258</a> , <a href="#">282</a> , <a href="#">285</a> , <a href="#">303</a> , <a href="#">309</a>		
<code>\curly@height</code> . . . . .	<a href="#">194</a> , <a href="#">213</a>		
<code>\curly@shift</code> . . . . .	<a href="#">194</a> , <a href="#">213</a>		
<code>\curlyshrinkage</code> . . . . .	<a href="#">21</a> , <a href="#">322</a> , <a href="#">341</a>		
<code>curlyshrinkage</code> (option) . . . . .	<a href="#">9</a> , <a href="#">10</a>		
<code>\curlyspace</code> . . . . .	<a href="#">21</a> , <a href="#">322</a> , <a href="#">339</a>		
<code>curlyspace</code> (option) . . . . .	<a href="#">9</a> , <a href="#">36</a>		
<code>\CurrentOption</code> . . . . .	<a href="#">418</a>		
<b>D</b>			
<code>\DeclareOption</code> . . . . .	<a href="#">414</a> , <a href="#">416</a>		
<code>\define@key</code> . . . . .	<a href="#">380</a> , <a href="#">389</a> , <a href="#">390</a> , <a href="#">391</a> , <a href="#">392</a> , <a href="#">393</a> , <a href="#">394</a> , <a href="#">395</a> , <a href="#">396</a> , <a href="#">400</a> , <a href="#">401</a> , <a href="#">402</a> , <a href="#">406</a> , <a href="#">407</a> , <a href="#">408</a>		
<code>\depth</code> . . . . .	<a href="#">63</a>		
<code>\draw@bit@picture</code> . . . . .	<a href="#">55</a> , <a href="#">60</a> , <a href="#">61</a>		
<b>E</b>			
<code>\endbytefield</code> . . . . .	<a href="#">334</a>		
<code>\endnewbytefield</code> . . . . .	<a href="#">333</a>		
<code>\endwordgroup1</code> . . . . .	<a href="#">19</a> , <a href="#">345</a> , <a href="#">362</a>		
<code>\endwordgroup2</code> . . . . .	<a href="#">19</a> , <a href="#">345</a> , <a href="#">362</a>		
<code>\entire@bytefield@picture</code> . . . . .	<a href="#">23</a> , <a href="#">34</a> , <a href="#">43</a>		
environments:			
<code>bytefield</code> . . . . .	<a href="#">2</a> , <a href="#">24</a> , <a href="#">333</a>		
<code>leftwordgroup</code> . . . . .	<a href="#">4</a> , <a href="#">275</a>		
<code>rightwordgroup</code> . . . . .	<a href="#">4</a> , <a href="#">235</a>		
<b>F</b>			
<code>\fontdimen</code> . . . . .	<a href="#">204</a> , <a href="#">205</a> , <a href="#">210</a> , <a href="#">223</a> , <a href="#">224</a> , <a href="#">229</a>		
<b>G</b>			
<code>\g@addto@macro</code> . . . . .	<a href="#">418</a>		
<b>H</b>			
<code>\half@curly@height</code> . . . . .	<a href="#">194</a> , <a href="#">213</a>		
<code>\header@val</code> . . . . .	<a href="#">162</a>		
<code>\header@xpos</code> . . . . .	<a href="#">162</a> , <a href="#">171</a> , <a href="#">174</a> , <a href="#">176</a>		
<code>\height</code> . . . . .	<a href="#">63</a>		
<code>\heightof</code> . . . . .	<a href="#">144</a>		
<code>\heightunits</code> . . . . .	<a href="#">63</a>		
<b>I</b>			
<code>\ialign</code> . . . . .	<a href="#">39</a>		
<code>\ifbitbox@bottom</code> . . . . .	<a href="#">78</a> , <a href="#">93</a>		
<code>\ifbitbox@left</code> . . . . .	<a href="#">81</a> , <a href="#">93</a>		
<code>\ifbitbox@right</code> . . . . .	<a href="#">84</a> , <a href="#">93</a>		
<code>\ifbitbox@top</code> . . . . .	<a href="#">75</a> , <a href="#">93</a>		
<code>\ifcounting@words</code> . . . . .	<a href="#">16</a> , <a href="#">88</a> , <a href="#">137</a> , <a href="#">151</a>		
<code>\inc@bytefield@height</code> . . . . .	<a href="#">18</a> , <a href="#">89</a> , <a href="#">138</a> , <a href="#">152</a>		
<b>K</b>			
<code>\KV@bytefield@bf@bitheight</code> . . . . .	<a href="#">389</a>		
<code>\KV@bytefield@bitformatting</code> . . . . .	<a href="#">390</a>		
<code>\KV@bytefield@bitwidth</code> . . . . .	<a href="#">380</a>		
<code>\KV@bytefield@boxformatting</code> . . . . .	<a href="#">391</a>		
<code>\KV@bytefield@curlyshrinkage</code> . . . . .	<a href="#">406</a>		
<code>\KV@bytefield@curlyspace</code> . . . . .	<a href="#">394</a>		
<code>\KV@bytefield@labelspace</code> . . . . .	<a href="#">400</a>		
<code>\KV@bytefield@leftcurly</code> . . . . .	<a href="#">392</a>		
<code>\KV@bytefield@leftcurlyshrinkage</code> . . . . .	<a href="#">406</a>		
<code>\KV@bytefield@leftcurlyspace</code> . . . . .	<a href="#">394</a>		
<code>\KV@bytefield@leftlabelspace</code> . . . . .	<a href="#">400</a>		
<code>\KV@bytefield@rightcurly</code> . . . . .	<a href="#">392</a>		
<code>\KV@bytefield@rightcurlyshrinkage</code> . . . . .	<a href="#">406</a>		
<code>\KV@bytefield@rightcurlyspace</code> . . . . .	<a href="#">394</a>		
<code>\KV@bytefield@rightlabelspace</code> . . . . .	<a href="#">400</a>		



<b>L</b>	
<code>\label@box@height</code> .....	247, 248, 260, 302, 303, 306, <a href="#">318</a>
<code>\label@box@width</code> .....	246, 254, 260, 281, 287, 301, 306, <a href="#">318</a>
<code>\labelspace</code> .....	<a href="#">21</a> , <a href="#">322</a> , 340
<code>\left</code> .....	206, 225
<code>leftcurly</code> (option) .....	<a href="#">6</a> , <a href="#">8</a> , <a href="#">10</a>
<code>leftcurlyshrinkage</code> (option) .....	<a href="#">9</a> , <a href="#">10</a>
<code>leftcurlyspace</code> (option) .....	<a href="#">9</a>
<code>leftwordgroup</code> (environment) ...	<a href="#">4</a> , <a href="#">275</a>
<code>\line</code> ..	<a href="#">76</a> , <a href="#">79</a> , <a href="#">82</a> , <a href="#">85</a> , <a href="#">132</a> , <a href="#">133</a> , <a href="#">134</a> , <a href="#">135</a>
<code>\loddimen</code> .....	<a href="#">13</a>
<b>M</b>	
<code>\make@lspace</code> .....	<a href="#">38</a> , <a href="#">274</a> , <a href="#">289</a>
<code>\makebox</code> .....	<a href="#">63</a> , <a href="#">177</a> , 260, 306
<code>\max@header@val</code> .....	<a href="#">162</a>
<b>N</b>	
<code>\newbytefield</code> .....	<a href="#">333</a>
<code>\next</code> .....	<a href="#">415</a>
<code>\num@high</code> .....	<a href="#">130</a> , <a href="#">134</a> , <a href="#">135</a>
<code>\num@tall</code> ....	<a href="#">129</a> , <a href="#">131</a> , <a href="#">132</a> , <a href="#">135</a> , <a href="#">138</a>
<code>\num@wide</code> ....	<a href="#">128</a> , <a href="#">131</a> , <a href="#">132</a> , <a href="#">133</a> , <a href="#">135</a>
<b>O</b>	
<code>\old@axis</code> .....	<a href="#">194</a> , 223, 229
<code>\old@nl</code> .....	<a href="#">24</a>
<code>\openup</code> .....	<a href="#">30</a>
options:	
<code>bitformatting</code> .....	<a href="#">6</a> , <a href="#">7</a> , <a href="#">14</a>
<code>bitheight</code> .....	<a href="#">6</a> , <a href="#">7</a>
<code>bitwidth</code> .....	<a href="#">6</a> , <a href="#">7</a> , <a href="#">21</a>
<code>boxformatting</code> .....	<a href="#">6–8</a> , <a href="#">12</a>
<code>curlyshrinkage</code> .....	<a href="#">9</a> , <a href="#">10</a>
<code>curlyspace</code> .....	<a href="#">9</a> , <a href="#">36</a>
<code>leftcurly</code> .....	<a href="#">6</a> , <a href="#">8</a> , <a href="#">10</a>
<code>leftcurlyshrinkage</code> .....	<a href="#">9</a> , <a href="#">10</a>
<code>leftcurlyspace</code> .....	<a href="#">9</a>
<code>rightcurly</code> .....	<a href="#">6</a> , <a href="#">8</a> , <a href="#">10</a>
<code>rightcurlyshrinkage</code> .....	<a href="#">9</a> , <a href="#">10</a>
<code>rightcurlyspace</code> .....	<a href="#">9</a>
<b>P</b>	
<code>\PackageError</code> .....	<a href="#">350</a> , <a href="#">363</a>
<code>\PackageInfo</code> .....	<a href="#">322</a>
packages:	
<code>bytefield</code> .....	<a href="#">1–3</a> , <a href="#">6</a> , <a href="#">10</a> , <a href="#">12–14</a> , <a href="#">16</a> , <a href="#">18–21</a> , <a href="#">23</a> , <a href="#">34–39</a>
<code>calc</code> .....	<a href="#">22</a> , <a href="#">38</a>
<code>color</code> .....	<a href="#">12</a>
<code>register</code> .....	<a href="#">13</a>
<code>rotating</code> .....	<a href="#">13</a>
<code>\parbox</code> .....	<a href="#">63</a>
<code>\parse@bitbox@arg</code> ...	<a href="#">54</a> , <a href="#">59</a> , <a href="#">97</a> , <a href="#">142</a>
<code>\parse@bitbox@sides</code> .....	<a href="#">102</a> , <a href="#">103</a>
<code>\parse@range</code> .....	<a href="#">159</a> , <a href="#">165</a>
<code>\parse@range@list</code> .....	<a href="#">149</a> , <a href="#">156</a>
<code>\ProcessOptions</code> .....	<a href="#">422</a>
<code>\put</code> .....	<a href="#">63</a> , <a href="#">76</a> , <a href="#">79</a> , <a href="#">82</a> , <a href="#">85</a> , <a href="#">132</a> , <a href="#">133</a> , <a href="#">134</a> , <a href="#">135</a> , <a href="#">176</a> , <a href="#">256</a> , <a href="#">305</a>
<b>R</b>	
<code>register</code> (package) .....	<a href="#">13</a>
<code>\RequirePackage</code> .....	<a href="#">1</a> , <a href="#">2</a>
<code>\right</code> .....	<a href="#">209</a> , <a href="#">228</a>
<code>rightcurly</code> (option) .....	<a href="#">6</a> , <a href="#">8</a> , <a href="#">10</a>
<code>rightcurlyshrinkage</code> (option) .....	<a href="#">9</a> , <a href="#">10</a>
<code>rightcurlyspace</code> (option) .....	<a href="#">9</a>
<code>rightwordgroup</code> (environment) ..	<a href="#">4</a> , <a href="#">235</a>
<code>rotating</code> (package) .....	<a href="#">13</a>
<b>S</b>	
<code>\setkeys</code> .....	<a href="#">412</a>
<code>\show@wordlabelr</code> ....	<a href="#">37</a> , <a href="#">41</a> , <a href="#">232</a> , <a href="#">243</a>
<code>\skippedwords</code> .....	<a href="#">5</a> , <a href="#">124</a>
<code>\starting@point</code> .....	<a href="#">296</a> , <a href="#">297</a> , <a href="#">305</a>
<code>\store@lcurly</code> .....	<a href="#">213</a> , <a href="#">282</a> , <a href="#">303</a>
<code>\store@rcurly</code> .....	<a href="#">194</a> , <a href="#">248</a>
<code>\strip@pt</code> .....	<a href="#">55</a> , <a href="#">60</a> , <a href="#">128</a> , <a href="#">129</a> , <a href="#">130</a> , <a href="#">147</a> , <a href="#">148</a> , <a href="#">152</a> , <a href="#">176</a> , <a href="#">177</a> , <a href="#">255</a> , <a href="#">260</a> , <a href="#">305</a> , <a href="#">306</a>
<b>T</b>	
<code>\textfont</code> ..	<a href="#">204</a> , <a href="#">205</a> , <a href="#">210</a> , <a href="#">223</a> , <a href="#">224</a> , <a href="#">229</a>
<code>\theheader@val</code> .....	<a href="#">178</a>
<code>\tiny</code> .....	<a href="#">44</a> , <a href="#">328</a>
<code>\total@box@width</code> ..	<a href="#">249</a> , <a href="#">250</a> , <a href="#">255</a> , <a href="#">273</a>
<code>\total@lbox@width</code> .....	<a href="#">273</a> , <a href="#">283</a> , <a href="#">288</a> , <a href="#">290</a> , <a href="#">298</a>
<code>\totalheight</code> .....	<a href="#">63</a>
<b>U</b>	
<code>\unitlength</code> .....	<a href="#">32</a> , <a href="#">63</a> , <a href="#">68</a> , <a href="#">70</a> , <a href="#">71</a> , <a href="#">89</a> , <a href="#">138</a> , <a href="#">152</a>
<code>\units@high</code> ..	<a href="#">123</a> , <a href="#">126</a> , <a href="#">127</a> , <a href="#">130</a> , <a href="#">145</a> , <a href="#">148</a>
<code>\units@tall</code> .....	<a href="#">50</a> , <a href="#">58</a> , <a href="#">60</a> , <a href="#">127</a> , <a href="#">129</a> , <a href="#">144</a> , <a href="#">145</a> , <a href="#">147</a> , <a href="#">152</a> , <a href="#">177</a>

<code>\units@wide</code> .....	<a href="#">50</a> , <a href="#">53</a> , <a href="#">55</a> , <a href="#">57</a> , <a href="#">60</a> , <a href="#">125</a> , <a href="#">126</a> , <a href="#">128</a> , <a href="#">143</a> , <a href="#">147</a>	<code>\word@label@box</code> .....	<a href="#">244</a> , <a href="#">246</a> , <a href="#">261</a> , <a href="#">279</a> , <a href="#">281</a> , <a href="#">299</a> , <a href="#">301</a> , <a href="#">307</a> , <a href="#">318</a>
<code>\unskip</code> .....	<a href="#">36</a>	<code>\wordbox</code> .....	<a href="#">2</a> , <a href="#">56</a>
<b>V</b>			
<code>\vrule</code> .....	<a href="#">207</a> , <a href="#">226</a>	<code>\wordgroup1</code> .....	<a href="#">19</a> , <a href="#">345</a> , <a href="#">362</a>
<b>W</b>			
<code>\width</code> .....	<a href="#">63</a>	<code>\wordgroup2</code> .....	<a href="#">19</a> , <a href="#">345</a> , <a href="#">362</a>
<code>\widthof</code> .....	<a href="#">252</a> , <a href="#">285</a>	<code>\wordlabell@end</code> .....	<a href="#">271</a> , <a href="#">295</a> , <a href="#">302</a>
<code>\widthunits</code> .....	<a href="#">63</a>	<code>\wordlabell@start</code> ....	<a href="#">271</a> , <a href="#">277</a> , <a href="#">302</a>
		<code>\wordlabell@text</code> .....	<a href="#">277</a> , <a href="#">280</a> , <a href="#">300</a>
		<code>\wordlabelr@end</code> .....	<a href="#">233</a> , <a href="#">241</a> , <a href="#">247</a>
		<code>\wordlabelr@start</code> ....	<a href="#">233</a> , <a href="#">237</a> , <a href="#">247</a>
		<code>\wordlabelr@text</code> .....	<a href="#">237</a> , <a href="#">245</a>