

# The `setouterhbox` package

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## Abstract

If math stuff is set in an `\hbox`, then TeX performs some optimization and omits the implicate penalties `\binoppenalty` and `\relpenalty`. This packages tries to put stuff into an `\hbox` without getting lost of those penalties.

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# 1 Documentation

## 1.1 Introduction

There is a situation in `hyperref`'s driver for `dvips` where the user wants to have links that can be broken across lines. However `dvips` doesn't support the feature. With option `breaklinks` `hyperref` sets the links as usual, put them in a box and write the link data with box dimensions into the appropriate `\specials`. Then, however, it does not set the complete unbreakable box, but it unwrappes the material inside to allow line breaks. Of course line breaking and glue setting will falsify the link dimensions, but line breaking was more important for the user.

## 1.2 Acknowledgement

Jonathan Fine, Donald Arsenau and me discussed the problem in the newsgroup `comp.text.tex` where Damian Menscher has started the thread, see [1].

The discussion was productive and generated many ideas and code examples. In order to have a more permanent result I wrote this package and tried to implement most of the ideas, a kind of summary of the discussion. Thus I want and have to thank Jonathan Fine and Donald Arsenau very much.

Two weeks later David Kastrup (posting in `comp.text.tex`, [2]) remembered an old article of Michael Downes ([3]) in TUGboat, where Michael Downes already presented the method we discuss here. Nowadays we have  $\varepsilon$ -TeX that extends the tool set of a TeX macro programmer. Especially useful  $\varepsilon$ -TeX was in this package for detecting and dealing with erroneous situations.

However also nowadays a perfect solution for the problem is still missing at macro level. Probably someone has to go deep in the internals of the TeX compiler to implement a switch that let penalties stay where otherwise TeX would remove them for optimization reasons.

## 1.3 Usage

**Package loading.** L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X: as usually:

```
\usepackage{setouterhbox}
```

The package can also be included directly, thus plain-TeX users write:

```
\input setouterhbox.sty
```

**Register allocation.** The material will be put into a box, thus we need to know these box number. If you need to allocate a new box register:

**L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X:** `\newsavebox{\<name>}`

**plain-TeX:** `\newbox\<name>`

Then `\<name>` is a command that held the box number.

**Box wrapping.** L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X users put the material in the box with an environment similar to `lrbox`. The environment `setouterhbox` uses the same syntax and offers the same features, such as verbatim stuff inside:

```
\begin{setouterhbox}{\<box number>}...\end{setouterhbox}
```

Users with plain-TeX do not have environments, they use instead:

```
setouterhbox{\<box number>}...\endsetouterhbox
```

In both cases the material is put into an `\hbox` and assigned to the given box, denoted by `\<box number>`. Note the assignment is local, the same way `lrbox` behaves.

**Unwrapping.** The box material is ready for unwrapping:

```
\unhbox\<box number>
```

## 1.4 Option hyperref

Package `url` uses math mode for typesetting urls. Break points are inserted by `\binoppenalty` and `\relpenalty`. Unhappily these break points are removed, if `hyperref` is used with option `breaklinks` and drivers that depend on `pdfmark`: `dvips`, `vtexpdfmark`, `textures`, and `dvipsone`. Thus the option `hyperref` enables the method of this package to avoid the removal of `\relpenalty` and `\binoppenalty`. Thus you get more break points. However, the link areas are still wrong for these drivers, because they are not supporting broken links.

Note, you need version 2006/08/16 v6.75c of package `hyperref`, because starting with this version the necessary hook is provided that package `setouterhbox` uses.

```
\usepackage[...]{hyperref}[2006/08/16]
\usepackage[hyperref]{setouterhbox}
```

Package order does not matter.

## 1.5 Example

```
1 <*example>
2 \documentclass[a5paper]{article}
3 \usepackage{url}[2005/06/27]
4 \usepackage{setouterhbox}
5
6 \newsavebox{\testbox}
7
8 \setlength{\parindent}{0pt}
9 \setlength{\parskip}{2em}
10
11 \begin{document}
12 \raggedright
13
14 \url{http://this.is.a.very.long.host.name/followed/%
15 by/a/very_long_long_long_path.html}%
16
17 \sbox\testbox{%
18   \url{http://this.is.a.very.long.host.name/followed/%
19   by/a/very_long_long_long_path.html}%
20 }%
21 \unhbox\testbox
22
23 \begin{setouterhbox}{\testbox}%
24   \url{http://this.is.a.very.long.host.name/followed/%
25   by/a/very_long_long_long_path.html}%
26 \end{setouterhbox}
27 \unhbox\testbox
28
29 \end{document}
30 </example>
```

## 2 Implementation

Internal macros are prefixed by `\setouterhbox`, `@` is not used inside names, thus we do not need to care of its catcode if we are not using it as L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X package.

### 2.1 Package start stuff

```
31 <*package>
```

Prevent reloading more than one, necessary for plain-TeX:

```

32 \begingroup
33   \expandafter\let\expandafter\x\csname ver@setouterhbox.sty\endcsname
34   \ifcase 0%
35     \ifx\x\relax % plain
36     \else
37       \ifx\x\empty % LaTeX
38       \else
39         1%
40       \fi
41     \fi
42   \else
43     \expandafter\ifx\csname PackageInfo\endcsname\relax
44       \def\x#1#2{%
45         \immediate\write-1{Package #1 Info: #2.}%
46       }%
47     \else
48       \def\x#1#2{\PackageInfo{#1}{#2, stopped}}%
49     \fi
50     \x{setouterhbox}{The package is already loaded}%
51   \endgroup
52   \expandafter\endinput
53 \fi
54 \endgroup

```

Package identification:

```

55 \begingroup
56   \expandafter\ifx\csname ProvidesPackage\endcsname\relax
57   \def\x#1#2#3[#4]{\endgroup
58     \immediate\write-1{Package: #3 #4}%
59     \xdef#1{#4}%
60   }%
61   \else
62     \def\x#1#2[#3]{\endgroup
63       #2[#3]%
64       \ifx#1\relax
65         \xdef#1{#3}%
66       \fi
67     }%
68   \fi
69   \expandafter\x\csname ver@setouterhbox.sty\endcsname
70   \ProvidesPackage{setouterhbox}%
71   [2007/04/26 v1.5 Set hbox in outer horizontal mode (H0)]%

```

`\setouterhboxBox` The method requires a global box assignment. To be on the safe side, a new box register is allocated for this global box assignment.

```
72 \newbox\setouterhboxBox
```

`\setouterhboxFailure` Error message for both plain-TeX and L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X

```

73 \begingroup\expandafter\expandafter\expandafter\endgroup
74 \expandafter\ifx\csname RequirePackage\endcsname\relax
75   \input infwarerr.sty\relax
76 \else
77   \RequirePackage{infwarerr}%
78 \fi
79 \edef\setouterhboxFailure#1#2{%
80   \expandafter\noexpand\csname @PackageError\endcsname{setouterhbox}{#1}{#2}%
81 }

```

## 2.2 Main part

eTeX provides much better means for checking error conditions. Thus lines marked by "E" are executed if eTeX is available, otherwise the lines marked by "T" are

used.

```

82 \begingroup\expandafter\expandafter\expandafter\endgroup
83 \expandafter\ifx\csname lastnodetype\endcsname\relax
84   \catcode'T=9 % ignore
85   \catcode'E=14 % comment
86 \else
87   \catcode'T=14 % comment
88   \catcode'E=9 % ignore
89 \fi

```

`\setouterhboxRemove` Remove all kern, glue, and penalty nodes; poor man's version, if  $\varepsilon$ -TeX is not available

```

90 \def\setouterhboxRemove{%
91 E \ifnum\lastnodetype<11 %
92 E   \else
93 E   \ifnum\lastnodetype>13 %
94 E   \else
95     \unskip\unkern\unpenalty
96 E   \expandafter\expandafter\expandafter\setouterhboxRemove
97 E   \fi
98 E \fi
99 }%

```

`\setouterhbox` Passing the box contents by macro parameter would prevent catcode changes in the box contents like by `\verb`. Also `\bgroup` and `\egroup` does not work, because stuff has to be added at the begin and end of the box, thus the syntax `\setouterhbox{<box number>}\endsetouterhbox` is used. Also we automatically get an environment `setouterhbox` if L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X is used.

```

100 \def\setouterhbox#1{%
101   \begingroup
102   \def\setouterhboxNum{#1}%
103   \setbox0\vbox\bgroup
104 T   \kern.123pt\relax % marker
105 T   \kern0pt\relax % removed by \setouterhboxRemove
106   \begingroup
107   \everypar{}%
108   \noindent
109 }

```

`\endsetouterhbox` Most of the work is done in the end part, thus the heart of the method follows:

```

110 \def\endsetouterhbox{%
111   \endgroup

```

Omit the first pass to get the penalties of the second pass.

```

112   \pretolerance-1 %

```

We don't want a third pass with `\emergencystretch`.

```

113   \tolerance10000 %
114   \hsize\maxdimen

```

Line is not underfull:

```

115   \parfillskip 0pt plus 1filll\relax
116   \leftskip0pt\relax

```

Suppress underful `\hbox` warnings, is explicit line breaks are used.

```

117   \rightskip0pt plus 1fil\relax
118   \everypar{}%

```

Ensure that there is a paragraph and prevents `\endgraph` from eating terminal glue:

```

119   \kern0pt%
120   \endgraf
121   \setouterhboxRemove

```

```

122 E \ifnum\lastnodetype=1 %
123 E \global\setbox\setouterhboxBox\lastbox
124 E \loop
125 E \setouterhboxRemove
126 E \ifnum\lastnodetype=1 %
127 E \setbox0=\lastbox
128 E \global\setbox\setouterhboxBox=\hbox{%
129 E \unhbox0 %

```

Remove \rightskip, a penalty with -10000 is part of the previous line.

```

130 E \unskip
131 E \unhbox\setouterhboxBox
132 E }%
133 E \repeat
134 E \else
135 E \setouterhboxFailure{%
136 E Something is wrong%
137 E }{%
138 E Could not find expected line.%
139 E \MessageBreak
140 E (\string\lastnodetype: \number\lastnodetype, expected: 1)%
141 E }%
142 E \fi
143 E \setouterhboxRemove
144 T \global\setbox\setouterhboxBox\lastbox
145 T \loop
146 T \setouterhboxRemove
147 T \setbox0=\lastbox
148 T \ifcase\ifvoid0 1\else0\fi
149 T \global\setbox\setouterhboxBox=\hbox{%
150 T \unhbox0 %

```

Remove \rightskip, a penalty with -10000 is part of the previous line.

```

151 T \unskip
152 T \unhbox\setouterhboxBox
153 T }%
154 T \repeat
155 T \ifdim.123pt=\lastkern
156 T \else
157 T \setouterhboxFailure{%
158 T Something is wrong%
159 T }{%
160 T Unexpected stuff was detected before the line.%
161 T }%
162 T \fi
163 T \egroup
164 T \ifcase \ifnum\wd0=0 \else 1\fi
165 T \ifdim\ht0=.123pt \else 1\fi
166 T \ifnum\dp0=0 \else 1\fi
167 T 0 %
168 E \ifnum\lastnodetype=-1 %

```

There was just one line that we have caught.

```

169 \else
170 \setouterhboxFailure{%
171 Something is wrong%
172 }{%
173 After fetching the line there is more unexpected stuff.%
174 E \MessageBreak
175 E (\string\lastnodetype: \number\lastnodetype, expected: -1)%
176 }%
177 \fi
178 E \egroup
179 \expandafter\endgroup

```

```

180 \expandafter\setouterhboxFinish\expandafter{%
181   \number\setouterhboxNum
182 }%
183 }

```

## 2.3 Environment support

Check \@currentenv for the case that \setouterhbox was called as environment. Then the box assignment must be put after the \endgroup of \end{...}.

```

184 \def\setouterhboxCurr{setouterhbox}
185 \def\setouterhboxLast#1{%
186   \setbox#1\hbox{%
187     \unhbox\setouterhboxBox
188     \unskip % remove \rightskip glue
189     \unskip % remove \parfillskip glue
190     \unpenalty % remove paragraph ending \penalty 10000
191     \unkern % remove explicit kern inserted above
192   }%
193 }

```

\setouterhboxFinish #1 is an explicit number.

```

194 \def\setouterhboxFinish#1{%
195   \begingroup\expandafter\expandafter\expandafter\endgroup
196   \expandafter\ifx\csname @currentenv\endcsname\setouterhboxCurr
197     \aftergroup\setouterhboxLast
198     \aftergroup{%
199       \setouterhboxAfter #1\NIL
200     }%
201   \else
202     \setouterhboxLast{#1}%
203   \fi
204 }

```

\setouterhboxAfter #1 is an explicit number.

```

205 \def\setouterhboxAfter#1#2\NIL{%
206   \aftergroup#1%
207   \ifx\#2\%
208     \else
209       \setouterhboxReturnAfterFi{%
210         \setouterhboxAfter#2\NIL
211       }%
212     \fi
213 }

```

\setouterhboxReturnAfterFi A utility macro to get tail recursion.

```

214 \long\def\setouterhboxReturnAfterFi#1\fi{\fi#1}

```

Restore catcodes we have need to distinguish between the implementation with and without  $\epsilon$ -TeX.

```

215 \catcode69=11\relax % E
216 \catcode84=11\relax % T

```

## 2.4 Option hyperref

```

217 \begingroup
218   \def\x{LaTeX2e}%
219 \expandafter\endgroup
220 \ifx\x\fmtname
221   \else
222     \expandafter\endinput
223   \fi

```

```

\Hy@setouterhbox \Hy@setouterhbox is the internal hook that hyperref uses since 2006/02/12 v6.75a.
224 \DeclareOption{hyperref}{%
225   \long\def\Hy@setouterhbox#1#2{%
226     \setouterhbox{#1}#2\endsetouterhbox
227   }%
228 }

229 \ProcessOptions\relax
230 \endpackage

```

## 3 Installation

### 3.1 Download

**Package.** This package is available on CTAN<sup>1</sup>:

[CTAN:macros/latex/contrib/oberdiek/setouterhbox.dtx](#) The source file.

[CTAN:macros/latex/contrib/oberdiek/setouterhbox.pdf](#) Documentation.

**Bundle.** All the packages of the bundle ‘oberdiek’ are also available in a TDS compliant ZIP archive. There the packages are already unpacked and the documentation files are generated. The files and directories obey the TDS standard.

[CTAN:macros/latex/contrib/oberdiek/oberdiek-tds.zip](#)

### 3.2 Bundle installation

**Unpacking.** Unpack the `oberdiek-tds.zip` in the TDS tree (also known as `texmf` tree) of your choice. Example (linux):

```
unzip oberdiek-tds.zip -d ~/texmf
```

**Script installation.** Check the directory `TDS:scripts/oberdiek/` for scripts that need further installation steps. Package `attachfile2` comes with the Perl script `pdfatfi.pl` that should be installed in such a way that it can be called as `pdfatfi`. Example (linux):

```
chmod +x scripts/oberdiek/pdfatfi.pl
cp scripts/oberdiek/pdfatfi.pl /usr/local/bin/
```

### 3.3 Package installation

**Unpacking.** The `.dtx` file is a self-extracting `docstrip` archive. The files are extracted by running the `.dtx` through plain- $\TeX$ :

```
tex setouterhbox.dtx
```

**TDS.** Now the different files must be moved into the different directories in your installation TDS tree (also known as `texmf` tree):

<code>setouterhbox.sty</code>	→	<code>tex/generic/oberdiek/setouterhbox.sty</code>
<code>setouterhbox.pdf</code>	→	<code>doc/latex/oberdiek/setouterhbox.pdf</code>
<code>setouterhbox-example.tex</code>	→	<code>doc/latex/oberdiek/setouterhbox-example.tex</code>
<code>setouterhbox.dtx</code>	→	<code>source/latex/oberdiek/setouterhbox.dtx</code>

If you have a `docstrip.cfg` that configures and enables `docstrip`’s TDS installing feature, then some files can already be in the right place, see the documentation of `docstrip`.

<sup>1</sup><http://ftp.ctan.org/tex-archive/>



### 3.4 Refresh file name databases

If your  $\text{\TeX}$  distribution (te $\text{\TeX}$ , mi $\text{\TeX}$ , ...) relies on file name databases, you must refresh these. For example, te $\text{\TeX}$  users run `texhash` or `mktextlsr`.

### 3.5 Some details for the interested

**Attached source.** The PDF documentation on CTAN also includes the `.dtx` source file. It can be extracted by AcrobatReader 6 or higher. Another option is `pdftk`, e.g. unpack the file into the current directory:

```
pdftk setouterhbox.pdf unpack_files output .
```

**Unpacking with  $\text{\LaTeX}$ .** The `.dtx` chooses its action depending on the format:

**plain- $\text{\TeX}$ :** Run `docstrip` and extract the files.

**$\text{\LaTeX}$ :** Generate the documentation.

If you insist on using  $\text{\LaTeX}$  for `docstrip` (really, `docstrip` does not need  $\text{\LaTeX}$ ), then inform the autodetect routine about your intention:

```
latex \let\install=y\input{setouterhbox.dtx}
```

Do not forget to quote the argument according to the demands of your shell.

**Generating the documentation.** You can use both the `.dtx` or the `.drv` to generate the documentation. The process can be configured by the configuration file `ltxdoc.cfg`. For instance, put this line into this file, if you want to have A4 as paper format:

```
\PassOptionsToClass{a4paper}{article}
```

An example follows how to generate the documentation with pdf $\text{\LaTeX}$ :

```
pdflatex setouterhbox.dtx
makeindex -s gind.ist setouterhbox.idx
pdflatex setouterhbox.dtx
makeindex -s gind.ist setouterhbox.idx
pdflatex setouterhbox.dtx
```

## 4 References

- [1] Damian Menscher, [news:comp.text.tex](http://groups.google.com/group/comp.text.tex/msg/79648d4cf1f8bc13), *overlong lines in List of Figures*, <dh058t\$qbd\$1@news.ks.uiuc.edu>, 23rd September 2005. <http://groups.google.com/group/comp.text.tex/msg/79648d4cf1f8bc13>
- [2] David Kastrup, [news:comp.text.tex](http://groups.google.com/group/comp.text.tex/msg/7cf0a345ef932e52), *Re: ANN: outerhbox.sty – collect horizontal material, for unboxing into a paragraph*, <85y8551rx3.fsf@lola.goethe.zz>, 7th October 2005. <http://groups.google.com/group/comp.text.tex/msg/7cf0a345ef932e52>
- [3] Michael Downes, *Line breaking in `\unhboxed` Text*, TUGboat 11 (1990), pp. 605–612.
- [4] Sebastian Rahtz, Heiko Oberdiek: *The hyperref package*; 2006/08/16 v6.75c; [CTAN:macros/latex/contrib/hyperref/](http://CTAN:macros/latex/contrib/hyperref/).

## 5 History

[2005/10/05 v1.0]

- First version.

[2005/10/07 v1.1]

- Option hyperref added.

[2005/10/18 v1.2]

- Support for explicit line breaks added.

[2006/02/12 v1.3]

- DTX format.
- Documentation extended.

[2006/08/26 v1.4]

- Date of hyperref updated.

[2007/04/26 v1.5]

- Use of package infwarerr.

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