The **dingbat** package*

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2001/04/27

Abstract

The dingbat package provides a \texttt{B\LaTeX 2e} interface to the \texttt{ark10.mf} and \texttt{dingbat.mf} fonts.

1 Usage

The \texttt{dingbat} package defines the following hand gestures:

- \texttt{\rightpointright} Right hand pointing to the right
- \texttt{\leftpointright} Left hand pointing to the right
- \texttt{\leftthumbsdown} Left hand, thumbs down
- \texttt{\leftthumbsup} Left hand, thumbs up
- \texttt{\rightpointleft} Right hand pointing to the left
- \texttt{\rightthumbsdown} Right hand, thumbs down
- \texttt{\rightthumbsup} Right hand, thumbs up

(\texttt{\rightpointright} comes from \texttt{dingbat.mf}, while the rest come from \texttt{ark10.mf}, hence, the discrepancy in style.)

The following symbols are intended to be used to create fancy borders around a box or the entire page.

- \texttt{\squarewithdots} Unfilled square with dots
- \texttt{\filledsquarewithdots} Filled square with dots
- \texttt{\Sborder} \texttt{S}-like border design
- \texttt{\Zborder} \texttt{Z}-like border design

Note that if you are going to create fancy borders, I recommend using the \texttt{niceframe} package. \texttt{niceframe} is geared to drawing fancy borders and knows specifically about the border characters in \texttt{dingbat.mf}. The symbols defined by the \texttt{dingbat} package,

*This file has version number v1.00, last revised 2001/04/27.
\textit{\texttt{\textbackslash squarewithdots}}, \textit{\texttt{\textbackslash filledsquarewithdots}}, \texttt{\textbackslash Sborder}, and \texttt{\textbackslash Zborder}, are the only border characters that might be useful outside of a border (e.g., in a straight line or as a bullet in a fancy itemized list); the other, unnamed, characters defined in \texttt{dingbat.mf} represent a frame's corners and sides.

The following \texttt{dingbat} symbols don’t fit into either of the previous categories:

\begin{itemize}
  \item \texttt{\textbackslash largepencil} Large pencil
  \item \texttt{\textbackslash anchor} Anchor
  \item \texttt{\textbackslash carriagereturn} Carriage return
  \item \texttt{\textbackslash checkmark} Check mark
  \item \texttt{\textbackslash eye} Eye
  \item \texttt{\textbackslash satellitedish} DLA satellite dish
  \item \texttt{\textbackslash smallpencil} Small pencil
\end{itemize}

For some of these symbols, most notably \texttt{\textbackslash largepencil}, the font metrics seem to be a bit off. As a result, the symbols tend to jut into previous or subsequent lines.

\section{Implementation}

There's nothing particularly interesting about the implementation. Section 2.1 defines the symbol commands that make up \texttt{dingbat.sty}, and Section 2.2 creates the \texttt{uark.fd} and \texttt{udingbat.fd} font definition files, which \LaTeX loads when \texttt{dingbat.sty} selects font encoding \texttt{U} and font family \texttt{ark} or \texttt{dingbat}.

\subsection{Symbol commands}

\begin{verbatim}
\begin{verbatim}
\arkfamily
\ark@sym
\carriagereturn
\leftthumbsdown
\rightpointleft
\leftthumbsup
\rightthumbsdown
\rightthumbsup
\end{verbatim}
\end{verbatim}

\begin{verbatim}
\begin{verbatim}
\newcommand{\arkfamily}{\fontencoding{U}\fontfamily{ark}\selectfont}
\newcommand{\ark@sym}[1]{{\arkfamily\symbol{#1}}}
\newcommand{\carriagereturn}{\ark@sym{103}}
\newcommand{\leftthumbsdown}{\ark@sym{104}}
\newcommand{\eye}{\ark@sym{105}}
\newcommand{\rightpointleft}{\ark@sym{114}}
\newcommand{\leftthumbsup}{\ark@sym{120}}
\end{verbatim}
\end{verbatim}

\begin{verbatim}
\end{verbatim}

There are only ten symbols in the \texttt{ark} font. We define names individually for each of them. Note that \texttt{\textbackslash largepencil}'s bounding box is a little too short, so \texttt{\textbackslash largepencil} may jut into the previous line of text. I think some of the other bounding boxes may be the wrong size, as well, but I haven't yet tested that carefully.
Define a macro, \texttt{\dingbatfamily}, which switches the font to \texttt{dingbat} and another macro, \texttt{\dingbat@sym} which typesets a symbol in the \texttt{dingbat} font.

\begin{verbatim}
\newcommand{\dingbatfamily}{\fontencoding{U}\fontfamily{dingbat}\selectfont}
\newcommand{\dingbat@sym}[1]{{\dingbatfamily\symbol{#1}}}
\end{verbatim}

The following are definitions for all the non-border characters in \texttt{dingbat.mf}.

\begin{verbatim}
\newcommand{\checkmark}{\dingbat@sym{104}}
\newcommand{\satellitedish}{\dingbat@sym{111}}
\newcommand{\rightpointright}{\dingbat@sym{116}}
\newcommand{\anchor}{\dingbat@sym{117}}
\newcommand{\squarewithdots}{\dingbat@sym{102}}
\newcommand{\filledsquarewithdots}{\dingbat@sym{103}}
\newcommand{\Sborder}{\dingbat@sym{123}}
\newcommand{\Zborder}{\dingbat@sym{132}}
\end{verbatim}

The following are the border characters. There are many more, but I haven't yet made up \LaTeX names for them.

\begin{verbatim}
\end{verbatim}

\section{Font definition files}

\subsection{uark.fd}

All we do here is define \texttt{ark} as a symbol font (U encoding) and tell \LaTeX{} to scale \texttt{ark10.mf} to whatever font size is requested.

\begin{verbatim}
\DeclareFontFamily{U}{ark}{}\DeclareFontShape{U}{ark}{m}{n}{<-> ark10}{}
\end{verbatim}

\subsection{udingbat.fd}

Similarly, we define \texttt{dingbat} as another, U-encoded symbol font and instruct \LaTeX{} to scale \texttt{dingbat.mf} to whatever font size is requested.

\begin{verbatim}
\DeclareFontFamily{U}{dingbat}{}\DeclareFontShape{U}{dingbat}{m}{n}{<-> dingbat}{}
\end{verbatim}
3 Credits

Just so it’s clear who did what, here are the various components of the dingbat package and the associated copyright information:

- **ark10.mf**  Copyright (c) 1988 by Arthur M. Keller
  The ARK font was initially done in MF79 by Scott Kim. It was converted to (new) MF by N.N. Billawala of Metamarks.

- **dingbat.dtx**  Copyright (C) 2001 Scott Pakin

- **dingbat.ins**  Copyright (C) 2001 Scott Pakin

- **dingbat.mf**  Created 3-3-89 by Doug Henderson

- **uark.fd**  Copyright (C) 2001 Scott Pakin

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Numbers written in italic refer to the page where the corresponding entry is described, the ones underlined to the code line of the definition, the rest to the code lines where the entry is used.

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