Documentation for frame.tex: fancy frames for generic TeX

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Abstract
frame.tex/frame.sty provides fancy frames for generic TeX

*The documentation was put into \LaTeX\ format by Herbert Voß
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1 Usage

This paragraph is probably rather hard to read. I have used $\TeX$’s rule-drawing and macro capability to set 10 boxes on top of the text. This was rather easy to do in $\TeX$. I challenge anyone to come up with as simple a method for $\text{trotf}$.

The command I used was:

\[
\text{\fancyframebox{.1pt}{5pt}{text to be boxed}}
\]

\fancyframebox makes a framed $\text{\hbox}$ containing its third argument, surrounded by extra space (its second argument), and rules on all four sides whose width is its first argument. To get 10 boxes, you just re-frame 10 times. I used a $\text{\loop}$ construct, but one could just write out 10 nested \fancyframebox calls.

In order to center the fancy boxes, I put them into $\text{\box0}$ and used $\text{\centerline{\box0}}$ to write it out. To make the text come out on top, I put it in a $\text{\vbox to 0pt}$ construct, making $\TeX$ try to squeeze everything vertically to zero. A $\text{\vss}$ allowed the $\text{\vbox}$ to shrink (without it $\TeX$ would still have done the job, but would have complained about an “overfull $\text{\vbox}$”).[Ed.-Example was changed...]

Thus, the final set of commands, including the $\TeX$ loop instructions, to typeset the boxes was

\[
\setbox0=\hbox{\it the center}
\count11=1
\loop\ifnum\count11<11
\quad \setbox0=\hbox{\fancyframebox{.1pt}{5pt}{\unhbox0}}
\advance\count11 \by 1
\repeat
\]

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Simple—at least when you consider the task.

2 Macros

\fancyframebox{rule thickness}{separation from inner guy}{inner guy}
\makeemptybox{width}{height}{depth}