The hhline package*

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Abstract

\hhline produces a line like \hline, or a double line like \hline\hline, except for its interaction with vertical lines.

1 Introduction

The argument to \hhline is similar to the preamble of an array or tabular. It consists of a list of tokens with the following meanings:

=	A double hline the width of a column.
-	A single hline the width of a column.
~	A column with no hline.
|	A vline which 'cuts' through a double (or single) hline.
:	A vline which is broken by a double hline.
#	A double hline segment between two vlines.
t	The top half of a double hline segment.
b	The bottom half of a double hline segment.
*	*{3}{==#} expands to ==#==#==#, as in the *-form for the preamble.

If a double vline is specified (|| or ::) then the hlines produced by \hhline are broken. To obtain the effect of an hline 'cutting through'the double vline, use a # or omit the vline specifiers, depending on whether or not you wish the double vline to break.

The tokens t and b must be used between two vertical rules. |tb| produces the same lines as #, but is much less efficient. The main use for these are to make constructions like |t: (top left corner) and :b| (bottom right corner).

If \hhline is used to make a single hline, then the argument should only contain the tokens -, ~ and | (and *-expressions).

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An example using most of these features is:

```
\begin{tabular}{||cc||c|c||}
\hhline{|t:==:t:==:t|}
a&b&c&d\\
\hhline{|:==:|~|~||}
1&2&3&4\\
\hhline{#==#~|=#}
i&j&k&l\\
\hhline{||--||--||}
w&x&y&z\\
\hhline{|b:==:b:==:b|}
\end{tabular}
```

a	b	c	d
1	2	3	4
i	j	k	l
w	x	y	z

The lines produced by LaTeX's \hline consist of a single (TeX primitive) \hrule. The lines produced by \hhline are made up of lots of small line segments. TeX will place these very accurately in the .dvi file, but the program that you use to print the .dvi file may not line up these segments exactly. (A similar problem can occur with diagonal lines in the picture environment.)

If this effect causes a problem, you could try a different driver program, or if this is not possible, increasing \arrayrulewidth may help to reduce the effect.