

# The `fcolumn` package\*

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## Abstract

In financial reports, text and currency amounts are regularly put in one table, e.g., a year balance or a profit-and-loss overview. This package provides the settings for automatically typesetting and checking such columns, including the sum line (preceded by a rule of the correct width), using the specifier `f`.

## 1 Introduction

The package `fcolumn` provides the macros for an extra tabular specifier that makes creating financial tables easy. The column specifier `f` itself is rather simple; it is the predefined version of a generic column `F`. The generic version expects four arguments: 1) grouping character of the integer part on output, 2) decimal mark used on output, 3) compact additional information on input/output characteristics, and 4) anything, but primarily used for providing formatting information, see below.

The `f`-column in the current version of the package is defined for the continental European standard: `\newcolumntype{f}{F.,{3,2}{}}`. This means that a number like 12345,67 will be typeset as 12.345,67. People in the Anglo-Saxon world would rather code `\newcolumntype{f}{F.,{3,2}{}}` for the same input, yielding 12,345.67 as output for the number given above. The default value for `#3` is `3,2`, indicating that grouping of the integer part is by three digits, that a comma is used in the  $\text{\TeX}$ -source to indicate the decimal mark, and that the decimal part consists of two digits. However, if in your country or company grouping is done with a thinspace every four digits, that the decimal mark in the source should be the character `p`, and there are three digits after the decimal mark—that happens to be a `\cdot`—, then simply specify `\newcolumntype{f}{F\,\cdot{4p3}{}}` in that case. The input could be 123456p78 then, yielding 12 3456-780 as output.

By default two digits are used for the decimal part, so if you really want no decimal digits (in that case of course also skipping the decimal mark) you have to explicitly specify `x,0` for some `x`. If you want no grouping character, specify `0,x`.

As the fourth parameter you can insert anything just before the typesetting of an amount in a column takes place. Its purpose is to add additional formatting information, e.g., `\color{blue}` to have the contents of a column coloured blue, but it can be misused, so use with care. And it can't do all!

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\* This file has version number v1.5, last revised 2026/06/02.

**Table 1:** Example Table.

Balance sheet			
properties	31 dec 2014	debts	31 dec 2014
house	200.000,00	equity capital	50.000,00
bank account	−603,23	mortgage	150.000,00
savings	28.000,00		
cash	145,85	profit	27.542,62
	<u>227.542,62</u>		<u>227.542,62</u>

This package requires and loads the `array` package [1]. To show where and how the F-column is used, let’s look at some typical financial information as shown in Table 1 and how this is entered in L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X (Table 2). All the work was done by

**Table 2:** Verbatim version of Example Table 1.

```

\begin{table}[htb]
\caption{Example Table.} \label{tab:fcraw}
\begin{tabular}{@{}lflf@{}}
\multicolumn{4}{@{}c@{}}{\bfseries Balance sheet}\\
\toprule
properties & \leeg{31 dec 2014} & debts & \leeg{31 dec 2014}\\
\midrule
house & 200000 & equity capital & 50000 \\
bank account & −603,23 & mortgage & 150000 \\
savings & 28000 & & \\
cash & 145,85 & profit & 27542,62 \\
\sumline
\bottomrule
\end{tabular}
\end{table}

```

the column specifier `f` (for “finance”). In this case it constructs the `\sumline`, typesets the numbers, calculates the totals, determines the widths of the sumrules, and checks whether the two columns are in balance; if not, the user is warned via a `\PackageWarning`. Of course for nice settings the `booktabs` package [2] was used, but that is not the point here.

This package is heavily inspired by the `dcolumn` package by David Carlisle [3]; some constructions are more or less copied from that package. From version 1.3 onwards it incorporates the idea of Christian Hoff of providing additional (formatting) information per column. A rather contrived example is given in Table 3, combining colour and fonts. How this is entered in L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X is shown in Table 4. The

**Table 3:** Example Table with column formatting.

Balance sheet			
properties	31 dec 2014	debts	31 dec 2014
house	200.000,00	equity capital	50.000,00
bank account	−603,23	mortgage	150.000,00
savings	28.000,00		
cash	145,85	profit	27.542,62
	<u>227.542,62</u>		<u>227.542,62</u>

font changing commands like `\mathsf` and `\mathbf` act on an argument, hence require braces, but these are already provided internally for this purpose. For that reason this type of commands must be given last, without braces (and if you don't specify a font changing command, these extra internal braces are just redundant). The fourth argument to the new `columntype` may consist of two parts, separated

**Table 4:** Almost verbatim version of Example Table 3.

```
\newcolumntype{q}[1]{F.,{3,2}{#1}}
\begin{table}[htb]
\caption{Example Table with column formatting.} \label{tab:fformat}
\begin{tabular}{@{}lq{\color{blue}\mathsf,\mathbf}lq{\color{magenta}}@{}}
\multicolumn{4{@{}c@{}}}{\bfseries Balance sheet}\\
\toprule
properties & \leeg{31 dec 2014} & & debts & \leeg{31 dec 2014}\\
...
... (Same financial contents as in Table 1.)
...
\end{tabular}
\end{table}
```

by a comma. In that case, the part to the left of the comma is applied to the data entered by the user and the right part, if non-empty, is the replacement formatting for the result. The example in Table 3 shows this: the bold font is only used in the `\sumline` and there is no colour specification, so that's back to the default (black). If you want formatting for the whole column, like magenta in the case of the last column of Table 3, leave out the comma. Font size changes, e.g., “`\huge`” in “`\huge\mathbf`” as parameter to column type `q` are ignored by L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, since the formatting information is used in math environment, which has its own way of handling this. This isn't bad, as size changes in one column, without overall changes to the table look terrible. If you want something huge, make a `\huge` table.

As will be demonstrated by Table 5 in the next page break, the package `fcolum` now also works with `longtable` [4], irrespective of the order in which these packages are loaded. The raw formatting of the multipage table is shown in Table 6. For more information on how to handle `\endhead` and its ilk, see the documentation of `longtable` [4]. Not shown here are the new `fcolum` formatting possibilities (like new fonts and/or colours), but it has been checked they do work in combination with `longtable`. The packages `supertabular` [5] and `fcolum` also work happily together, so you can choose which package you want if you need this. There is no race condition with `supertabular` either.

**Table 5:** Table showing compatibility of `fcolum` and `longtable`.

Balance sheet			
properties	31 dec 2014	debts	31 dec 2014
house	200.000,00	equity capital	50.000,00
bank account	−603,23	mortgage	150.000,00
savings 1	7.000,00		
savings 2	7.000,00		

*(Table continues on next page)*

**Table 5:** (continued from previous page)

properties	31 dec 2014	debts	31 dec 2014
savings 3	7.000,00		
savings 4	7.000,00		
cash	145,85	profit	27.542,62
	<u>227.542,62</u>		<u>227.542,62</u>

**Table 6:** Almost verbatim version of Example Table 5.

```

\begin{longtable}[l]{@{}lflf@{}}
\caption{Table showing compatibility of fcolumn and
  longtable.\label{tab:fclong}}\
\multicolumn{4}{@{}c@{}}{\bfseries Balance sheet}\
\toprule
properties & \leeg{31 dec 2014} & debts & \leeg{31 dec 2014}\
\midrule
\endfirsthead
\caption[]{\textit{(continued from previous page)}}\
\toprule
properties & \leeg{31 dec 2014} & debts & \leeg{31 dec 2014}\
\midrule
\endhead
\bottomrule
\multicolumn{4}{@{}r@{}}{\small\textit{(Table continues on
  next page)}}\
\endfoot
\bottomrule
\endlastfoot
house & 200000 & & equity capital & 50000 & \
...
... (Somewhat altered financial contents compared to
... Table 1 to demonstrate the page break.)
...
\sumline
\end{longtable}

```

Unlike in the package `dcolumn` [3], the alignment on the decimal mark in `fcolumn` is achieved by right aligning numbers that all have the same number of digits to the right of this mark, in combination with the fact that all decimal glyphs have the same width\*. This width is font specific, so changing fonts within a column may ruin the alignment, see, e.g., the first F-column in Table 3.

## 2 Commands

The user only needs to know five commands and two options; these are given here.

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\* The so-called tabular numerals. If the font you use has proportional numerals, the alignment won't work in general.

**F** In the tabular the column specifier **F** can be given with arguments, or the predefined version **f**, where the four arguments of **F** are `.`, `,`, `{3,2}`, and `{}`. If you want **g** to be your own definition like the curious one given in Section 1, then specify `\newcolumnntype{g}{F\,\cdot{4p3}{}}` prior to using **g** in a tabular.

Entries in an **F**-column are, from that moment on, treated as numbers unless explicitly escaped by `\leeg`, see below. The numbers are typeset according to the template the user gives with his/her **F**-column. The “middle” character of **#3** is an important switch: it does more than just setting the input decimal mark. By default the input grouping character is the dot, except when the dot is specified as input decimal mark; in that case the comma is acting as input grouping character. With this convention continental Europe and the Anglo-Saxon part of the world are served. This is hard coded, but using input grouping characters is optional anyway.

*(End of definition for F.)*

`\sumline` The numbers in an **F**-column are typeset as a financial amount, but the real benefit comes with the `\sumline`. It does three things:

- 1) It calculates and shows the total of the column so far and the maximum width encountered so far, including the width of the total;
- 2) It generates a rule with width calculated in the first item;
- 3) It checks the columns that are supposed to balance whether or not they actually do. If so, nothing happens. Otherwise a `\PackageWarning` is given that column *i* and *j* do not balance, where *i* and *j* are the relevant columns. This is only done automatically if the total number of **F**-columns is even, e.g., if there are six **F**-columns, then 1 is checked against 4, 2 against 5, and 3 against 6. If the number of **F**-columns is odd then anything could be possible in that table and nothing is assumed about structure within the table. This behaviour can be overridden, see below.

By default the vertical separation between the rule and the total is 2pt, but this can be changed by the optional argument to `\sumline`. Give, e.g., `\sumline[10pt]`, in case you want this spacing to be 10pt. And you may even give two options, like in `\sumline[10pt][5pt]`, in which the second option is the extra space below the summary row. In fact that second option is parsed to `\`, that is implicit in `\sumline`.

*(End of definition for \sumline.)*

`\resetsumline` Suppose you want to typeset one tabular with the profit-and-loss of many projects individually. In case the layout of those tabulars is similar it were nice if all columns were aligned. This can be done by making it one big tabular with a fresh start for each project. The macro `\resetsumline` is used for that: it resets all totals and all column widths, see for example Table 7. Note that the rules in the first and third **F**-columns of Project 1 cover 1.200,00 whereas in Project 2 those rules are narrower since they only cover 430,00; still the columns are aligned (similar story for **F**-columns two and four). The verbatim way of setting up Table 7 is given in Table 8.

*(End of definition for \resetsumline.)*

`\leeg` If an **F**-column should be empty then simply leave it empty. If, however, it is not empty but the entry should be treated as text—even if it is a number—, this can be done with `\leeg`. It expects an argument and this argument is typeset in the

**Table 7:** Example: multiple projects.

Project 1					
expense	actual	budget	income	actual	budget
food	450,20	500,00	tickets	1.200,00	1.000,00
drinks	547,50	400,00			
music	180,00	100,00			
profit	22,30				
	<u>1.200,00</u>	<u>1.000,00</u>		<u>1.200,00</u>	<u>1.000,00</u>

  

Project 2					
expense	actual	budget	income	actual	budget
food	250,00	300,00	tickets	400,00	450,00
drinks	100,00	80,00			
music	80,00	70,00	loss	30,00	
	<u>430,00</u>	<u>450,00</u>		<u>430,00</u>	<u>450,00</u>

column. The common case is where p.m. (*pro memoria*) is entered or in column headers.

(End of definition for \leeg.)

\checkfcolumns The automatic column balance check can also be done manually. If F-columns 1 and 4 should balance and you want them to be checked, then simply say \checkfcolumns14. With more than nine F-columns you may be forced to say

**Table 8:** Verbatim version of Table 7.

```
\begin{table}[htb]
\caption{Example: multiple projects.} \label{tab:fcmult}
\begin{tabular}{@{}lfff@{}}
\multicolumn{6}{@{}c@{}}{\bfseries Project~1}\\
\toprule
expense & \leeg{actual} & \leeg{budget} & & & \\
income & \leeg{actual} & \leeg{budget} & & & \\
\midrule
food & 450,20 & 500 & tickets & 1200 & 1000 \\
drinks & 547,5 & 400 & & & \\
music & 180 & 100 & & & \\
profit & 22,3 & & & & \\
\sumline[2pt][10pt]
\resetsumline
\multicolumn{6}{@{}c@{}}{\bfseries Project~2}\\
\toprule
expense & \leeg{actual} & \leeg{budget} & & & \\
income & \leeg{actual} & \leeg{budget} & & & \\
\midrule
food & 250 & 300 & tickets & 400 & 450 \\
drinks & 100 & 80 & & & \\
music & 80 & 70 & loss & 30 & \\
\sumline
\bottomrule
\end{tabular}
\end{table}
```

something like `\checkfcolumns{10}{12}`. If `\checkfcolumns` is used, the automatic check is disabled. Multiple `\checkfcolumnss` are supported; if F-columns 1, 2, and 3 should balance, you specify `\checkfcolumns12` and `\checkfcolumns23`. There is no explicit command to disable all checking, but `\checkfcolumns11` obviously does the trick, at the expense of some trivial calculations.  
(End of definition for `\checkfcolumns`.)

`\ifstrict@ccounting`  
`\ifminusr@d`

In the rare occasion that a negative number occurs in a financial table, the sign of that number can be an explicit minus sign, i.e., ‘-’ or the number is coloured red, or it is typeset between parentheses, and there may be even other ways. By default (for aesthetic reasons) `fcolumn` typesets it with a minus sign, but strict accounting prescribes that the number should be put between parentheses. The latter can be accomplished by setting `\strict@ccountingtrue`, but since this contains a non-letter, it is more L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X-like to invoke `fcolumn` with the option `strict`, i.e., `\usepackage[strict]{fcolumn}`, which sets this flag. If you want the negative numbers to be coloured red, use the option `red`, i.e., `\usepackage[red]{fcolumn}`, but note that `strict` and `red` are mutually exclusive: if both are used, `red` is reset because `strict` is strict.  
(End of definition for `\ifstrict@ccounting` and `\ifminusr@d`.)

### 3 Tagging

Additional code for making tagged PDF [6] is available via `array`. In `fcolumn` only one tagging-related line is present: the math-tagging is switched off in the F-columns of a `tabular` environment, since the math there is fake math.

## 4 The macros

Here follows the actual code; most users will stop reading here, but some examples that may be interesting are presented below. Previous versions can be loaded for not-up-to-date systems, but v1.4.3, v1.4.5, and v1.4.6 are lacking here: v1.4.3 had a severe bug and v1.4.5 didn’t do what it promised. Version 1.4.6 was almost good; it had a bug, but that one hardly ever caused problems.

```
1 \DeclareRelease{v1.4.2}{2023-07-25}{fcolumn-2023-07-25.sty}
2 \DeclareRelease{v1.4.4}{2026-01-16}{fcolumn-2026-01-16.sty}
3 \DeclareCurrentRelease{v1.5}{2026-06-02}
4 \NeedsTeXFormat{LaTeX2e}[2026/06/01]
```

### 4.1 Options

`option_red`  
`option_strict`

There are two options. If `red` is set, negative numbers are displayed in red. If `strict` is set, strict accounting rules are used in display and this overrules a possibly set `red`. Depending on the two booleans associated with these options the color package [7] will be loaded or not.

```
5 \newif\ifminusr@d \minusr@dfalse
6 \newif\ifstrict@ccounting \strict@ccountingfalse
7 \DeclareOption{red}{\minusr@dtrue}
8 \DeclareOption{strict}{\strict@ccountingtrue}
9 \ProcessOptions \ifminusr@d \ifstrict@ccounting \minusr@dfalse
10 \PackageWarningNoLine{fcolumn}{Option ‘red’ is reset due to use
```

```
11 of 'strict')\else\usepackage{color}\fi\fi
```

(End of definition for option *red* and option *strict*.)

## 4.2 Definitions

`column_F` The column specifier **F** is the generic one, and **f** is the default (continental European) one for easy use. Note that the definition of the column type **f** does not use private macros (no `@`), so overriding its definition is easy for a user.

```
12 \newcolumnntype{F}[4]{>{\b@fi{#1}{#2}{#3}{#4}}r<{\e@fi}}
13 \newcolumnntype{f}{F.,{3,2}{}}
```

(End of definition for column *F* and column *f*.)

`\FCsc@1` Two `<count>`s are defined, that both start at zero: the `<count>` `\FCsc@1`, that keeps track at which F-column the tabular is working on and the `<count>` `\FCtc@1`, that records the number of F-columns that were encountered so far in the document. Later in the package the code can be found for generating a new `<count>` and a new `<dimen>` if the number of requested F-columns is larger than currently available. This is of course the case when an F-column is used for the first time.

```
14 \newcount\FCsc@1 \FCsc@1=0 \newcount\FCtc@1 \FCtc@1=0
```

(End of definition for `\FCsc@1` and `\FCtc@1`.)

`\geldm@cro` The macro `\geldm@cro` takes a number and by default interprets this as an amount expressed in cents (dollar cents, euro cents, centen, Pfennige, centimes, kopecks, groszy) and typesets it as the amount in entire currency units (dollars, euros, guldens, Marke, francs, rubles, zloty) with comma as decimal mark and the dot as grouping character (thousand separator if the first part of `#1` is 3). As explained, this can be changed. It uses three private booleans: `\ifwiths@p`, `\ifstrict@ccounting`, and `\ifminus@d`. The latter two are used to typeset negative numbers in a special way. By default it doesn't do this: a minus sign is used.

```
15 \newif\ifwiths@p
```

Actually `\geldm@cro` is only a wrapper around `\g@ldm@cro`.

```
16 \def\geldm@cro#1#2{\withs@pfalse
17 \afterassignment\g@ldm@cro\count@#1\relax{#2}}
```

(End of definition for `\geldm@cro`.)

`\g@ldm@cro` After setting the environment for formatting, this macro starts by looking at the sign of `#2`: if it is negative, it prints the correct indicator (a parenthesis, a minus sign, or nothing at all in case of *red*), assigns the absolute value of `#2` to `\count2` and goes on. Note that `\geldm@cro` and therefore `\g@ldm@cro` are always used within `$s`, so it is really a minus sign that is printed, not a hyphen. All calculations are done with `\count0`, `\count1`, etc., i.e., without F-column-specific `<count>`s because it is all done locally. Leaving the tabular environment will restore their values. This is also true for the effect of `\FCform@t`, so that formatting information is local to this column. The reason for inserting the `{` between `\FCform@t` and `\ifnum` (and the accompanying `}` just before finishing this definition) is to facilitate the possible use of `\mathbf` or any other font changing command as the last item in `\FCform@t`.



When `\FCform@t` includes a colour change, this is overruled for negative numbers when option `red` is set. For that reason it is unwise to use a red colour for the whole column in combination with the option `red`: sign information is obscured then.

```

18 \def\g@ldm@cro#1\relax#2{\ifstrict@ccounting\def\bm@nus{()}
19 \def\em@nus{}}\else\def\em@nus{\ifminusr@d\def\bm@nus{\color{red}}
20 \else\def\bm@nus{-}\fi\fi\FCform@t{\ifnum#2<0 \bm@nus\count2=-#2
21 \else\count2=#2 \fi

```

Calculate the entire currency units: this is the result of  $x/a$  as integer division, with  $a = 10^n$  and  $n$  the part of `#1` after the separator (if any). Here the first character of `#1` is discarded, so the separator in `#1` is not strict: you could also specify 3.2 instead of 3,2 (or even 3p2).

```

22 \count4=\ifx\relax#1\relax 2 \else\@gobble#1\relax\fi
23 \count3=0
24 \loop\ifnum\count3<\count4
25 \divide\count2 by 10 \advance\count3 by \@ne
26 \repeat

```

Note that `\count3` now equals `\count4`: this going up-and-down will be used more often, it saves several assignments. The value in `\count2` is then output by `\g@ldens` using the separation given (and stored in `\count@`).

```

27 \g@ldens{\the\count@}%

```

If there is a decimal part...

```

28 \ifnum\count3>0 {\decim@lmark}

```

Next the decimal part is dealt with. Now  $x \bmod a$  is calculated in the usual way:  $x - (x/a) * a$  with integer division. The minus sign necessary for this calculation is introduced in the next line by changing the comparison from `<` to `>`.

```

29 \ifnum#2>0 \count2=-#2\else\count2=#2 \fi
30 \loop\ifnum\count3>0
31 \divide\count2 by 10 \advance\count3 by \m@ne
32 \repeat

```

The value of `\count3` is now 0, so counting up again.

```

33 \loop\ifnum\count3<\count4
34 \multiply\count2 by 10 \advance\count3 by \@ne
35 \repeat
36 \ifnum#2>0 \advance\count2 by #2
37 \else \advance\count2 by -#2
38 \fi
39 \zerop@d{\number\count3}{\number\count2}%
40 \fi

```

If the negative number is indicated by putting it between parentheses, then the closing parenthesis should stick out of the column, otherwise the alignment of this entry in the column is wrong. This is done by an `\rlap` and therefore does not influence the column width. For the rightmost column this means that this parenthesis may even stick out of the table. I don't like this, therefore I chose to put `\strict@ccountingfalse`. Change if you like, by setting the option `strict`.

If overflow was detected, an exclamation mark is output to the right of the value that caused this. This of course ruins the appearance of the table, but in this case that serves a clear goal: there's something wrong and you should know.

```

41 \ifx\FCs@gn\m@ne\ifnum#2<0 \rlap{\em@nus~!}
42 \else\rlap{\phantom{\em@nus}~!}\fi
43 \else\ifnum#2<0 \rlap{\em@nus}\fi\fi}}

```

(End of definition for \g@ldm@cro.)

**\g@ldens** Here the whole currency units are dealt with. The macro **\g@ldens** is used recursively, therefore the double braces; this allows to use **\count0** locally. This also implies that tail recursion is not possible here, but that is not very important, as the largest number (which is  $2^{31} - 1$ ) will only cause a threefold recursion using the default 3,2 (ninefold when using 1,0, but who does that?). The largest amount this package can deal with is therefore 2.147.483.647 (using 3,0). For most people this is probably more than enough if the currency is euros or dollars. And otherwise clearly state that you use a currency unit of k€ (or even M€ for the very rich).

There is no obvious interpretation of #1 being zero or negative, therefore this is used as an indicator that no grouping character should be used.

```

44 \def\g@ldens#1{{\count3=\count2 \count0=#1

```

First divide by  $10^n$ , where  $n$  is #1.

```

45 \ifnum\count0<1 \count0=3 \fi
46 \loop \ifnum\count0>0 \divide\count2 by 10 \advance\count0 by \m@ne
47 \repeat

```

Here is the recursive part,

```

48 \ifnum\count2>0 \g@ldens{#1}\fi

```

and then reconstruct the rest of the number.

```

49 \count0=#1
50 \ifnum\count0<1 \count0=3 \fi
51 \loop \ifnum\count0>0 \multiply\count2 by 10 \advance\count0 by \m@ne
52 \repeat
53 \count2=-\count2
54 \advance\count2 by \count3 \du@zendprint{#1}}

```

(End of definition for \g@ldens.)

**\du@zendprint** The macro **\du@zendprint** takes care of correctly printing the separator and possible trailing zeros. The former, however, is only done if #1 is larger than zero.

```

55 \def\du@zendprint#1{\ifwiths@p\ifnum#1>0 {\separator}\fi
56 \zerop@d{#1}{\number\count2}%
57 \else\zerop@d1{\number\count2}\fi\global\withs@ptrue}

```

(End of definition for \du@zendprint.)

**\zerop@d** The macro **\zerop@d** uses at least #1 digits for printing the number #2, padding with zeros when necessary. Note: #1 being zero or negative is a flag that it should be interpreted as 3. A bit ugly, but it works, since the related code knows about this.

It is done within an extra pair of braces, so that **\count0** and **\count1** can be used without disturbing their values in other macros.

```

58 \def\zerop@d#1#2{{\count0=1 \count1=#2

```

First determine the number of digits of #2 (expressed in the decimal system). This number is in \count0 and is at least 1.

```
59 \loop \divide \count1 by 10 \ifnum\count1>0 \advance\count0 by \@ne
60 \repeat
```

If #1 is positive, the number of zeros to be padded is the maximum of 0 and #1-\count0 (the latter can be negative), so a simple loop suffices. If it is zero or negative, this is a signal that it should be interpreted as 3 (and no separator will be output).

```
61 \ifnum#1>0 \loop\ifnum\count0<#1\relax 0\advance\count0 by \@ne
62 \repeat\else\advance\count0 by -3
63 \loop\ifnum\count0<0 0\advance\count0 by \@ne \repeat
64 \fi\number#2}}
```

(End of definition for \zerop@d.)

\zetg@ld This macro takes care of several things: it increases the subtotal for a given F-column, it checks whether or not that subtotal has overflown, it records the largest width of the entries in that column and it typesets #1 via \geldm@cro.

```
65 \def\zetg@ld#1#2{\count0=#2\relax \let\FCs@gn=\@ne
```

First it checks whether there is a risk of overflow in this step. If  $A$  and  $B$  are two  $\text{\TeX}$ -registers and  $B$  is to be added to  $A$ , overflow cannot occur if 1) one is (or both are) zero or 2) if  $A$  and  $B$  have different signs; otherwise be careful. Note that  $\text{\TeX}$  does not check for overflow when performing an \advance (done in section 1238 of Ref. [8]), in contrast to \multiply, see section 105.

```
66 \ifnum\count0<0 \ifnum\csname FCtot@\romannumeral\FCsc@l\endcsname<0
67 \let\FCs@gn=\m@ne \fi\fi
68 \ifnum\count0>0 \ifnum\csname FCtot@\romannumeral\FCsc@l\endcsname>0
69 \let\FCs@gn=\m@ne \fi\fi
70 \global\advance\csname FCtot@\romannumeral\FCsc@l\endcsname by \count0
71 \ifx\FCs@gn\m@ne
```

They had the same sign, hence risk of overflow. Record the sign of \count0 (and of the original total of this column; we just established they were the same) in \FCs@gn. Table 9 shows what can go wrong if the numbers are too large: in the

**Table 9:** Examples on overflow.

	<b>Projects</b>		
income	31 dec 2014	31 dec 2015	31 dec 2016
item 1	20.000.000,00	20.000.000,00	20.000.000,00
item 2	10.000.000,00 !	2.000.000,00 !	-1.500.000,00
item 3	5.000.000,00	-1.500.000,00 !	2.000.000,00
	<u>-7.949.672,96</u>	<u>20.500.000,00</u>	<u>20.500.000,00</u>

left F-column the sumline is incorrect and the number that caused the overflow is indicated by an exclamation mark. In the middle F-column, overflow occurs twice and because this is once positive, once negative here, cancellation of errors occurs and the sumline is correct in the end. Nevertheless, it is advised to swap the two items that caused the overflow, as shown in the right F-column.

Check that the sign of the updated column total is still correct. If so, `\FCs@gn` is reset (to `\@ne`) at the end of this chunk.

```

72 \ifnum\count0>0 \let\FCs@gn\@ne \fi
73 \count0=\csname FCtot@\romannumeral\FCsc@l\endcsname
74 \ifnum\FCs@gn<0 \count0=-\count0 \fi
75 \ifnum\count0<0
76 \let\FCs@gn=\m@ne
77 \PackageError{fcolumn}{Register overflow}{Overflow occurred in
78 fcolumn \number\FCsc@l\space near or at line \the\inputlineno.
79 You can press\MessageBreak <enter> now and I'll proceed, but
80 check your table. The offending entry\MessageBreak is indicated
81 with an exclamation mark in the output.}%
82 \else\let\FCs@gn=\@ne
83 \fi
84 \fi

```

The value of `\FCs@gn` is used in `\geldm@cro` below.

```

85 \setbox0=\hbox{${\geldm@cro{#1}{#2}}$}%
86 \ifdim\wd0>\csname FCwd@\romannumeral\FCsc@l\endcsname
87 \global\csname FCwd@\romannumeral\FCsc@l\endcsname=\wd0
88 \fi\unhbox0}

```

(End of definition for `\zetg@ld`.)

The `\count`s `\FC@l` and `\FC@r` capture the parts to the left and to the right of the decimal mark, respectively.

```

89 \newcount\FC@l \newcount\FC@r

```

Some auxiliary definitions for capturing compacted information.

```

90 \def\setucc@de#1#2\relax{\uccode'\-='#1 }
91 \def\assignform@t#1,#2,#3\assignform@t{\def\FCform@t{#1}%
92 \def\FCform@tt{#2}\ifx\FCform@tt\@empty \def\FCform@tt{#1}\fi}

```

`\m@thcodeswitch` As will be shown below, once the first digit, or sign, or decimal mark, or grouping character is scanned, the decimal digits should lose their activeness. That is done here for the digits in a rather blunt way, by putting their `\mathcodes` to zero if `#1` equals 0, since the actual `\mathcode` is not important—as long as it is not "8000—because the digits are not used for typesetting. (And even if they were; it's inside `\box0`, whose contents will be discarded.) When the `$` in `\e@fi` is encountered, the digits get back their original `\mathcodes` so that the actual typesetting in `\zetg@ld` is correct again. With a non-zero `#1` the activeness is switched on.

```

93 \def\m@thcodeswitch#1{\count0=10 \loop\ifnum\count0>0
94 \advance\count0 by \m@ne\mathcode\expandafter'\the\count0=
95 \ifnum#1=0 0 \else "8000 \fi\repeat}

```

(End of definition for `\m@thcodeswitch`.)

`\b@fi` The macro `\b@fi` provides the beginning of the financial column. It will be inserted in the column to capture the number entered by the user. The separator and decimal mark are within a math environment, so you can indeed specify `\`, instead of `\thinspace`, but there are extra braces around them in the code where they

are used, so it doesn't affect the spacing between the digits (trick copied from `dcolumn`, Ref. [3]).

```

96 \def\b@fi#1#2#3#4{\sep@xt#1\sep@xt\def\decim@lmark{#2}\def\sp@l{#3}
97 \assignform@t#4,,\assignform@t\global\advance\FCsc@l by \@ne
98 \global\FC@l=0 \global\FC@r=1

```

The next statement is missing in `\@array` (see section 4.5) for good reasons; it indicates to the tagging engine that what follows is fake math, not to be tagged. But for `fcolumn` that's exactly what's going on, so include it here, but only in columns with specifier F, i.e., in the current macro.

```

99 \m@th

```

The value specified by the user is then captured by `\FC@l` and this is done in a special way: `\FC@l` is assigned globally within `\box0`. Why? To use it as scribbling paper to examine what the user entered, without dumping it into the horizontal list.

There are four parts to an F-column entry, all parts optional, making 16 combinations. The sequence is (in the Backus–Naur notation of Ref. [9]): `<sign>` `<integer constant>` `<decimal mark>` `<integer constant>`. Here `<sign>` is a plus or minus character with category code 12, `<integer constant>` is a sequence of zero or more (decimal) `<digit>`s, and `<decimal mark>` is the middle part of `#3`, i.e., the comma in `3,2` or the period in `3.2`. If the `<decimal mark>` is absent with no space characters between the two `<integer constant>` terms, these merge, making four redundant entries. One of the combinations is `<empty>`, a sequence of characters outside the ones that are made active, e.g., plain text or nothing at all: this is the only combination that doesn't put anything in an F-column—and was the most difficult part to handle.

The minus sign must be captured separately, because in an entry like `-0,07` the 7 cents are negative, but this cannot be seen from the part to the left of the decimal mark, since `-0` is 0 in T<sub>E</sub>X (in fact in most computer languages, but not in MIX [10]), so `\ifnum-0<0` yields `false`. `\FCs@gn` is a general purpose flag. Its first use is to capture the sign.

```

100 \let\FCs@gn=\@ne\relax \setbox0\hbox\bgroup$

```

Do the scan inside a box and inside math mode. Start with defining all characters that may appear as the first one in an F-column as active; digits first. This needs a complicated `\edef` with accompanying `\noexpand` because the starting digit for `\FC@l` must be packed inside each definition.

```

101 \count@=10 \loop\ifnum\count@>0 \advance\count@ by \m@ne
102 \uccode'\-=\expandafter'\the\count@ \uppercase{\edef~}{\noexpand
103 \m@thcodeswitch0 \global\FC@l=\the\count@}\repeat

```

For the input decimal mark something extra is needed: if it is the first character in an F-column (like in `,07`), it should also restore the `\mathcodes` of the digits. Checking whether or not it is the first is easy, since in that case the `\mathcodes` of the decimal digits are still "8000. The assignment to `\FC@r` starts with 1 (with no space following), so that appended digits get captured correctly, even if they start with 0; postprocessing of `\FC@r` is done in `\e@fi`. The input decimal mark switches itself off as active character, so at most one input decimal mark is allowed (N.B.: this makes sense).

```

104 \afterassignment\setucc@de\count@#3\relax

```

```

105 \uppercase{\def~}{\ifnum\mathcode'\0="8000 \m@thcodeswitch0 \fi
106 \afterassignment\deactdecm@rk\count@#3\relax \global\FC@r=1}

```

The input grouping character effectively expands to “nothing, i.e., ignore” in a complicated way: it ignores the character and resumes scanning the number. The test prior to that action is needed if the grouping character is the first character encountered in the F-column. Which part to continue with depends on whether or not an input decimal mark was encountered; that can be checked by looking at its `\mathcode`.

The input grouping character is the dot “.”, except when that character was already chosen as input decimal mark. In that case, the grouping character will be the comma. This is easy to check because the `\uccode` of `'\~` is still preserved.

```

107 \ifnum\uccode'\~='.\uccode'\~=',\relax\else \uccode'\~='.\relax\fi
108 \uppercase{\def~}{\ifnum\mathcode'\0="8000 \m@thcodeswitch0 \fi
109 \afterassignment\d@cm\count@#3\relax

```

The `\expandafter` below is necessary because the global assignment should act after the `\fi`.

```

110 \ifnum\count@=\mathcode'- \expandafter\global\FC@l=\the\FC@l
111 \else \expandafter\global\FC@r=\the\FC@r\fi}%

```

The signs are relatively simple: record the sign, restore `\mathcodes` if needed (it should be: a minus sign between digits screws up everything), and start scanning the number.

```

112 \uccode'\~='+\relax \uppercase{\def~}{\ifnum\mathcode'\0="8000
113 \m@thcodeswitch0 \fi\global\FC@l=0}
114 \uccode'\~='-\relax \uppercase{\def~}{\ifnum\mathcode'\0="8000
115 \m@thcodeswitch0 \fi\global\let\FCs@gn@m@ne \global\FC@l=0}

```

Now actually activate all these codes.

```

116 \mathcode'-'="8000 \mathcode'+'="8000 \mathcode'.'"="8000

```

These three remain active until the `$` in `\e@fi` is encountered. The following ones will, except in the `<empty>` case, have their activeness turned off at some time.

```

117 \m@thcodeswitch1 \afterassignment\actdecm@rk\count@#3\relax}

```

*(End of definition for \b@fi.)*

`\sep@xt` Again a few small macros to do important work. At first `\sep@xt` to extract the first character of `#1`, which in most cases will be the only character. Then `\actdecm@rk` and `\deactdecm@rk` to activate and deactivate respectively the decimal mark. Finally, `\d@cm` captures a `\mathcode` for further investigation.

```

118 \def\sep@xt#1#2\sep@xt{\def\sep@rator{#1}}
119 \def\actdecm@rk#1#2\relax{\ifx#1.\relax \mathcode',="8000
120 \else \mathcode'#1="8000 \fi}
121 \def\deactdecm@rk#1#2\relax{\mathcode'#1=0 }%
122 \def\d@cm#1#2{\count@=\mathcode'#1 }

```

*(End of definition for \sep@xt and others.)*

`\e@fi` If the digits are still active then either nothing, or only characters that did not deactivate the digits were entered. In both cases the output should be `<empty>`. To flag this situation outside the group that started with the opening `$` of `\b@fi`, `\FC@r` is set globally to a negative value. This doesn't harm, because it didn't contain relevant information anyway. Outside the group, the sign of `\FC@r` can be tested then. This is a slight misuse of this `\count`, but now it's documented. In effect, `\FC@r` can only be  $-1$ ,  $1$ , or at least  $10$ , so the comparison `\ifnum\FC@r>0` does not miss  $0$ .

```

123 \def\e@fi{\ifnum\mathcode'\0="8000 \global\FC@r=\m@ne\fi$\egroup
124 \ifnum\FC@r>0

```

If there was no decimal mark or if there was a decimal mark but no decimal part, `\FC@r` will still be  $1$ , which doesn't parse well with `\secd@xt`, so a zero is appended, i.e., yielding  $10$ .

```

125 \ifnum\FC@r=1 \FC@r=10 \fi

```

Next is a loop for bringing the decimal part in the correct way to the integer part. This loop is performed the number of decimal digits to be printed (the  $2$  in `3,2` of the default setting). The higher this number is, e.g.,  $6$  when `3,6` is chosen as `#3`—but who does that?—, the lower the maximum initial value for `\FC@l` can be, before a low-level  $\TeX$  arithmetic overflow will occur, so don't overdo it.

```

126 \afterassignment\i@ts\count@\sp@l
127 \loop\ifnum\count0>0 \multiply\FC@l by 10 \expandafter\secd@xt
128 \number\FC@r\secd@xt \advance\count0 by \m@ne \repeat

```

This also means that if more decimal digits than this are provided, the excess digit(s) will not be handled. This is truncation, not rounding! If all truncated digits are zero, this truncation is exact and they are silently ignored, see the example Table 10, that was created with `@{}l\df1@{}` (`d` for centering on the

**Table 10:** Truncating excess digits.

composer	raw entry	debt	remark
Berg	123,450	123,45	silently ignoring digit “0”
Eisler	234,563	234,56	warning: digit “3” ignored
Schönberg	345,6704	345,67	warning: digits “04” ignored
Webern	2,3456	2,34	warning: digits “56” ignored, i.e., without rounding this entry to 2,35
		$\overline{706,02}$	

decimal mark [3]) as tabular key. If, however, at least one of them is not zero, a `\PackageWarning` will be given, showing the discarded digit(s). There is nothing magical about the constant  $19$  below: it is simply the concatenation of  $1$  and the largest decimal digit. The smallest next value that `\FC@r` can have is  $100$ , so all values from  $19$  up to and including  $99$  would have worked here.

```

129 \ifnum\expandafter@gobble\number\FC@r>0
130 \PackageWarning{fcolumn}{Excess digit\ifnum\FC@r>19 s\fi\space
131 ‘‘\expandafter\tw@l\number\FC@r\relax’’ in decimal part
132 \MessageBreak ignored near or}
133 \fi

```

Don't forget to correct for the sign (once this is done, `\FCs@gn` is free again and can and will be used for other purposes). Then output the result.

```
134 \ifx\FCs@gn\m@ne\relax\FC@l=-\FC@l\fi\zetgld{\sp@l}{\FC@l}\fi}
```

(End of definition for `\e@fi`.)

`\i@ts` Macro `\e@fi` uses two very tiny macros, given here. In previous versions these were defined inside `\e@fi`, so they also got undefined when `\e@fi` ended. The current solution makes execution a bit faster.

```
\tw@l 135 \def\i@ts#1#2{\count0=#2} \def\tw@l#1#2\relax{#2}
```

(End of definition for `\i@ts` and `\tw@l`.)

`\secd@xt` The second digit from the left is needed from a string of characters representing a decimal number (that should be at least 10 and start with a 1, but that is guaranteed by `\e@fi`). The macro `\secd@xt` extracts that digit, which is then added to `\FC@l`. A new number is assigned to `\FC@r`, that consists of the digits of `#1#2`, unless `#2` was empty; in that case 10 is assigned. In this way `\FC@r` is prepared for insertion in the next invocation of `\secd@xt`. In iterating: 1234 yields 134, yields 14, yields 10, stays 10, etc.

```
136 \def\secd@xt#1#2\secd@xt{\advance\FC@l by #1
137 \FC@r=#1#2 \ifnum\FC@r=1 \FC@r=10 \fi}
```

(End of definition for `\secd@xt`.)

### 4.3 The sumline, close to a postamble

`\@mksumline` The construction of the sumline is much easier than that of the preamble (see Section 4.5) for several reasons. It may be safely assumed that the preamble specifier is grammatically correct because it has already been screened by `\@mkpream`. Furthermore, most entries will simply add nothing to `\s@ml@ne`, e.g., `@`, `!`, and `|` can be fully ignored. Ampersands are only inserted by `c`, `l`, `r`, `p`, `m`, and `b`. So, if `\x` is a macro that prints the desired result of the column (see below), then a specifier like `lflf` will yield the sumline `&\x&\x\`. Had the specifier been `l|f||@{ }l|f`, then the same sumline must be constructed: all difficulties are already picked up and solved in the creation of the preamble.

In reality the sumline must be constructed from the expanded form of the specifier, so `@{}l f@{ }` will expand as `@{}l>{\b@fi.,{3,2}{}}r<{\e@fi}@{ }`. The rules for constructing the

- add an ampersand when `c`, `l`, `r`, `p`, `m`, or `b` is found, unless it is the first one (this is the same as in the preamble);
- add a `\x` when `<{\e@fi}` is found;
- ignore everything else;
- close with a `\`.

(For completeness' sake it should be mentioned that prior to the `\` also the column check is inserted, see `\aut@check`.)

To discriminate, a special version of `\@testpach` [1] could be written, but that is not necessary: `\@testpach` can do all the work, although much of it will be discarded. Here speed is sacrificed for space and this can be afforded because the creation of the sumline is done only once per `tabular` or `longtable`.

The start is copied from `\@mkpream`.

```
138 \def\@mksumline#1{\gdef\s@ml@ne{}\@lastchclass=4 \@firstampttrue
```



At first the column number is reset and the actual code for what was called `\x` above is made inactive.

```
139 \FCsc@l=\z@\let\pr@r@sult=\relax
```

Then `\@mkpream` is picked up again.

```
140 \@temptokena{#1}\@tempswatrue\@whiles\if@tempswa\fi{\@tempswafalse
141 \the\NC@list}\count0\m@ne\let\the@toks\relax\prepnext@tok
```

Next is the loop over all tokens in the expanded form of the specifier. The change with respect to `\@mkpream` is that the body of the loop is now only dealing with F-classes 0, 2, and 10. What to do in those cases is of course different from what to do when constructing the preamble, so special definitions are created, see below.

```
142 \expandafter\@tfor\expandafter\@nextchar\expandafter:\expandafter=\the
143 \@temptokena\do{\@testpach\ifcase\@chclass\@classfz\or\or\@classfii\or
144 \or\or\or\or\or\or\or\or\@classfx\fi\@lastchclass\@chclass}%
```

And the macro is finished by applying the `\aut@check` and appending the `\@` to the sumline. Note that the `\aut@check` is performed *in* the last column, but since it does not put anything in the horizontal list—it only writes to screen and transcript file—, this is harmless.

```
145 \xdef\s@ml@ne{\s@ml@ne\noexpand\aut@check\noexpand\@}
```

(End of definition for `\@mksumline`.)

`\@addtosumline` Macro `\@addtosumline`, as its name already suggests, adds something to the sumline, like its counterpart `\@addtopreamble` did to the preamble.

```
146 \def\@addtosumline#1{\xdef\s@ml@ne{\s@ml@ne #1}}
```

(End of definition for `\@addtosumline`.)

`\@classfx` Class f10 for the sumline creation is a stripped down version of `\@classx`: add an ampersand unless it is the first. It deals with the specifiers `b`, `m`, `p`, `c`, `l`, and `r`.

```
147 \def\@classfx{\if@firstamp \@firstampfalse \else \@addtosumline &\fi}
```

(End of definition for `\@classfx`.)

`\@classfz` Class f0 is applicable for specifiers `c`, `l`, and `r`, and if the arguments of `p`, `m`, or `b` are given. The latter three cases, with `\@chnum` is 0, 1, or 2 should be ignored and the first three cases are now similar to class f10.

```
148 \def\@classfz{\ifnum\@chnum<\thr@@ \@classfx\fi}
```

(End of definition for `\@classfz`.)

`\@classfii` Here comes the nice and nasty part. Class f2 is applicable if a `<` is specified. This is tested by checking `\@lastchclass`, which should be equal to 8. Then it is checked that the argument to `<` is indeed `\e@fi`. This check is rather clumsy but this was the first way, after many attempts, that worked. It is necessary because the usage of `<` is not restricted to `\e@fi`: the user may have specified other L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X-code using `<`.

```
149 \def\@classfii{\ifnum\@lastchclass=8
150 \edef\t@stm{\expandafter\string\@nextchar}%
151 \edef\t@stn{\string\e@fi}\ifx\t@stm\t@stn
```

If both tests yield `true`, i.e., we encountered a `<\e@fi>` where we expect one to find, then add the macro to typeset everything (this is what was mentioned `\x` above for brevity).

```
152 \addtosumline{\pr@result}%
```

But we're not done yet: in the following lines of code the appropriate `<count>`s and `<dimen>`s are created, if necessary. Note that `\FCsc@1` was set to 0 in the beginning of `\mksumline`, so it is well-defined when `\@classfii` is used.

```
153 \advance\FCsc@1 by \@ne \ifnum\FCsc@1>\FCtc@1
```

Apparently the number of requested columns is larger than the currently available number of relevant `<count>`s and `<dimen>`s, so new ones should be created. What is checked here is merely the existence of `\FCtot@<some romannumeral>`. If it already exists—although it may not even be a `<count>`; that cannot be checked—it is not created by `fcolumn` and an error is given. In case it is a `<count>` you're just lucky, and you could ignore that error, although any change to this `<count>` is global anyway, so things will be overwritten. In the case it is not a `<count>`, things will go haywire and you'll soon find out. The remedy then is to rename your `<count>` prior to `fcolumn` to avoid this name clash.

```
154 \expandafter\ifx\csname FCtot@\romannumeral\FCsc@1\endcsname\relax
155 \expandafter\newcount\csname FCtot@\romannumeral\FCsc@1\endcsname
156 \else
157 \PackageError{fcolumn}{Name clash for <count>}{\expandafter\csname
158 FCtot@\romannumeral\FCsc@1\endcsname is already defined and it may
159 not even be a <count>. If you're\MessageBreak sure it is a <count>,
160 you can press <enter> now and I'll proceed, but things\MessageBreak
161 will get overwritten.}%
162 \fi
```

And the same is applicable for the `<dimen>`: in case of a name clash you have to rename your `<dimen>` prior to `fcolumn`.

```
163 \expandafter\ifx\csname FCwd@\romannumeral\FCsc@1\endcsname\relax
164 \expandafter\newdimen\csname FCwd@\romannumeral\FCsc@1\endcsname
```

If the creation was successful, the `<count>` `\FCtc@1` should be increased.

```
165 \global\FCtc@1=\FCsc@1
166 \else
167 \PackageError{fcolumn}{Name clash for <dimen>}{\expandafter\csname
168 FCwd@\romannumeral\FCsc@1\endcsname is already defined and it may
169 not even be a <dimen>. If you're\MessageBreak sure it is a <dimen>,
170 you can press <enter> now and I'll proceed, but things\MessageBreak
171 will get overwritten.}%
172 \fi
173 \fi
174 \fi
175 \fi}
```

Once created, it is not necessary to initialise them here because that is done later in one go.

(End of definition for `\@classfii`.)

`\sumline` The command for the sumline has one optional argument: the separation between the rule and the total. By default this is 2pt, but the user may, e.g., specify `\sumline[10pt]` if that separation needs to be 10pt. The assignment needs to be global, because it is done in the first column of the tabular, but is valid for the whole line.

```

176 \newdimen\s@mlinesep
177 \def\sumline{\@ifnextchar[\s@mline{\s@mline[2pt]}}
178 \def\s@mline[#1]{\global\s@mlinesep=#1 \s@ml@ne}

```

In the introduction it was stated that `\sumline` has two options, but in reality that second option is the option to `\,`, that is issued by `\s@ml@ne`.  
(End of definition for `\sumline`.)

`\pr@result` The macro `\pr@result` actually puts the information together. It starts like `\leeg`.

```

179 \def\pr@result{\$egroup \let\@fi=\relax \let\FCform@t=\FCform@tt

```

Then the information for the last line is computed. It is not sufficient to calculate the width of the result (in points) to use that as the width of the rule separating the individual entries and the result. It may happen that the sum is wider (in points) than any of the entries, e.g., when the result of  $6+6$  (using specifier 3,2) is typeset. The width of the rule should be equal to the width of `\hbox{$12{,}00$}` then. On the other hand the width of the rule when summing 24 and  $-24$  should be that of `\hbox{$-24{,}00$}` (or `\hbox{$(24{,}00$}`, see above), not the width of the result `\hbox{$0{,}00$}`. Therefore the maximum of all entry widths, including the result, was calculated. This excludes the extension to the right in case parentheses are used, again for aesthetic reasons.

```

180 \setbox0=\hbox{\$geldm@cro{\sp@l}{\number\csname FCtot@\romannumeral
181 \FCsc@l\endcsname}\$}%
182 \ifdim\wd0>\csname FCwd@\romannumeral\FCsc@l\endcsname
183 \global\csname FCwd@\romannumeral\FCsc@l\endcsname=\wd0\fi
184 \vbox{\hrule width \csname FCwd@\romannumeral\FCsc@l\endcsname
185 \vskip\s@mlinesep\hbox to \csname FCwd@\romannumeral\FCsc@l
186 \endcsname{\hfil\unhbox0}}

```

(End of definition for `\pr@result`.)

## 4.4 Other checks

`\leeg` This macro is used to overrule the default behaviour of the pair `\b@fi` and `\e@fi`. It starts with ending the groups in the same way that `\e@fi` would normally do. Then the effect of `\e@fi` (that is still in the preamble) is neutralised by `\let`ting it to be `\relax`. This `\let` is only local to the current column. Then the argument to `\leeg` is processed in the normal way for a right aligned column.

Since the user may from time to time also need a column entry other than a number in the table, e.g., `\leeg{p.m.}`, this definition is without at-sign. By defining `\leeg` in this way, instead of `\multicolumn1r{}` (which contains `\omit`), the default spacing in the column is retained. It doesn't alter the width of the sumrule, but has its normal effect on the column width, so be careful: don't insert the unabridged version of Romeo and Juliet [11] here. It is not typeset in math mode, nor does it use the extra (formatting) information of #4 of the fcolumn, so you're completely free here.

```

187 \def\leeg#1{\$egroup \let\@fi=\relax #1}

```

Note that anything may be given as argument to `\leeg`, so in principle it can also be used to cheat: `\leeg{0,03}` will insert the text 0,03 in the table but it doesn't increase the totals of that column by 3 (assuming 3,2 coding for the separations). But you won't cheat, won't you?  
(End of definition for `\leeg`.)

`\resetsumline` Since all changes to the totals and widths of the columns are global, they have to be reset actively at the start of a tabular or array. That is an action by itself, but it may occur more often, on request of the user, therefore a special macro is defined. A side effect of this macro is that `\FCsc@l` is reset to 0. This is an advantage: it should be zero at the beginning of a line in the table (for other lines this is done by the `\l`).

```
188 \def\resetsumline{\FCsc@l=\FCtc@l\loop\ifnum\FCsc@l>0
189 \global\csname FCtot@\romannumeral\FCsc@l\endcsname=0
190 \global\csname FCwd@\romannumeral\FCsc@l\endcsname=\z@
191 \advance\FCsc@l by \m@ne\repeat}
```

(End of definition for `\resetsumline`.)

`\resetsumline` To reset a sumline within a table, it should be done within a `\noalign`.

```
192 \def\resetsumline{\noalign{\resetsumline}}
```

(End of definition for `\resetsumline`.)

`\aut@check` If the number of F-columns is even, it is assumed that they are part of two sets of columns of which each column of the first set should balance the appropriate column of the second set. If on the other hand the number of columns is odd, then at least one column has nothing to balance against and no automatic checking occurs. It is correct to check for oddness of `\FCsc@l` since this `\aut@check` is only performed in the last column of the tabular: the value of `\FCsc@l` now equals the number of columns used in the current tabular (and may be less than `\FCtc@l`).

The output is only to screen and the transcript file; it doesn't change the appearance of your document, so in case the assumption is wrong you can safely ignore the result and go on. The `\count`s 0 and 1 are used here and this can be done because any content of those `\count`s from previous calculations has become irrelevant at this moment.

If the list `\FC@chklist` is empty, the list for the automatic check is generated (which will remain empty if `\FCsc@l` is odd).

```
193 \def\FC@chklist{}
194 \def\aut@check{\ifx\@empty\FC@chklist\relax\ifodd\FCsc@l\else
195 \count0=\@ne \count1=\FCsc@l \divide\count1 by \tw@
196 \loop\ifnum\count1<\FCsc@l \advance\count1 by \@ne
197 \xdef\FC@chklist{\FC@chklist\number\count0,\number\count1};}%
198 \advance\count0 by \@ne \repeat\fi\fi
```

Then this list is peeled off and processed. The comparison is done between the internal representation of the totals, so this only makes sense when the decimal part, i.e., the 2 of 3,2 in the default value for #3 of `f` is the same for both columns. That is almost always the case due to the nature of this type of tabulars. The `\count` `\FC@l` is free to be used for the calculations needed here.

```
199 \loop\ifx\FC@chklist\@empty\else\expandafter\fre@t\FC@chklist\fre@t
200 \FC@l=\csname FCtot@\romannumeral\count0\endcsname
```

```

201 \advance\FC@l by -\csname FCtot@\romannumeral\count1\endcsname
202 \ifnum\FC@l=0 \else \ifnum\FC@l<0 \FC@l=-\FC@l \fi
203 \PackageWarning{fcolumn}{Representations of F-columns \number
204 \count0 \space and \number\count1 \space differ by\MessageBreak
205 \number\FC@l\space due to \string\sumline\space near or}%
206 \fi\repeat}

```

When `\aut@check` is finished, `\FC@chklist` is empty again, i.e., well prepared for the next time it is used. This also means that the default behaviour kicks in again: if that's not what you want, you should specify the appropriate `\checkfcolumns` lines again.

*(End of definition for \aut@check.)*

`\fre@t` This function eats the first two numbers off `\FC@chklist`.

```

207 \def\fre@t#1,#2;#3\fre@t{\count0=#1 \count1=#2 \xdef\FC@chklist{#3}}

```

*(End of definition for \fre@t.)*

`\checkfcolumns` But the assumptions for `\aut@check` may be wrong, therefore manual control on this checking is also made possible here. The macro `\checkfcolumns` provides a way to the user to check that the appropriate columns are balanced (as it should in a balance). Arguments `#1` and `#2` are the F-column numbers to compare. It is the responsibility of the user to provide the correct numbers here, otherwise bogus output is generated. If this manual check is inserted, the automatic check will not be performed.

```

208 \def\checkfcolumns#1#2{\noalign{\xdef\FC@chklist{\FC@chklist #1,#2;}}}

```

*(End of definition for \checkfcolumns.)*

## 4.5 Adaptations to existing macros

`\@array` The definition of `\@array` must be extended slightly because it should also include `\@mksumline` (acting on the same `#2` that `\@mkpream` gets). This change is transparant: it only adds functionality and if you don't use that, you won't notice the difference. This addition to `\@array` is implemented via the Hook-mechanism [12]; `\@array` contains dedicated Hooks [13] for adding various chunks, among which the code on `\@mksumline`. Macro `\ar@ialign` has one that is used here for resetting `\FCsc@l`.

Now fill those Hooks. The `#2` is the actual `#2` from `\@array`. Recall that the side effect of `\res@tsumline` is that `\FCsc@l` ends at zero: that's why it is after the `\endgroup`.

```

209 \AddToHookWithArguments{tbl/init}{\begingroup\@mksumline{#2}%
210 \endgroup\res@tsumline}

```

No arguments for this one.

```

211 \AddToHook{tbl/row/end}{\global\FCsc@l\z@}

```

*(End of definition for \@array and \ar@ialign.)*

## 4.6 Support for multipage tables

Packages `longtable` [4] and `supertabular` [5] can be used for tables that span multiple pages. Package `supertabular` works with `fccolumn` out of the box (no changes needed), but may lead to different column widths on individual pages. If you don't want that, use `longtable`. The packages `fccolumn` and `longtable` also work together because only one definition of `longtable` needs to be changed if it is present and that change is done via the same dedicated Hooks [12] that were already presented in the previous subsection. More happens under the hood if also `caption` [14] is loaded, and even that is running fine.

That's it!

## Acknowledgement

Thanks to Karl Berry for valuable comments regarding the consistency of the installation procedure of this version. Frank Mittelbach gave various useful suggestions for improving the input parsing as well as hints to make the package more L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X-like. He also challenged me to make `fccolumn` compatible with `longtable` and offered to include two Hooks in `array` and `longtable`. Christian Hoff's request on column formatting triggered many happy hours of coding.

## References

- [1] Frank Mittelbach and David Carlisle. A new implementation of L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X's `tabular` and `array` environment: [www.ctan.org/pkg/array](http://www.ctan.org/pkg/array).
- [2] Simon Fear and Danie Els, the `booktabs` package. Publication quality tables in L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X: [www.ctan.org/pkg/booktabs](http://www.ctan.org/pkg/booktabs).
- [3] David Carlisle, the `dccolumn` package: [www.ctan.org/pkg/dccolumn](http://www.ctan.org/pkg/dccolumn).
- [4] David Carlisle, the `longtable` package: [www.ctan.org/pkg/longtable](http://www.ctan.org/pkg/longtable).
- [5] Theo Jurriens and Johannes Braams, the `supertabular` package, to be found at: [www.ctan.org/pkg/supertabular](http://www.ctan.org/pkg/supertabular).
- [6] Ulrike Fischer, the `tagpdf` package: [www.ctan.org/pkg/tagpdf](http://www.ctan.org/pkg/tagpdf).
- [7] David Carlisle, the `color` package: [www.ctan.org/pkg/color](http://www.ctan.org/pkg/color).
- [8] Donald Knuth, *Computers & Typesetting/B*, “T<sub>E</sub>X: the program,” Addison-Wesley, Reading (1991).
- [9] Donald Knuth, *Computers & Typesetting/A*, “The T<sub>E</sub>Xbook,” Addison-Wesley, Reading (1991).
- [10] Donald Knuth, *The Art of Computers Programming, volume 1*, “Fundamental Algorithms,” Addison-Wesley, Reading (1997).
- [11] William Shakespeare, *Romeo and Juliet*, a tragedy (1597).
- [12] Frank Mittelbach, “L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X's hook management”, [www.latex-project.org/help/documentation/lthooks-doc.pdf](http://www.latex-project.org/help/documentation/lthooks-doc.pdf).
- [13] L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X-news 43: [www.latex-project.org/news/latex2e-news/ltnews43.pdf](http://www.latex-project.org/news/latex2e-news/ltnews43.pdf).
- [14] Axel Sommerfeldt, the `caption` package: [www.ctan.org/pkg/caption](http://www.ctan.org/pkg/caption).

# Change History

v0.1	General: First working version. . . .	1	F-column. The current solution is not very robust, as font and/or size change in math environment are very tricky, but providing colour information works, see the example in the main text. This version is now compatible with package longtable and backwards compatible to fcolumn v1.2: it only adds functionality. . . . .	1	
v1.0	General: Three-argument version is working properly. . . . .	1			
v1.1	General: Automatic checking of column balance performed when number of F-columns is even (behaviour can be overridden). Empty entries are now recognised and correctly treated as such, except for the one ended by the double backslash. Not serious; workaround possible. Furthermore optimisation of code: minimised the number of private counts and resetting of column counter done in a nicer way. . . . .	1	v1.4	General: More robust version on the extra formatting information: alternative formatting after the comma (if any), instead of additional information. Corrected a few typos. . . . .	1
v1.1.1	General: Installation procedure changed from .ins-in-.dtx to separate .ins and .dtx after discussion with Karl Berry, as well as some minor code improvements. . . . .	1	v1.4.1	General: Definition needed for longtable only if that package is loaded. General update, streamlining code. Excess digits silently ignored when all zero. . . . .	1
v1.1.2	General: Some inconsistencies between explanatory text and actual code removed. . . . .	1	v1.4.2	General: Better documentation. Removed redundant endgroup/begin group pairs and other small improvements. Unbalanced columns are reported by stating their difference. Implementation of option “red”. No changes in user experience. . . . .	1
v1.2	General: Input parsing changed after comment from Frank Mittelbach. He (Frank) also gave various suggestions for improving robustness or user friendliness of this package. This version is only backwards compatible when zero decimal digits were and are specified as modifier. . . . .	1	v1.4.3	General: Attempt to make fcolumn tagging-aware. Included my name and e-mail in README (CTAN obligation). Changed makefile to produce a fcolumn.tgz that contains files in fcolumn/. Removed some typos. . . . .	1
v1.3	General: Christian Hoff requested the possibility to provide extra formatting information to a column, e.g., colouring. That was implemented by having an extra parameter to the generic		v1.4.4	General: Repair of v1.4.3, which was a complete disaster in terms of tagging, resulting in a	

broken package. Hooks will be used to introduce code in array.sty and longtable.sty instead of overwriting definitions once those Hooks are implemented there. Until that time fcolumn falls back to the original solution of redefining three macros in those packages. Changed makefile to produce fcolumn.zip instead of fcolumn.tgz. Changed README file: it had extension .md in v1.4.3 but was (and is) raw ASCII. . . . .	1
v1.4.5	
General: Intermediate version ensuring a smooth transition when going to the 2026/06/01 LaTeX kernel. . . . .	1
v1.4.6	
General: Intermediate version ensuring a smooth transition (now for real) when going to the 2026/06/01 LaTeX kernel. . .	1
v1.5	
General: Using l3doc instead of ltxdoc. No more NewHook, since the necessary Hooks are part of the LaTeX kernel now. Resetting of column number more robust. . . . .	1

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<code>\@lastchclass</code> ....	<a href="#">138</a> , <a href="#">144</a> , <a href="#">149</a>	<code>\sep@rator</code> .....	<a href="#">55</a> , <a href="#">118</a>
<code>\@mksumline</code> .....	<a href="#">138</a> , <a href="#">209</a>	<code>\sep@xt</code> .....	<a href="#">96</a> , <a href="#">118</a>
<code>\@testpach</code> .....	<a href="#">143</a>	<code>\setucc@de</code> .....	<a href="#">90</a> , <a href="#">104</a>
<code>\actdec@rk</code> .....	<a href="#">117</a> , <a href="#">118</a>	<code>\sp@l</code> .....	<a href="#">96</a> , <a href="#">126</a> , <a href="#">134</a> , <a href="#">180</a>
		<code>\strict@ccountingfalse</code> .....	<a href="#">6</a>
		<code>\strict@ccountingtrue</code> .....	<a href="#">8</a>
		<code>\t@stm</code> .....	<a href="#">150</a> , <a href="#">151</a>

