another file and leave blank pages or advance the page counter in the appropriate place.

Q 8. Mark Moline

Is it possible to access the width of a given field within an \halign construction. For example, can one determine the width of column 3 and use that dimension within the \halign?

Answer. \TeX's alignment structures don't provide a direct way of determining the width of a particular column or cell. An ad hoc technique for obtaining a useful value is to determine the widest entry in the column, save it in a named box before beginning the alignment, and use the width of that box.

Q 9. Chris Hand (from GUT list)

While preparing a recent compte-rendu GUT with I\TeX, the line
\begin{verbatim}
\subsection{Journ\'e\e \\
<<{europ\'e}enne\>>
\ du lundi 14 mai}
\end{verbatim}
caused \TeX to write a line of 509 characters into the .aux file. The macros for the guillemets were responsible for much of the length. (When these macros were replaced by others that used the guillemets in the font mcyrl0, the problem went away.)

\TeX reported
\begin{verbatim}[
...]
Unable to read an entire line---bufsize=500
and then terminated.

Why does \TeX write lines so long that it can't read them?

Is the only solution to recompile \TeX with an enlarged_bufsize?
\end{verbatim}

Answer. The preferred technique of avoiding long lines in an .aux file is to expand only those control sequences whose expansions will change before the .aux file is read in: this includes, of course, section headings, page numbers, and the like. However, control sequences within section heading text should usually not be expanded.

The next generation of I\TeX is expected to suppress this level of expansion automatically. For the present, if you are using I\TeX, \fragile can be inserted before any control sequence that shouldn't be expanded in a string being written out to an .aux file.

\noexpand and \string function in relatively comparable ways in non-I\TeX environments.

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at the
11th Annual TUG Meeting
June 17–20, 1990
College Station, Texas

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There were 167 participants at the Meeting.