A \LaTeX Style for Typesetting a
Three-Dimensional Product Box*

Gerd Neugebauer
Im Lerchelsböhl 5
64521 Groß-Gerau (Germany)
Email: gene@gerd-neugebauer.de

Documentation date: 2010/12/29

Abstract

The package productbox provides a style file for typesetting a three-dimensional product box. This product box can be rendered as it is standing on a surface and some light is shed onto it. Alternatively it can be typeset as a wireframe to be cut out and glued together. This will lead to a physical product box.

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*This file documents productbox.dtx version 1.1 (from revision 8333) as of 2010/12/29.
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1 Introduction

Humans are tied to the physical world. Even in the age of software it is desirable to have a physical representation for it. In the commercial world the software is sold in product boxes containing a CD or DVD and printed documentation.

But even for open source software having a product box provides a means to associate a physical object with the more or less virtual entity “software”.

There are many programs around devoted to producing layouts for product boxes. Each graphics program can be used for this purpose as well. Nevertheless the integration of material from the \TeX world is not that easy.

The \LaTeX package \texttt{productbox} is an attempt to use the possibilities for \LaTeX and some packages to provide a means for typesetting the faces of a product box and assemble them into a three-dimensional image.

Note that this “image” is in fact a PDF object. It can be scaled without loss of quality\footnote{unless some pixel images have been included}. It is also possible to extract the text from the product box by cut and paste in an appropriate PDF reader.

2 The User Interface

The \LaTeX style \texttt{productbox} is based on TikZ at \cite{Tan08} least in version 2.0. It is best used with a \LaTeX variant which is able to produce PDF. If no proper tool chain is used then some of the effects should not be used.

The environment \texttt{ProductBox} provides the central means for producing a product box. The contents is used to define the appearance of the faces. Finally the selected type of output is produced.

The content of the environment consists mainly of the definition of the six faces. Not all of them need to be defined. If one face is not defined then it appears as an empty rectangle of white color.

Thus you usually want to define the faces. Two approaches are provided to define the content of the faces. The simplified interface does not really require any knowledge of the underlying TikZ package. Just some knowledge of \LaTeX is sufficient. The extended interface opens the full power to the user. Both interface types can be freely intermixed. The tow kinds of interfaces are described in section 2.1 and 2.2.

The environment \texttt{ProductBox} can be controlled with a number of optional parameters. Those parameters are described in section 2.3.
2.1 The Simplified User Interface

The simplified user interface is meant for someone not familiar with TikZ. It encapsulates nearly anything and relies on just some basic \LaTeX experience. As a downside the functionality is restricted. Any fancy artwork on the box background can hardly be achieved.

The following example shows a complete — even rather useless — definition of a product box with the simplified user interface.

```latex
\begin{ProductBox}
  \begin{FrontFace}[bottom color=white!30!blue,top color=white]
    \Huge Product Box
  \end{FrontFace}
  \begin{BackFace}[top color=yellow!30!red,bottom color=white]
    \large Back Face
  \end{BackFace}
  \begin{TopFace}[outer color=white!30!red,inner color=white]
    \large Top Face
  \end{TopFace}
  \begin{BottomFace}[outer color=red,inner color=black]
    \large Bottom Face
  \end{BottomFace}
  \begin{LeftFace}[left color=green,right color=yellow]
    \large Left Face
  \end{LeftFace}
  \begin{RightFace}[left color=white,right color=black]
    \large Right Face
  \end{RightFace}
\end{ProductBox}
```

This code renders as

![Product Box](image)

The content of the environment `ProductBox` is simply evaluated. It can contain any code you like. Useful for the production of a product box are some inner environments. They are called `FrontFace`, `BackFace`, `LeftFace`, `RightFace`, `TopFace`, and `BottomFace`. They are defined inside the main environment only. Those environments can be used to specify the contents of the respective faces of the box.

Note that in the three-dimensional rendering will show at most three of the faces. It does not hurt to define all of them, even if they are not shown at all.

The environment `FrontFace` is used to define the content of the font face. The
environment processes its contents inside a minipage of the default width 88 mm reduced by the left and right separator width (faceSep).

The minipage is centered vertically on the face. Usually anything extending the default height of 100 mm is clipped.

\begin{FrontFace}
...
\end{FrontFace}

The environment BackFace is used to define the content of the back face. The environment processes its contents inside a minipage of the default width 88 mm reduced by the left and right separator width (faceSep).

The minipage is centered vertically on the face. Usually anything extending the default height of 100 mm is clipped.

\begin{BackFace}
...
\end{BackFace}

The environment LeftFace is used to define the content of the left face. The environment processes its contents inside a minipage of the default width 100 mm reduced by the left and right separator width (faceSep).

The minipage is centered vertically on the face. Usually anything extending the default height of 30 mm is clipped.

\begin{LeftFace}
...
\end{LeftFace}

The environment RightFace is used to define the content of the right face. The environment processes its contents inside a minipage of the default width 100 mm reduced by the left and right separator width (faceSep).

The minipage is centered vertically on the face. Usually anything extending the default height of 30 mm is clipped.

\begin{RightFace}
...
\end{RightFace}

The environment TopFace is used to define the content of the top face. The environment processes its contents inside a minipage of the default width 88 mm reduced by the left and right separator width (faceSep).

The minipage is centered vertically on the face. Usually anything extending the default height of 30 mm is clipped.

\begin{TopFace}
...
\end{TopFace}

The environment BottomFace is used to define the content of the bottom face.
The environment processes its contents inside a minipage of the default width 88 mm reduced by the left and right separator width ($\text{faceSep}$).

The minipage is centered vertically on the face. Usually anything extending the default height of 30 mm is clipped.

```latex
\begin{BottomFace}
...
\end{BottomFace}
```

Any of the face defining environments described above can take an optional argument. This argument is used to specify the background. In the simplest case you just have one background color. This is specified with the keyword \texttt{color}.

```latex
\begin{ProductBox}
  \begin{FrontFace}
    \[\text{color=yellow}\]
    ...
  \end{FrontFace}
  ...
\end{ProductBox}
```

Colors in TikZ are either one of the named colors or a composition of those colors. The notation \texttt{red!60!blue} denotes the color by mixing 60\% red and 40\% blue.

```latex
\begin{ProductBox}
  \begin{FrontFace}
    \[\text{color=red!60!blue}\]
    ...
  \end{FrontFace}
  ...
\end{ProductBox}
```

By mixing in black or white you can come to a lighter or darker color.

```latex
\begin{ProductBox}
  \begin{FrontFace}
    \[\text{color=red!20!white}\]
    ...
  \end{FrontFace}
  ...
\end{ProductBox}
```

A fading from top to bottom can be specified with two colors named \texttt{top color} and \texttt{bottom color}.

```latex
\begin{ProductBox}
  \begin{FrontFace}
    \[\text{top color=red!50!blue, bottom color=yellow}\]
    ...
  \end{FrontFace}
  ...
\end{ProductBox}
```

A fading from left to right can be specified with two colors named \texttt{left color} and \texttt{left color}.

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The parameter middle color can be used in horizontal or vertical fading to specifying the color in the middle. Note that it has to be specified after the other colors!

A circular fading can be specified with the color names inner color and outer color.

2.2 The Extended User Interface

The extended user interface allows you to use all features of TikZ. For this purpose another set of face defining environments is provided which process their content in a \texttt{tikzpicture} environment.

The following example shows a complete example of a product box with the extended user interface. This example is used below to demonstrate the effect of the different options.
The content of the environment is simply expanded. It may contain any code you like – except an \texttt{ProductBox} environment. Useful for the production of a product box are some inner environments. They are called \texttt{Front}, \texttt{Back}, \texttt{Top}, \texttt{Bottom}, \texttt{Left}, and \texttt{Right}. They are defined inside the main environment only. Those environments can be used to specify the contents of the respective faces of the box.

Note that in the three-dimensional rendering will show at most three of the faces. It does not hurt to define all of them, even if they are not shown at all.

\textbf{Front} The environment \texttt{Front} is used to define the content of the font face. The environment processes its contents inside a \texttt{tikzpicture} of the default size $88 \text{mm} \times 100 \text{mm}$. Usually anything outside of this range is clipped.

\begin{Front}
...\end{Front}

\textbf{Back} The environment \texttt{Back} is used to define the content of the back face. The
environment processes its contents inside a \texttt{tikzpicture} of the default size 88 mm × 100 mm. Usually anything outside of this range is clipped.

\begin{Back}
...
\end{Back}

The environment \texttt{Back} is used to define the content of the back face, i.e. the face behind the front page. The environment processes its contents inside a \texttt{tikzpicture} of the default size 30 mm × 100 mm. Usually anything outside of this range is clipped.

\begin{Left}
...
\end{Left}

The environment \texttt{Left} is used to define the content of the left face, i.e. the face left to the front page. The environment processes its contents inside a \texttt{tikzpicture} of the default size 30 mm × 100 mm. Usually anything outside of this range is clipped.

\begin{Right}
...
\end{Right}

The environment \texttt{Right} is used to define the content of the right face, i.e. the face right to the front page. The environment processes its contents inside a \texttt{tikzpicture} of the default size 30 mm × 100 mm. Usually anything outside of this range is clipped.

\begin{Top}
...
\end{Top}

The environment \texttt{Top} is used to define the content of the top face. The environment processes its contents inside a \texttt{tikzpicture} of the default size 88 mm × 30 mm. Usually anything outside of this range is clipped.

\begin{Bottom}
...
\end{Bottom}

The environment \texttt{Bottom} is used to define the content of the bottom face. The environment processes its contents inside a \texttt{tikzpicture} of the default size 88 mm × 30 mm. Usually anything outside of this range is clipped.

\subsection{Settings and Options of the Main Environment}

The environment \texttt{ProductBox} can take some options to influence the appearance of the product box. Those options are comma separated.

\begin{ProductBox}[shape=3d]
...
\end{ProductBox}

The settings are local to the main environment. If an option is not set then the fallback from the global settings are used.

\ProductBoxSet

The macro \texttt{\ProductBoxSet} modifies the global setting of the product box style. The arguments are the same as the optional arguments of the environment \texttt{ProductBox} – but enclosed in braces instead of brackets.
The following options can be used to influence the result of the product box.

**style**

The box style determines, how the box is drawn. Several rendering functions are provided to produce different effects. Any value is accepted. Unknown box styles will lead to an error message.

```
\begin{ProductBox}[style=3D]
  \begin{Front}
  ...
  \end{Front}
  \begin{Left}
  ...
  \end{Left}
  ...
\end{ProductBox}
```

The box style 3D is the default. It produces a three-dimensional view of the box. The option 3D is an abbreviation for style=3D. It can also be written as 3d or threeD.

```
\begin{ProductBox}
  \begin{Front}
  ...
  \end{Front}
  \begin{Left}
  ...
  \end{Left}
  ...
\end{ProductBox}
```

**shadow**

The option shadow controls the drawing of the drop shadow in the 3D rendering. It is a boolean value taking the values true and false. The default value is true. The option shadow is the abbreviation for shadow=true.

```
\begin{ProductBox}[shadow=false]
  \begin{Front}
  ...
  \end{Front}
  \begin{Left}
  ...
  \end{Left}
  ...
\end{ProductBox}
```

**mirror**

The option mirror controls the rendering of the mirror effect in the 3D rendering. It is a boolean value taking the values true and false. The default value is false. The option mirror is the abbreviation for mirror=true.
The option `flare` controls the rendering of the flare effect in the 3D rendering. The flare is a circular reflection of the light source in the upper right corner of the front face. The option is a boolean value taking the values `true` and `false`. The default value is `false`.

The option `flare` is the abbreviation for `flare=true`.

The option `flareDiameter` takes a dimension which defines the diameter of the flare effect in the 3D rendering. The default value is 24 mm.

Internally the 3D rendering uses a `tikzpicture`. You can expand your own code either at the beginning or at the end of this environment. This can be achieved by overwriting a macro.

The macro `ProductBoxThreeDStartHook` contains code to be expanded at the beginning of the 3D rendering. Initially it is defined as empty.
The macro \texttt{ProductBoxThreeDEndHook} contains code to be expanded at the end of the 3D rendering. Initially it is defined as empty.

\begin{ProductBox}\[fold\]
\begin{Front}
...
\end{Front}
\begin{Left}
...
\end{Left}
...
\end{ProductBox}

The top face is printed on the left and right top ear as well. This should avoid a break in the pattern when the box is partially opened. The same principle applies for the glue ear on the right side and the bottom.

The bottom is formed in a way to maximize stability without the need to glue. In addition numbers are printed on the parts of the bottom indicating the sequence in which the parts should be closed.

\texttt{ProductBoxThreeDEndHook} The option \texttt{fold} switches to the box style for rendering a complete wire frame with all faces in place. The option \texttt{fold} is an abbreviation for \texttt{style=fold}.

\texttt{ProductBoxThreeDStartHook} The option \texttt{earSize} takes a dimension which defines the width of the ears in the fold rendering. The ears around the top are this wide. The width of the glueing ear is half of this size. The default value is 12 mm.
Note that the ear size must not exceed the width of the left face, the width of the front face, and the height of the box. Otherwise funny effects in the ears will happen.

The option `foldLine` takes a specification for the line surrounding the fold drawing. Usually you want to simply use a color like “gray” or “red”. The default is a kind of gray.

The option `foldOpacity` takes a fraction for the opacity of the line surrounding the fold drawing. The default is 0.5. If you want to let the fold lines disappear then use a value of 1.

The option `front` switches to the box style for rendering the front face only. The
option \texttt{front} is an abbreviation for \texttt{style=front}.

\begin{ProductBox}[front]
  \begin{Front}
  ...
  \end{Front}
  \begin{Left}
  ...
  \end{Left}
  ...
\end{ProductBox}

\texttt{back} The option \texttt{back} switches to the box style for rendering the back face only. The option \texttt{back} is an abbreviation for \texttt{style=back}.

\begin{ProductBox}[back]
  \begin{Front}
  ...
  \end{Front}
  \begin{Left}
  ...
  \end{Left}
  ...
\end{ProductBox}

\texttt{left} The option \texttt{left} switches to the box style for rendering the left face only. The option \texttt{left} is an abbreviation for \texttt{style=left}.

\begin{ProductBox}[left]
  \begin{Front}
  ...
  \end{Front}
  \begin{Left}
  ...
  \end{Left}
  ...
\end{ProductBox}

\texttt{right} The option \texttt{right} switches to the box style for rendering the right face only. The option \texttt{right} is an abbreviation for \texttt{style=right}.

\begin{ProductBox}[right]
  \begin{Front}
  ...
  \end{Front}
  \begin{Left}
  ...
  \end{Left}
  ...
\end{ProductBox}

\texttt{top} The option \texttt{top} switches to the box style for rendering the top face only. The option \texttt{top} is an abbreviation for \texttt{style=top}.

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The option `bottom` switches to the box style for rendering the face only. The option `bottom` is an abbreviation for `style=bottom`.

The option `empty` switches to the box style for not rendering the box at all. The option `empty` is an abbreviation for `style=empty`.

The option `scale` controls the scaling of the whole rendering. It is a number where 1. represents the original size.\(^2\)

The option `view` takes a name of a view definition and activates the appropriate settings. A few views are predefined. The default value is 1.

\(^2\)The examples on the right side are normally rendered with a scale of 0.25.
The option `edgeColor` takes a color specification for highlighting the inner edges in the 3D rendering.

The option `faceSep` takes a dimension denoting the additional separating whitespace between the outer border and the minipage in the simplified interface.

The option `width` takes a dimension denoting the width of the box. The default value is 88 mm.

The option `height` takes a dimension denoting the height of the box. The default value is 100 mm.

The option `depth` takes a dimension denoting the depth of the box. The default value is 30 mm.

The option `clean` controls the cleaning of the stored faces upon entering the main environment. If it is turned off then the previously defined faces are still present and do not need to be defined again. It is a boolean value taking the values `true` and `false`. The default value is `true`.

This option can be used to typeset the same product box with different parameters. For this purpose the main environment `ProductBox` is left empty and the option `clean=false` is added.

The option `clip` controls the clipping of the faces to their defined size. If it is
turned off then the faces can be oversized leading to strange effects. It is a boolean value taking the values true and false. The default value is true.

3 Tipps and Tricks

3.1 Adjusting the Paper for the Fold Rendering

When you produce the fold rendering it is usually meant to be cut out and glued together. This means that the normal rules for the paper layout are not relevant. Instead you want to use the complete page for printing the product box. Below an example is shown how this goal can be achieved.

```latex
\documentclass{report}
\usepackage[a4paper, landscape, left=5mm, right=5mm, top=5mm, bottom=5mm]{geometry}
\usepackage{productbox}
% load any required packages here
\pagestyle{empty}
\begin{document}
\noindent\begin{ProductBox}[style=fold]
% include any definitions for the faces here
\end{ProductBox}
\end{document}
```

The class for typesetting this example is report. This can be changed to suit your needs. For instance if you are used to a document class with other macros and environments predefined you can just use it instead.

The example above uses the package geometry [Ume07] to get rid of any predefined page layout. Some parameters (marked in red) can be adjusted. First of all is the paper definition. Here the value a4paper is used. If you want to print onto paper of a different size just use an appropriate short name like letterpaper or a3paper. See the documentation of the geometry package for a complete list of values.

The values left, right, top, and bottom denote the margins left on the respective outer side of the paper. They are set to 5mm in this example to cope with the problem that some printers are not able to fill the complete page. They might need a small non-printable area at the borders. You can experiment and adjust those values to whatever suits your printer.

4 Known Problems

This section lists some issues which might lead to undesirable results.
**Nested ProductBox environments.** The definition of the environment uses some global storage. As a consequence the environment ProductBox can not be used inside the definition of a face. For instance if you want to show a product box on a side of another product box can lead to this problem.

In this case you can simply store the inner product box in a box register (with `setbox`) and use this box register instead of a direct rendering. This will overcome the restriction.

**Free selection of the point of view.** The 3D rendering is rather limited in the possibilities of selecting the view. Arbitrary rotation about any axis is not implemented (yet). This is on the which list for a future release already.

**References**


5 The Documentation Driver

The documentation driver changes \texttt{productbox.dtx} into a self-extracting documentation. Thus it is possible to run \LaTeX{} on \texttt{productbox.dtx} to produce the documentation.

The documentation can be adapted in a file named \texttt{productbox.dcf} (documentation configuration). This file can contain instructions for \texttt{docstrip}. Especially useful might be the instruction

\texttt{\OnlyDescription}

which suppresses the generation of the implementation description.

\begin{verbatim}
⟨∗driver⟩
\documentclass{ltxdoc}
\usepackage{productbox}
\usepackage[colorlinks,citecolor=blue]{hyperref}
\usepackage{graphicx,color}
\RecordChanges
\EnableCrossrefs
\CodelineIndex
\definecolor{darkblue}{rgb}{.4,.4,1.}
\renewcommand\MacroFont{\tt\footnotesize\color{darkblue}}
\parindent=0pt
\parskip=1ex plus .5ex minus .25ex
\InputIfFileExists{productbox.dcf}{}{}
\begin{document}
\DocInput{productbox.dtx}
\end{document}
⟨/driver⟩
\end{verbatim}

6 The Implementation

The implementation contains the code of the style.

6.1 The Version Information

The following lines define the version information for the class file. The information is partially taken from the version control system (Subversion).

\begin{verbatim}
⟨∗style⟩
\begingroup
\def\ProductBox@VC$#1: #2 #3${#2}
\def\ProductBox@VCdate$#1: #2-#3-#4 #5${#2/#3/#4}
\xdef\fileversion{1.1}
\xdef\filerevision{$\ProductBox@VC$Revision: 8333 $}
\xdef\filedate{\ProductBox@VCdate$Date: 2010-12-29 20:58:06 +0100 (Mi, 29 Dez 2010) $}
\InputIfFileExists{productbox.dcf}{}{}
\begin{document}
\DocInput{productbox.dtx}
\end{document}
\endgroup
⟨/style⟩
\end{verbatim}
6.2 Getting Started

First we have to determine that the right kind of \LaTeX\ is running and identify the style file.

\begin{verbatim}
\NeedsTeXFormat{LaTeX2e}
\ProvidesPackage{productbox}[filedate Another type of boxes...]
\end{verbatim}

A bunch of packages is loaded to form the base of the work herein.

\begin{verbatim}
\RequirePackage{keyval}
\RequirePackage{tikz}
\usetikzlibrary{calc}
\usetikzlibrary{fadings}
\end{verbatim}

6.3 Option Declarations

Define the parameters for the keyval package. They are used in the main environment \ProductBox\ and in the declaration of global options \ProductBoxSet.

6.3.1 General Parameters

\begin{verbatim}
\define@key{ProductBox}{scale}{% 
  \def\ProductBox@scale{#1}}
\define@key{ProductBox}{width}{% 
  \def\ProductBox@x{#1}}
\define@key{ProductBox}{height}{% 
  \def\ProductBox@y{#1}}
\define@key{ProductBox}{depth}{% 
  \def\ProductBox@z{#1}}
\define@key{ProductBox}{clean}[true]{% 
  \csname ProductBox@clean#1\endcsname}
\end{verbatim}

6.3.2 Box Style Parameters

\begin{verbatim}
\define@key{ProductBox}{flat}[true]{% 
  \def\ProductBox@style{flat}}
\define@key{ProductBox}{fold}[true]{% 
  \def\ProductBox@style{fold}}
\define@key{ProductBox}{3d}[true]{% 
  \def\ProductBox@style{threeD}}
\define@key{ProductBox}{3D}[true]{% 
  \def\ProductBox@style{threeD}}
\define@key{ProductBox}{top}[true]{% 
  \def\ProductBox@style{top}}
\define@key{ProductBox}{bottom}[true]{% 
  \def\ProductBox@style{bottom}}
\define@key{ProductBox}{front}[true]{% 
  \def\ProductBox@style{front}}
\end{verbatim}
6.3.3 Parameters for the 3D Rendering

6.3.4 Parameters for the Fold Rendering

6.3.5 Parameters for the Simplified Interface

6.4 Storage for the Faces
The box \ProductBox@Bottom contains the bottom material.

The box \ProductBox@Back contains the back material.

6.5 Settings

The macro \ProductBoxSet defines the global parameters used by the environment ProductBox. They can be overwritten either within a group or in the optional parameter of the environment.

6.6 The Main Environment

The default style is the 3D rendering.

The width of the box.

The height of the box.

The depth of the box.

Indicator that the boxes for the faces should be cleaned.

Indicator that we are inside a ProductBox environment already.

The boolean ProductBox@clip determines whether or not the additional clipping of the boxes should be enabled.
\ProductBox@FaceSep \begin{itemize}
\item The horizontal separator of the minipage in the face definitions in the simplified interface.
\end{itemize}

106 \newcommand\ProductBox@FaceSep{1em}

ProductBox \begin{itemize}
\item This is the central environment provided by this style. In the begin code only the local environments are initialized and the optional parameters are evaluated with the help of the package keyval.
\end{itemize}

107 \newenvironment{ProductBox}{\{}\{}%
108 \setkeys{ProductBox}{#1}%

Next we clean the faces if this is required.

109 \ifProductBox@clean
110 \global\setbox\ProductBox@Front\hbox{}% 
111 \global\setbox\ProductBox@Back\hbox{}% 
112 \global\setbox\ProductBox@Left\hbox{}% 
113 \global\setbox\ProductBox@Right\hbox{}% 
114 \global\setbox\ProductBox@Top\hbox{}% 
115 \global\setbox\ProductBox@Bottom\hbox{}% 
116 \fi

Next we define the local environments to make sure that they have the proper definitions within this environment. Since the environment provides an implicit group, the definitions are local to this environment.

To suppress any error messages about environments which are already defined the start macros are reset to undefined.

117 \ifProductBox@active
118 \error{Trying to use an environment ProductBox inside the environment ProductBox. This is not allowed.}%
119 \else
120 \\ProductBox@activetrue
121 \fi
122 \let\Front\undefined \let\endFront\undefined
123 \let\Back\undefined \let\endBack\undefined
124 \let\Left\undefined \let\endLeft\undefined
125 \let\Right\undefined \let\endRight\undefined
126 \let\Top\undefined \let\endTop\undefined
127 \let\FrontFace\undefined \let\endFrontFace\undefined
128 \let\BackFace\undefined \let\endBackFace\undefined
129 \let\LeftFace\undefined \let\endLeftFace\undefined
130 \let\RightFace\undefined \let\endRightFace\undefined
131 \let\TopFace\undefined \let\endTopFace\undefined
132 \let\BottomFace\undefined \let\endBottomFace\undefined
133 \newenvironment{Front}{\ProductBox@Start\ProductBox@Front(\ProductBox@x,\ProductBox@y)}{\ProductBox@End}%
134 \newenvironment{Back}{\ProductBox@Start\ProductBox@Back(\ProductBox@x,\ProductBox@y)}{\ProductBox@End}%
135 \newenvironment{Left}{\ProductBox@Start\ProductBox@Left(\ProductBox@x,\ProductBox@y)}{\ProductBox@End}%
136 \newenvironment{Right}{\ProductBox@Start\ProductBox@Right(\ProductBox@x,\ProductBox@y)}{\ProductBox@End}%
\newenvironment{Top}{\ProductBox@Start\ProductBox@Top\ProductBox@Top}{\ProductBox@End}\%
\newenvironment{Bottom}{\ProductBox@Start\ProductBox@Bottom\ProductBox@Bottom}{\ProductBox@End}\%
\newenvironment{FrontFace}{\ProductBox@StartFace\ProductBox@Front\ProductBox@Front}{\ProductBox@EndFace}\%
\newenvironment{BackFace}{\ProductBox@StartFace\ProductBox@Back\ProductBox@Back}{\ProductBox@EndFace}\%
\newenvironment{LeftFace}{\ProductBox@StartFace\ProductBox@Left\ProductBox@Left}{\ProductBox@EndFace}\%
\newenvironment{RightFace}{\ProductBox@StartFace\ProductBox@Right\ProductBox@Right}{\ProductBox@EndFace}\%
\newenvironment{TopFace}{\ProductBox@StartFace\ProductBox@Top\ProductBox@Top}{\ProductBox@EndFace}\%
\newenvironment{BottomFace}{\ProductBox@StartFace\ProductBox@Bottom\ProductBox@Bottom}{\ProductBox@EndFace}\%
\ProductBox@Start\%
\ifundefined{ProductBox@style}{\ProductBox@style}{\ProductBox@style}\%
\@ifundefined{ProductBox@scale}{\scalebox{\ProductBox@scale}{\@nameuse{ProductBox@style}\ProductBox@style}}{\scalebox{\ProductBox@scale}{\@nameuse{ProductBox@style}\ProductBox@style}}\%
\ProductBox@activefalse\%
\ignorespacesafterend\%

Check that the box style is defined or issue an appropriate error message.

The main activity is performed in the end code. Since the flexibility of the environment is one of its design goals, the expansion of the macro \ProductBox@style is used to invoke the macro stored in it. Optionally it is enclosed in a \scalebox macro to perform the scaling. Thus the implementations of the box styles do not need to care about scaling at all.

\ifdefined{ProductBox@style}\%
\errmessage{Box style \ProductBox@style for ProductBox is unknown}\%
\}%
\%
\newcommand\ProductBox@Start\%
The macro \ProductBox@Start starts the environment storing a face.
\def\ProductBox@Start#1(#2){\%
\global\setbox#1\hbox\bgroup\begin{tikzpicture}\%
\if\ProductBox@clip \clip rectangle (#2); \fi\%
\ProductBox@End\%
The macro \ProductBox@End ends the environment storing a face.
\newcommand\ProductBox@End\%
\end{tikzpicture}\egroup\ignorespacesafterend\%
\%
\newcommand\ProductBox@StartFace[4]{%
This macro ends a face definition and stores the result in the internal box \ProductBox@box.

\ProductBox@style@emptyThis macro defines the style \texttt{empty} for a product box. It simply does nothing.

\ProductBox@style@flatThis macro defines the style \texttt{flat} for a product box.

6.7 Box Styles

6.7.1 Box Style front

This macro defines the style \texttt{front} for a product box. Only this one face of the box is shown.

25
6.7.2 Box Style back

\ProductBox@style@back This macro defines the style *back* for a product box. Only this one face of the box is shown.
\newcommand\ProductBox@style@back{%class
\copy\ProductBox@Back
\}

6.7.3 Box Style left

\ProductBox@style@left This macro defines the style *left* for a product box. Only this one face of the box is shown.
\newcommand\ProductBox@style@left{%\copy\ProductBox@Left
\}

6.7.4 Box Style right

\ProductBox@style@right This macro defines the style *right* for a product box. Only this one face of the box is shown.
\newcommand\ProductBox@style@right{%\copy\ProductBox@Right
\}

6.7.5 Box Style top

\ProductBox@style@top This macro defines the style *top* for a product box. Only this one face of the box is shown.
\newcommand\ProductBox@style@top{%\copy\ProductBox@Top
\}

6.7.6 Box Style bottom

\ProductBox@style@bottom This macro defines the style *bottom* for a product box. Only this one face of the box is shown.
\newcommand\ProductBox@style@bottom{%\copy\ProductBox@Bottom
\}
6.7.7 Box Style fold

\ProductBox@earSize Parameter for the size of the ears.
221 \newcommand{\ProductBox@earSize}{12mm}

\ProductBox@foldLine The color of the additional lines in the fold rendering.
222 \newcommand{\ProductBox@foldLine}{white!80!black}

\ProductBox@foldOpacity The color of the additional lines in the fold rendering.
223 \newcommand{\ProductBox@foldOpacity}{.5}

\ProductBox@style@fold This macro defines the style fold for a product box.
224 \newcommand{\ProductBox@style@fold}{%
225 \begin{tikzpicture}[sw/.style={anchor=south west,
226 inner sep=0pt},
227 se/.style={anchor=south east,
228 inner sep=0pt},
229 nw/.style={anchor=north west,
230 inner sep=0pt},
231 num/.style={circle,
232 fill=white!90!black,
233 fill opacity=.5,
234 font=\tiny\bfseries\sffamily]
235 \begin{scope}
236 \clip rectangle (\ProductBox@z,\ProductBox@y);
237 \draw node[sw]{{\copy\ProductBox@Left}};
238 \draw[thin,opacity=\ProductBox@foldOpacity,\ProductBox@foldLine]
239 rectangle (\ProductBox@z,\ProductBox@y);
240 \end{scope}
241 \begin{scope}[xshift=\ProductBox@z]
242 \clip rectangle (\ProductBox@x,\ProductBox@y);
243 \draw node[sw]{{\copy\ProductBox@Front}};
244 \draw[thin,opacity=\ProductBox@foldOpacity,\ProductBox@foldLine]
245 rectangle (\ProductBox@x,\ProductBox@y);
246 \end{scope}
247 \begin{scope}[xshift=\ProductBox@z+x]
248 \clip rectangle (\ProductBox@z,\ProductBox@y);
249 \draw node[sw]{{\copy\ProductBox@Right}};
250 \draw[thin,opacity=\ProductBox@foldOpacity,\ProductBox@foldLine]
251 rectangle (\ProductBox@z,\ProductBox@y);
252 \end{scope}
253 \end{tikzpicture}%
bottom ear 2 right

\begin{scope}[xshift=\ProductBox@z+\ProductBox@x]
\clip
(0mm,0mm) -- (\ProductBox@z,0mm) -- 
(.5*\ProductBox@z,0mm) -- 
(.5*\ProductBox@z,\ProductBox@z) -- 
(0mm,-\ProductBox@z) -- cycle;
\draw (\ProductBox@z,0mm)
node[se,rotate=90]{\copy\ProductBox@Bottom};
\draw[thin,opacity=\ProductBox@foldOpacity,\ProductBox@foldLine]
(0mm,0mm) -- (\ProductBox@z,0mm) -- 
(.5*\ProductBox@z,0mm) -- 
(.5*\ProductBox@z,-\ProductBox@z) -- 
(0mm,-\ProductBox@z) -- cycle;
\draw (.25*\ProductBox@z,-.75*\ProductBox@z)
node[num]{2};
\end{scope}

bottom ear 2 left

\begin{scope}
\clip
(0mm,0mm) -- (\ProductBox@z,0mm) -- 
(\ProductBox@z,-\ProductBox@z) -- 
(.5*\ProductBox@z,-\ProductBox@z) -- 
(.5*\ProductBox@z,-.5*\ProductBox@z) -- cycle;
\draw
node[sw,rotate=270]{\copy\ProductBox@Bottom};
\draw[thin,opacity=\ProductBox@foldOpacity,\ProductBox@foldLine]
(0mm,0mm) -- (\ProductBox@z,0mm) -- 
(.5*\ProductBox@z,0mm) -- 
(.5*\ProductBox@z,-\ProductBox@z) -- 
(.5*\ProductBox@z,-.5*\ProductBox@z) -- cycle;
\draw (.75*\ProductBox@z,-.75*\ProductBox@z)
node[num]{2};
\end{scope}

glue ear

\begin{scope}[xshift=2*\ProductBox@x+2*\ProductBox@z]
\clip
(0mm,0mm) -- (\ProductBox@earSize/2,\ProductBox@earSize/4) -- 
(\ProductBox@earSize/2,\ProductBox@y-\ProductBox@earSize/4) -- 
(0mm,\ProductBox@y) -- cycle;
\draw node[sw]{\copy\ProductBox@Left};
\draw[thin,opacity=\ProductBox@foldOpacity,\ProductBox@foldLine]
(0mm,0mm) -- (\ProductBox@earSize/2,\ProductBox@earSize/4) -- 
(0mm,\ProductBox@y-\ProductBox@earSize/4) -- 
(\ProductBox@earSize/2,\ProductBox@y-\ProductBox@earSize/4) -- 
(0mm,\ProductBox@y) -- cycle;
\end{scope}

top ear left

\begin{scope}[yshift=\ProductBox@y]
\clip
(0mm,0mm) -- (\ProductBox@earSize/2,\ProductBox@earSize) -- 

6.7.8 Box Style threeD

A hook to add some code at the beginning.

\ProductBoxThreeDStartHook

A hook to add some code at the end.

\ProductBoxThreeDEndHook

The boolean ProductBox@shadow determines whether or not the shadow in the 3D rendering is shown.

\ifProductBox@shadow

\ProductBox@shadowtrue
The boolean \ProductBox@mirror determines whether or not the mirror effect in the 3D rendering is shown.

\newif\ifProductBox@mirror

The boolean \ProductBox@flare determines whether or not the flare effect in the 3D rendering is shown.

\newif\ifProductBox@flare

\ProductBox@edgeColor The edge color in the 3D rendering.

\newcommand\ProductBox@edgeColor{white}

\ProductBox@flareDiameter The diameter of the flare.

\newcommand\ProductBox@flareDiameter{24mm}

The angle to rotate the box about the z axis.

\newcommand\ProductBox@angleZ{8}

The angle to rotate the box about the x axis.

\newcommand\ProductBox@angleX{10}

\ProductBox@style@threeD This macro defines the style \textit{threeD} for a product box. The faces are placed such the illusion of a three-dimensional box appears. In addition a shadow is shown if not disabled.

\newcommand\ProductBox@style@threeD{
\begin{tikzpicture}[sw/.style={anchor=south west,
inner sep=0pt}]
\ProductBoxThreeDStartHook
\ifProductBox@mirror \ProductBox@threeD@mirror \fi
\ifProductBox@shadow \ProductBox@threeD@shadow \fi
\begin{scope}
\fill[white,
yslant=\ProductBox@p@front@yslant,
yscale=\ProductBox@p@front@yscale,
anchor=south west]
rectangle (\ProductBox@x,\ProductBox@y);
\draw
node[sw,
yslant=\ProductBox@p@front@yslant,
xscale=\ProductBox@p@front@yscale,]
\copy\ProductBox@Front;
\fill[black,
fill opacity=.025,
yslant=\ProductBox@p@front@yslant,
xscale=\ProductBox@p@front@yscale,]
\copy\ProductBox@Front;
\end{scope}
\end{tikzpicture}
Parameters and views.

\newcommand\ProductBox@setFrontParams[3]{% 
  \def\ProductBox@p@front@yslant{#1}\
  \def\ProductBox@p@front@xscale{#2}\
  \def\ProductBox@p@front@yscale{#3}\
}%
\newcommand\ProductBox@setLeftParams[3]{% 
  \def\ProductBox@p@left@yslant{#1}\
  \def\ProductBox@p@left@xscale{#2}\
  \def\ProductBox@p@left@yscale{#3}\
}%
\newcommand\ProductBox@setTopParams[4]{% 
  \def\ProductBox@p@top@xslant{#1}\
  \def\ProductBox@p@top@yslant{#2}\
  \def\ProductBox@p@top@xscale{#3}\
  \def\ProductBox@p@top@yscale{#4}\
}%
\newcommand\ProductBox@setMirrorParams[1]{% 
  \def\ProductBox@p@mirror@yscale{#1}\
}%
\@namedef{ProductBox@View@1}{% 
  \ProductBox@setFrontParams{.25}{.9090909}{1}\
  \ProductBox@setLeftParams{.5}{.6666666}{1}\
  \ProductBox@setTopParams{2}{.2265}{1.363}{.3333333}\
  \ProductBox@setMirrorParams{.4}}
\@namedef{ProductBox@View@2}{% 
  \ProductBox@setFrontParams{.15}{.9090909}{1}\
  \ProductBox@setLeftParams{.6666666}{.5}{1}\
  \ProductBox@setTopParams{1.5}{.12}{1.11}{.3333333}\
  \ProductBox@setMirrorParams{.4}}
\@namedef{ProductBox@View@3}{%
This macro defines the code to produce the shadow effect for the 3D rendering.

\ProductBox@threeD@shadow
\newcommand\ProductBox@threeD@shadow{
\begin{scope}
\foreach \x in {.5,1,1.5,2,2.5,3,4,5,6,8,10} {
\filldraw [black, line width=\x mm, rounded corners=2mm, opacity=.01, shift={(-1mm,1mm)}]
(0mm,0mm) -- (-\ProductBox@p@top@xslant \ProductBox@p@left@xscale \ProductBox@z, \ProductBox@p@top@yscale \ProductBox@z) -- (0mm, \ProductBox@p@top@yscale \ProductBox@z + \ProductBox@p@top@xslant \ProductBox@p@left@xscale \ProductBox@z) -- (0mm, -\ProductBox@p@top@yscale \ProductBox@z + \ProductBox@p@top@xslant \ProductBox@p@left@xscale \ProductBox@z + \ProductBox@p@top@yslant \ProductBox@z) -- (0mm, -\ProductBox@p@top@yscale \ProductBox@z + \ProductBox@p@top@xslant \ProductBox@p@left@xscale \ProductBox@z + \ProductBox@p@top@yslant \ProductBox@z) -- cycle;
}
\end{scope}
}

The following fading is used for the mirror effect in the 3D rendering.

\ProductBox@threeD@mirror
\tikzfading[name=ProductBoxFade, top color=transparent!100, bottom color=transparent!50, middle color=transparent!100]
\ProductBox@threeD@mirror
\newcommand\ProductBox@threeD@mirror{%
\fill node[anchor=south west, inner sep=0pt, yslant=\ProductBox@p@front@yslant, xscale=\ProductBox@p@front@xscale, yscale=\ProductBox@p@mirror@yscale]
{\begin{tikzpicture}
\clip rectangle (\ProductBox@x, \ProductBox@y*\ProductBox@p@mirror@yscale);
\fill node [scope fading=ProductBoxFade, yscale=\ProductBox@p@mirror@yscale, inner sep=0pt]{\copy\ProductBox@Front};
\end{tikzpicture}}
}
This macro defines the code to produce the flare effect. The flare is achieved with overlaying a partially transparent and fading circle of white color.

\ProductBox@threeD@flare

\newcommand\ProductBox@threeD@flare{
\fill [white,path fading=ProductBoxFlare]
(.8*\ProductBox@x,.9*\ProductBox@y)
circle(\ProductBox@flareDiameter);
}\tikzfading[name=ProductBoxFlare,
inner color=transparent!60,
outer color=transparent!100]

Finally we define some variant names.
\namedef{ProductBox@style@3D}{\ProductBox@style@threeD}
\namedef{ProductBox@style@3d}{\ProductBox@style@threeD}
⟨/style⟩

That’s all.
Change History

1.0
General: First public release. . . . 1

1.1
General: Simplified user interface added. . . . . . . . 1
\ProductBox@style@empty: New box style “empty”. . . . . . 25
\ProductBox@style@threeD: Fix:
The flare is also transformed and clipped. . . . . . . . . . . . . 31
\ProductBox@threeD@mirror:
Code rewritten to make full use of transparency. . . . . . . 34

ProductBox: Do not clean the faces upon request. . . . . . 23
Issue an error message for nested ProductBox environments. . . 23
Simplified user interface added. 23
Suppress error messages. . . . 23
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