

NAME

tbl – format tables for nroff or troff

SYNOPSIS**tbl** [files] ...**DESCRIPTION**

Tbl is an nroff (I) or troff(I) preprocessor for formatting tables. The input files are copied to the standard output, except for lines between .TS and .TE command lines, which are assumed to describe tables and reformatted. The first line after .TS specifies the various columns: it consists of a list of column descriptors separated by blanks or tabs. Each column descriptor is a character string made up of the letters ‘n’, ‘r’, ‘c’, ‘l’ and ‘s’, which mean:

- c center within the column
- r right-adjust
- l left-adjust
- n numerical adjustment: the units digits of numbers are aligned.
- s span the previous entry over this column.

The column descriptor may be followed by an integer giving the number of spaces between this column and the next; 3 is default. The descriptor ‘ccr5’ indicates that the first two lines in this column are centered; the third and remaining lines are right-adjusted; and the column should be separated from the column to the right by 5 spaces. Letting \t represent a tab (which must be typed as a genuine tab) the input

```
.TS
cccl sccn sscn
Household Population
Town\tHouseholds
\tNumber\tSize
Bedminster\t789\t3.26
Bernards Twp.\t3087\t3.74
Bernardsville\t2018\t3.30
Bound Brook\t3425\t3.04
Branchburg\t1644\t3.49
Bridgewater\t7897\t3.81
Far Hills\t240\t3.19
.TE
yields
      Household Population
      Town           Households
            Number      Size
Bedminster      789      3.26
Bernards Twp.  3087      3.74
Bernardsville   2018      3.30
Bound Brook     3425      3.04
Branchburg      1644      3.49
Bridgewater     7897      3.81
Far Hills       240      3.19
```

If no arguments are given, *tbl* reads the standard input, so it may be used as a filter. When it is used with *eqn* or *neqn* the *tbl* command should be first, to minimize the volume of data passed through pipes.

BUGS

No column descriptor may end with ‘s’.