

`\deadcycles` [*⟨number⟩* parameter]

This parameter contains the number of times that T_EX has initiated the output routine since the last time it did a `\shipout`.¹ If `\deadcycles` gets too big, you've probably gotten T_EX into a loop, e.g., one where the page builder is trying the same page break over and over again.

¹ More precisely, T_EX sets `\deadcycles` to 0 whenever it executes `\shipout` and increments it by 1 whenever it executes `\output`.