1

`\settabs` ⟨*number*⟩ `\columns`
`\settabs \+` ⟨*sample line*⟩ `\cr`

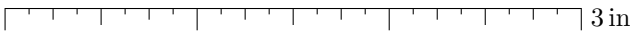
The first form of this command defines a set of tab stops for a tabbing alignment. It tells TEX to set the tab stops so as to divide each line into ⟨*number*⟩ equal parts. TEX takes the length of a line to be `\hsize`, as usual. You can make the alignment narrower by decreasing `\hsize`.

Example:

```
{\hsize = 3in \settabs 3 \columns
\+$1$&one&first\cr
\+$2$&two&second\cr
\+$3$&three&third\cr}
```

produces:

1	one	first
2	two	second
3	three	third



The second form of this command defines tab stops by setting the tab stops at the positions indicated by the '`&`'s in the sample line. The sample line itself does not appear in the output. When you use this form you'll usually want to put material into the sample line that is somewhat wider than the widest corresponding material in the alignment, in order to produce space between the columns. That's what we've done in the example below. The material following the last tab stop is irrelevant, since TEX does not need to position anything at the place where the `\cr` appears.

The tab settings established by `\settabs` remain in effect until you issue a new `\settabs` command or end a group containing the `\settabs` command. This is true for both forms of the command.

Example:

```
% The first line establishes the template.
\settabs \+$1$\qquad & three\quad & seventh\cr
\+$1$&one&first\cr
\+$2$&two&second\cr
\+$3$&three&third\cr
```

produces:

1	one	first
2	two	second
3	three	third