1

```
\spacefactor [\langle number \rangle parameter] \spaceskip [\langle glue \rangle parameter] \xspaceskip [\langle glue \rangle parameter] \sfcode \langle charcode \rangle [\langle number \rangle table entry]
```

These primitive parameters affect how much space TeX puts between two adjacent words, i.e., the interword spacing. The normal interword spacing is supplied by the current font. As TeX is processing a horizontal list, it keeps track of the space factor f in \spacefactor. As it processes each input character c, it updates f according to the value of f_c , the space factor code of c (see below). For most characters, f_c is 1000 and TeX sets f to 1000. (The initial value of f is also 1000.) When TeX sees an interword space, it adjusts the size of that space by multiplying the stretch and shrink of that space by f/1000 and f respectively. Thus:

- 1) If f = 1000, the interword space keeps its normal value.
- 2) If f < 1000, the interword space gets less stretch and more shrink.
- 3) If f > 1000, the interword space gets more stretch and less shrink.

In addition, if $f \ge 2000$ the interword space is further increased by the "extra space" parameter associated with the current font.

Each input character c has an entry in the \sfcode (space factor code) table. The \sfcode table entry is independent of the font. Usually T_EX just sets f to f_c after it processes c. However:

- If f_c is zero, T_EX leaves f unchanged. Thus a character such as ')' in plain T_EX , for which f_c is zero, is essentially transparent to the interword space calculation.
- If $f < 1000 < f_c$, TeX sets f to 1000 rather than to f_c , i.e., it refuses to raise f very rapidly.

The \sfcode value for a period is normally 3000, which is why T_EX usually puts extra space after a period (see the rule above for the case $f \geq 2000$). Noncharacter items in a horizontal list, e.g., vertical rules, generally act like characters with a space factor of 1000.

You can change the space factor explicitly by assigning a different numerical value to \spacefactor. You can also override the normal interword spacing by assigning a different numerical value to \xspaceskip or to \spaceskip:

- \xspaceskip specifies the glue to be used when $f \ge 2000$; in the case where \xspaceskip is zero, the normal rules apply.
- \spaceskip specifies the glue to be used when f < 2000 or when \xspaceskip is zero; if \spaceskip is zero, the normal rules apply. The stretch and shrink of the \spaceskip glue, like that of the ordinary interword glue, is modified according to the value of f.

See page 76 of *The TEXbook* for the precise rules that TEX uses in calculating interword glue, and pages 285–287 of *The TEXbook* for the adjustments made to \spacefactor after various items in a horizontal list.