

# The **bbm** package

Gilles F. Robert  
gfrobert@umpa.ens-lyon.fr

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A mathematician often needs special symbols to designate sets such as the integers, the reals etc..

For the time being, the only fonts providing these special symbols have been:

- the AMS fonts **msbm** (older version **msym**), which are intended for use with Times and aren't truly what a mathematician expects (the stress is on both stems instead of being on only the left one).
- Alan Jeffrey's **bbold** fonts, which are sans-serif ones, with (almost) no possibility of design variations for, say, a bold variant.

That was all, and in particular nothing for use with Computer Modern.

I was already working at that time on the project of changing the codes of **romanu.mf**, **romanl.mf** and other files to add a 'Blackboard' variant to Computer Modern.

YOU HAVE IT ALL THERE !!!

The whole package contains five 'main' files:

- **blbbase.mf** (the 'base') contains the supplementary definitions needed for double stems etc..
- **blbord.mf** (the 'driver') is fairly simple and only makes the necessary calls.
- **blbordu.mf** (based on **romanu.mf**): programs for uppercase letters.
- **blbordl.mf** (based on **romanl.mf**): programs for lowercase letters.
- **blbordsp.mf** (based on **romand.mf** and **punct.mf**): programs for the digits 1 and 2 and for parentheses and brackets.

There is also a whole lot of parameter files that are (almost) the same as those provided by DEK.

For most of them, the only differences are

- change ‘`cmbase`’ for ‘`blbbase`’ on line 2
- change ‘`generate roman`’ for ‘`generate blbord`’ on last line
- add two extra parameters (`interspace#` and `cap_interspace#`).

A  $\text{\LaTeX}(2_{\varepsilon})$  package written by Torsten Hilbrich for using these fonts is also available nearby, exactly in `ctan/macros/latex/contrib/supported/bbm/`

I sincerely hope you’ll enjoy using these fonts; if you get into problems while using them, I should be reachable at

Gilles F. ROBERT  
Unité de Mathématiques Pures et Appliquées  
École Normale Supérieure  
46, Allée d’Italie  
69364 Lyon Cedex (FRANCE)  
e-mail : [gfrobert@umpa.ens-lyon.fr](mailto:gfrobert@umpa.ens-lyon.fr)