An Improved Environment for Floats*

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Abstract

This style option improves the interface for defining floating objects such as figures and tables in LATEX. It adds the notion of a 'float style' that governs appearance of floats. New kinds of floats may be defined using a \newfloat command analogous to \newtheorem. This style option also incorporates the functionality of David Carlisle's style option here, giving floating environments a [H] option which means 'PUT IT HERE' (as opposed to the standard [h] option which means 'You may put it here if you like').

1 Introduction

Among the features of LATEX are 'floating' figures and tables that drift from where they appear in the input text to, say, the top of a page. The contents and formatting of floats is pretty much up to the user, except that there is a \caption command that governs formatting of the caption — it is centered if it is short, and formatted as a paragraph if it is longer than a single line of text. Sometimes other types of floating objects, e.g., algorithms or programs, are desirable, but they must be defined by analogy to the existing floats since there is no simple command for doing this. This goes beyond the knowledge or inclination of the average LATEX user.

In this style option, I present an interface to floating objects that attempts to fix some of these shortcomings. First of all, I introduce the notion of a 'float style'. A float style governs the appearance of a class of floats like a page style governs the appearance of a page (IATEX has page styles plain, empty and headings, among others). This style option provides some exemplary float styles:

plain This is the float style that IATEX normally applies to its floats, i.e., nothing in particular. The only difference is that the caption comes out *below* the body of the float, regardless of where it is given in the text.

boxed The body of the float is printed inside a box. The caption goes below that box.

ruled This float style is patterned on the table style of *Concrete Mathematics*. The caption is printed at the top of the float, surrounded by rules; another rule finishes off the float.

Program 1.1 The first program. This hasn't got anything to do with the style but is included as an example. Note the **ruled** float style.

```
#include <stdio.h>
int main(int argc, char **argv)
{
    int i;
    for (i = 0; i < argc; ++i)
        printf("argv[%d] = %s\n", i, argv[i]);
    return 0;
}</pre>
```

To facilitate the definition of new floating objects, float supports the \newfloat command. This command is comparable to \newtheorem in that it allows the user to add a new class of floats at the document level. No style option hacking is necessary. There's also a \listof command that prints a listing of all the floats of a given type, like \listoffigures and \listoftables in vanilla LATEX.

2 The User Interface — New Floats

\newfloat

The most important command in float is the \newfloat command. As mentioned above, it is patterned on \newtheorem. The \newfloat command takes three required and one optional argument; it is of the form

```
\newfloat{\langle type \rangle}{\langle placement \rangle}{\langle ext \rangle}[\langle within \rangle]
```

 $\langle type \rangle$ is the 'type' of the new class of floats, like program or algorithm. After the appropriate \newfloat, commands like \begin{program} or \end{algorithm*} will be available. $\langle placement \rangle$ gives the default placement parameters for this class of floats. The placement parameters are the same as in standard IATEX, i.e., t, b, p and h for 'top', 'bottom', 'page' and 'here', respectively. When IATEX writes the captions to an auxiliary file for the list of figures (or whatever), it'll use the job name followed by $\langle ext \rangle$ as a file name. Finally, the optional argument $\langle within \rangle$ determines whether floats of this class will be numbered within some sectional unit of the document. For example, if $\langle within \rangle$ =chapter, the floats will be numbered within chapters. (In standard IATEX, this happens with figures and tables in the report and book document styles.) As an example, Program 1.1 above was created by a command sequence similar to that shown in the following Example.

^{*}This file has version number v1.2d. Part of this style option is based on the here option by David P. Carlisle (carlisle@cs.man.ac.uk), who also provided helpful criticism.

n	$\binom{n}{0}$	$\binom{n}{1}$	$\binom{n}{2}$	$\binom{n}{3}$	$\binom{n}{4}$	$\binom{n}{5}$	$\binom{n}{6}$	$\binom{n}{7}$
0	1							
1	1	1						
2	1	2	1					
3	1	3	3	1				
4	1	4	6	4	1			
5	1	5	10	10	5	1		
6	1	6	15	20	15	6	1	
7	1	7	21	35	35	21	7	1

Table 1: Pascal's triangle. This is a re-styled LATEX table.

```
\floatstyle{ruled}
\newfloat{Program}{tbp}{lop}[section]
... loads o' stuff ...
\begin{Program}
\begin{verbatim}
... program text ...
\end{verbatim}
\caption{... caption ...}
\end{Program}
```

Example 2.1: This is another silly floating Example. Except that this one doesn't actually float because it uses the [H] optional parameter to appear **Here**. (Gotcha.)

\floatstyle

The \floatstyle command sets a default float style. This float style will be used for all the floats that are subsequently defined using \newfloat, until another \floatstyle command appears. The \floatstyle command takes one argument, the name of a float style. For instance, \floatstyle{ruled}. Specifying a string that does not name a valid float style is an error.

\floatname

The \floatname command lets you define the *float name* that \LaTeX uses in the caption of a float, i.e., 'Figure' for a figure and so on. For example, \floatname{program}{Program}. The \newfloat command sets the float name to its argument $\langle type \rangle$ if no other name has been specified before.

\floatplacement

The \floatplacement command resets the default placement specifier of a class of floats. E.g., \floatplacement{figure}{tp}.

\restylefloat

The \restylefloat command is necessary to change styles for the standard float types figure and table. Since these aren't usually defined via \newfloat, they don't have a style associated with them. Thus you have to say, for example,

\floatstyle{ruled} \restylefloat{table}

to have tables come out ruled. The command also lets you change style for floats that you define via \newfloat, although this is, typographically speaking, not a good idea. See table 1 for an example.

\listof

The **\listof** command produces a list of all the floats of a given class. Its syntax is

```
\left( type \right) \left( title \right)
```

⟨type⟩ is the float type given in the \newfloat command. ⟨title⟩ is used for the title of the list as well as the headings if the current page style includes them. Otherwise, the \listof command is analogous to the built-in LATEX commands \listoffigures and \listoftables.

3 The User Interface — [H] Placement Specifier

Many people find LATEX's float placement specifiers too restrictive. A Commonly Uttered Complaint (CUC) calls for a way to place a float exactly at the spot where it occurs in the input file, i.e., to *not* have it float at all. It seems that the [h] specifier should do that, but in fact it only suggests to LATEX something along the lines of "put the float here if it's OK with you". As it turns out, LATEX hardly ever feels inclined to actually do that. This situation can be improved by judicious manipulation of float style parameters.

The same effect can be achieved by changing the actual method of placing floats. David Carlisle's here option introduces a new float placement specifier, namely [H], which, when added to a float, tells LATEX to "put it HERE, period". If there isn't enough space left on the page, the float is carried over to the next page together with whatever follows, even though there might still be room left for some of that. This style option provides the [H] specifier for newly defined classes of floats as well as the predefined figures and tables, thereby superseding here. David suggests that the here option be withdrawn from the archives in due course.

The [H] specifier may simply be added to the float as an optional argument, like all the other specifiers. It may *not* be used in conjunction with any other placement specifiers, so [Hhtbp] is illegal. Neither may it be used as the default placement specifier for a whole class of floats. The following table is defined like this:

```
\begin{table}[H]
\begin{tabular}{cl}
\tt t & Top of the page\\
... more stuff...
```

(It seems that I have to add some extraneous chatter here just so that the float actually comes out right in the middle of a printed page. When I LATEXed the documentation just now it turned out that there was a page break that fell exactly between the "So now" line and the float. This wouldn't Prove Anything. Bother.) So now we have the following float placement specifiers:

- t Top of the page
- b Bottom of the page
- p Page of floats
- h Here, if possible
- H Here, definitely

4 Implementation

4.1 Basics

```
1 (*package)
```

In LATEX, floats are assigned 'type numbers' that are powers of 2. Since there are only two classes of floats, their type numbers are hardwired into the document styles. We need to be somewhat more flexible, and thus we initialize a counter to hold the next type number to be assigned. This counter will be incremented appropriately later.

- 2 \newcounter{float@type}
- 3 \@ifundefined{c@figure}%
- 4 {\setcounter{float@type}{1}}%
- 5 {\setcounter{float@type}{4}}

To warm up, we'll look at some of the simpler commands first.

\floatstyle

The \floatstyle command puts its argument into the \float@style macro as the name of the new float style. But if the argument doesn't denote a float style, an error message is output instead: Each float style $\langle style \rangle$ has a corresponding command \fs@ $\langle style \rangle$ that contains the appropriate declarations. If the control sequence \fs@ $\langle arg \rangle$ (which goes with the argument $\langle arg \rangle$ to \floatstyle) is undefined, i.e., equals \relax under \ifx, then the float style $\langle arg \rangle$ is unknown, and we call \float@error{ $\langle arg \rangle$ } for the error message.

- 6 %\def\floatstyle#1{\expandafter\ifx\csname fs@#1\endcsname\relax
- 7 % \float@error{#1}\else\def\float@style{#1}\fi}
- 8 \newcommand\floatstyle[1]{\@ifundefined{fs@#1}%
- 9 {\float@error{#1}}%
- 10 {\def\float@style{#1}}}

\float@error

Here's the error message. \@eha is the help message that says 'Your command was ignored.'

- 11 \newcommand\float@error[1] {\PackageError{float}{%
- 12 Unknown float style '#1'
- 13 }{\@eha}}

The next two commands are even simpler. LaTeX says that $\footnotemap \footnotemap \footnotemap$

- 14 \newcommand\floatname[2]{\@namedef{fname@#1}{#2}}
- $15 \end{floatplacement [2] {\tt Qnamedef\{fps@#1\}{\#2}}}$

\restylefloat

The \restylefloat command sets up everything so that subsequent commands like \begin{\langle float \rangle} use the appropriate float style. It defines \fst@\langle float \rangle to expand to a command that sets up the currently selected float style (\fs@\langle style \rangle). Then it defines the commands \begin{\langle float \rangle}, \end{\langle float \rangle}, \begin{\langle float \rangle} and \end{\langle float \rangle}.

- 16 \newcommand\restylefloat[1]{\expandafter\edef\csname
- 17 fst@#1\endcsname{\expandafter\noexpand\csname
- 18 fs@\float@style\endcsname}%
- $\label{local_self_prop_Qnameuse} $$19 \qquad \end{figure} $$ \operatorname{fst@\#1}\ \end{figure} $$19. $$ \end{figure} $$19. $$19$
- 20 \@namedef{#1*}{\bgroup\@nameuse{fst@#1}\@dblfloat{#1}}%

- 21 \expandafter\let\csname end#1\endcsname\float@end
- 22 \expandafter\let\csname end#1*\endcsname\float@dblend}

\newfloat

Now we can explain how to define a new class of floats. Recall that the three required arguments to $\mbox{\ensuremath{\text{newfloat}}}$ are $\langle type \rangle$, $\langle placement \rangle$ and $\langle ext \rangle$, respectively. First we save the latter two.

Then we figure out a default value for the 'caption name' of this class of floats. If the \frak{type} isn't already defined, we tentatively use $\langle type \rangle$ as the name. This is convenient if $\langle type \rangle$ is, say, Program, since no $\frak{floatname}$ command is necessary at all.

```
25 \@ifundefined{fname@#1}{\floatname{#1}{#1}}{}
```

Then we set up the type number for LATEX in \ftype@(type). Afterwards we have to set the float@type to the next greater power of two, so that it is ready for the next \newfloat. Fortunately, we just have to double it by adding. We don't bother checking for overflow since it is pretty unlikely that somebody will define 25 different classes of floats. Finally, we call \restylefloat to define the style and commands for this class of floats.

- 26 \expandafter\edef\csname ftype@#1\endcsname{\value{float@type}}%
- 27 \addtocounter{float@type}{\value{float@type}}
- 28 \restylefloat{#1}%

Now all that's left is to assemble the $\footnote{Tem} \$ macro that LaTeX wants to use in its captions. Basically it is just 'caption name' + 'counter value', disguised so that the command *names* appear in the definition instead of their expansions.

```
29 \expandafter\edef\csname fnum@#1\endcsname%
30 {\expandafter\noexpand\csname fname@#1\endcsname{}
```

\expandafter\noexpand\csname the#1\endcsname}

Finally, we have to take care of the optional argument, $\langle within \rangle$. If the optional argument is present, we pass control to \c newfloat. Otherwise, we just define the counter for this class of floats. By default, the numbers come out \arabic .

```
32 \@ifnextchar[{\@xnewfloat{#1}}%
33 {\@ifundefined{c@#1}{\newcounter{#1}\@namedef{the#1}{\arabic{#1}}}%
34 {}}
```

\@xnewfloat

Here we deal with the optional argument to \newfloat. We have to create a new counter as per \newcounter{ $\langle type \rangle$ } and add that counter to the list of counters to be reset whenever counter $\langle within \rangle$ is stepped. The standard command \newcounter{ $\langle type \rangle$ }[$\langle within \rangle$] takes care of that. However, we can't define the $\langle type \rangle$ counter if it's already defined. While this case is simply ignored when $\langle within \rangle$ is not present, we issue a warning here since what comes out is probably not what the user expects.

```
35 \def\@xnewfloat#1[#2]{\@ifundefined{c@#1}{\newcounter{#1}[#2]%
36 \expandafter\edef\csname the#1\endcsname{%
37 \expandafter\noexpand\csname
38 the#2\endcsname.\noexpand\arabic{#1}}%
39 {\PackageWarning{float}{Can't redefine counter variable for #1.}}
```

4.2 Adapting LaTeX internals

We have to adapt some of LaTeX's internal macros to our needs. There are several things that have to be changed around in order to provide the functionality of David Carlisle's here. The following is thus lifted from here, with changes and with David's permission:

\@Hxfloat

We save the original version of \@xfloat. (This macro is called from \@float, which we used above to define the environment commands for a new class of floats.)
40 \let\@Hxfloat\@xfloat

\@xfloat

The new version of \@xfloat looks for a [H] argument. If it is present \@HHfloat is called, otherwise the original macro (renamed to \@Hxfloat) is called.

41 \def\@xfloat#1[{\@ifnextchar{H}{\@HHfloat{#1}[}{\@Hxfloat{#1}[}}

Later on we'll need a box to save a [H] float.

- 42 \newsavebox\float@box
- 43 \newif\if@flstyle

\@HHfloat

First gobble the [H]. Note that H should not be used in conjunction with the other placement options, nor as the value of the default placement, as set in \fps@type.

44 \def\@HHfloat#1[H]{%

Locally redefine the end of the environment.

45 \expandafter\let\csname end#1\endcsname\float@endH

We don't get a \@currbox if we don't actually use the float mechanism. Therefore we fake one using the \float@box defined above.

46 \let\@currbox\float@box

Now we save the current float class name for use in constructing the \caption. The caption box (defined below) is initialised to an empty box to avoid trouble with floats not having a caption. Then we start the box that'll hold the float itself. \parindent is set to zero for compatibility with the standard [h] option.

- 47 \def\@captype{#1}\setbox\@floatcapt=\vbox{}%
- 48 \expandafter\ifx\csname fst@#1\endcsname\relax
- 49 \@flstylefalse\else\@flstyletrue\fi
- 50 \setbox\@currbox\color@vbox\normalcolor
- 51 \vbox\bgroup \hsize\columnwidth \@parboxrestore
- 52 \reset@font \normalsize \@setnobreak \@setminipage

The final \ignorespaces is needed to gobble any spaces or newlines after the [H] tokens.

53 \ignorespaces}

\float@makebox

Basically, we must arrange for 'style commands' to be executed at certain points during the generation of the float. IATEX puts a float into a vertical box \@currbox which it takes off a list of empty boxes for insertions. When the \float@makebox macro is called, \@currbox contains the complete float, minus the caption — we'll see later that we use our own \caption command to put the caption into a \vbox of its own. This is the only way we can control the position of the caption by the float style, regardless of where the caption appears in the float's input text itself. So the 'style commands' are \@fs@pre, which is inserted at the very beginning of the float, \@fs@mid, which comes between the float and the caption (or the caption

and the float, if captions are put at the top), and \@fs@post, which finishes off the float. The caption may appear at the top or at the bottom of the float, as defined by \@fs@iftopcapt. Therefore, before we hand the float to LATEX for positioning, it is taken apart and reassembled using the style commands.

```
54 \newcommand\float@makebox{%

55 \vbox{\hsize\columnwidth \@parboxrestore

56 \@fs@pre\@fs@iftopcapt

57 \ifvbox\@floatcapt\unvbox\@floatcapt\par\@fs@mid\fi

58 \unvbox\@currbox

59 \else\unvbox\@currbox

60 \ifvbox\@floatcapt\par\@fs@mid\unvbox\@floatcapt\fi

61 \fi\par\@fs@post\vskip\z@}}
```

\float@end

The internal macro \end@float appears here under the name of \float@end. The main thing which is changed is that we call \float@makebox to reconstruct the float according to the float style.

```
62 \verb| newcommand float@end{\global@minipagefalse | outer@nobreak| | left | for the context | for the
```

- 63 \egroup \color@endbox
- 64 \global\setbox\@currbox\float@makebox

Now LATEX takes over again.

```
65 \ifnum\@floatpenalty <\z@ \@largefloatcheck
66 \@cons\@currlist\@currbox
67 \ifnum\@floatpenalty < -\@Mii
68 \penalty -\@Miv \@tempdima\prevdepth
69 \vbox{}\prevdepth \@tempdima \penalty\@floatpenalty
70 \else \vadjust{\penalty -\@Miv
71 \vbox{}\penalty\@floatpenalty}\@Esphack
72 \fi\fi\egroup}</pre>
```

(The final \egroup is not present in the original definition; we need it to finish off the \bgroup that precedes the \@nameuse in the \begin{ $\langle float \rangle$ } commands. This is to keep the style commands local.)

\float@endH

The \float@endH command is, again, derived from here. It'll deal correctly with a non-floating float, inserting the proper amounts of white space above and below.

73 \newcommand\float@endH{\par\vskip\z@skip

- 74 \global\@minipagefalse \outer@nobreak
- 75 \egroup \color@endbox \vskip\intextsep
- $76 \qquad \verb|\if@flstyle\float@makebox\egroup\else\box\@currbox\fi|$
- 77 \vskip\intextsep\relax}

\float@dblend

The \float@dblend macro is an almost-verbatim copy of \end@dblfloat but for the last part, from \fi\egroup on. The \egroup is, of course, necessary because of the \bgroup at the very beginning of the float. And we have to call \float@end instead of \end@float, naturally.

78 $\mbox{\ensuremath{\mbox{\sc Newcommand}\sc Month}} \mbox{\ensuremath{\mbox{\sc Newcomm}\sc Month}} \mbo$

- 79 \par\vskip\z@\egroup \outer@nobreak \color@endbox
- 80 \global\setbox\@currbox\float@makebox
- 81 \ifnum\@floatpenalty <\z@ \@largefloatcheck
- 82 \@cons\@dbldeferlist\@currbox\fi
- 83 \ifnum \@floatpenalty =-\@Mii \@Esphack\fi\egroup\else\float@end\fi}

4.3 Captions and lists of floats

Now for the caption routines. We use a box, \@floatcapt, to hold the caption while the float is assembled.

84 \newsavebox\@floatcapt

\caption

This is the only LATEX macro that this document style supersedes. Our \caption command checks whether there is a custom style defined for the current float (whose type can be found in \@captype). If so, the caption routines from float are used, otherwise we call the vanilla LATEX routines. The \@flcapt conditional is used to tell the float-assembly routines that there actually is a caption. We need this to properly handle figures and tables that have been restyled.

```
85 \renewcommand\caption{\refstepcounter\@captype
```

- 86 \expandafter\ifx\csname fst@\@captype\endcsname\relax
- 87 \let\@tempf\@caption
- 88 \else\let\@tempf\float@caption\fi \@dblarg{\@tempf\@captype}}

\float@caption

The \float@caption macro takes care of entering the caption into the appropriate listing. It also controls the typesetting of the caption itself, although a style-dependent macro \@fs@capt is called to handle the specifics. Note that because the caption is saved in a box instead of being output to the float right away, you cannot simply put a legend after the caption proper; it has to follow the \caption command in an optional argument.

First of all, we call \addcontentsline to update the list of floats of this class. Note that \float@caption is \long to allow for paragraph breaks in its arguments.

```
89 \long\def\float@caption#1[#2]#3{\addcontentsline{\@nameuse{ext@#1}}{#1}%
90 {\protect\numberline{\@nameuse{the#1}}{\ignorespaces #2}}
```

Now we collect the caption proper. The caption name and number are taken from $\footnote{fnum}(float)$, where $\langle float \rangle$ is the class of float we're currently handling.

- 91 \global\setbox\@floatcapt\vbox\bgroup\@parboxrestore
 - 2 \normalsize\@fs@capt{\@nameuse{fnum@#1}}{\ignorespaces #3}%

Finally we check for the presence of the optional argument. If there is one, we call \float@ccon to pick it up; otherwise, the \egroup finishes off the box.

93 \@ifnextchar[{\float@ccon}{\egroup}}

\float@ccon

The \float@ccon macro expands to the optional argument of a \caption command, followed by \par\egroup. Note that this precludes using \verb & Co. in the optional argument; the interested reader is urged to fix this problem as an exercise.

94 \long\def\float@ccon[#1]{#1\par\egroup}

\listof The \listof command reads the desired list of floats from the appropriate auxiliary file. The file is then restarted. Currently the list appears at the chapter or the section level, depending on whether chapters are supported in the document style at all. First of all, we check whether the float style that's supposed to be

listed is actually defined. If not, we output a \float@error.

```
95 \newcommand\listof[2]{%
```

96 \@ifundefined{ext@#1}{\float@error{#1}}{%

All's well until now. We determine whether the list is going to be a chapter or a section, and we define the \lockline \float\rangle command that LATEX needs for formatting the list. After that, we call \@starttoc with the correct file extension to do the actual work.

```
97
                                                                       \@ifundefined{chapter}{\def\@tempa{\section*}}%
      98
                                                                                            {\def\@tempa{\chapter*}}%
                                                                       \@tempa{#2\@mkboth{\uppercase{#2}}}{\uppercase{#2}}}%
      99
100
                                                                       \ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath}\amb}\amb}\amb}}}}}}}}}}}}}}
                                                                       \@starttoc{\@nameuse{ext@#1}}}}
101
```

5 The Float Styles

Finally, we define the three standard float styles that were outlined in the Introduction. Every float style \(\style \) corresponds to a command \fs@\(style \) which contains the definitions of the style commands, namely

```
\@fs@pre
             top of the float
 \@fs@mid
             between float and caption
 \@fs@post
             bottom of the float
\@fs@capt
             formatting routine for caption
\@fs@cfont
             font for caption name & number
```

\floatc@plain The \floatc@plain macro formats a caption the way IATEX does it: if the caption is fairly short, it is centered, otherwise it is formatted as a paragraph. The only difference is that the portion containing the caption name and number uses the \@fs@captfont.

```
102 \newcommand\floatc@plain[2]{\setbox\@tempboxa\hbox{{\@fs@cfont #1:} #2}%
    \ifdim\wd\@tempboxa>\hsize {\@fs@cfont #1:} #2\par
104
       \else\hbox to\hsize{\hfil\box\@tempboxa\hfil}\fi}
```

\fs@plain The plain float style is similar to what LATEX does of its own accord; the only difference is that the caption is guaranteed to come out at the bottom of the float.

```
105 \newcommand\fs@plain{\def\@fs@cfont{\rmfamily}\let\@fs@capt\floatc@plain
   107
   \let\@fs@iftopcapt\iffalse}
```

\floatc@ruled The \floatc@ruled command is even simpler than the \floatc@plain macro. The caption is simply printed 'as is'.

108 \newcommand\floatc@ruled[2]{{\@fs@cfont #1} #2\par}

\fs@ruled In the ruled float style, the caption appears at the top of the float, preceded and followed by horizontal rules. Another rule followes the whole of the float.

109 \newcommand\fs@ruled{\def\@fs@cfont{\bfseries}\let\@fs@capt\floatc@ruled

```
\def\@fs@pre{\hrule height.8pt depth0pt \kern2pt}%
```

- \def\@fs@post{\kern2pt\hrule\relax}% 111
- 112 \def\@fs@mid{\kern2pt\hrule\kern2pt}%
- \let\@fs@iftopcapt\iftrue}

\fs@boxed The boxed float style puts the float into a box (which is slightly larger than the usual \textwidth). The caption appears below the box.

114 \newcommand\fs@boxed{\def\@fs@cfont{\bfseries}\let\@fs@capt\floatc@plain

```
115 \def\@fs@pre{\setbox\@currbox\vbox{\hbadness10000}
116 \moveleft3.4pt\vbox{\advance\hsize by6.8pt
117 \hrule \hbox to\hsize{\vrule\kern3pt
118 \vbox{\kern3pt\box\@currbox\kern3pt\\vrule}\hrule}}%
119 \def\@fs@mid{\kern2pt}%
120 \def\@fs@post{}\let\@fs@iftopcapt\iffalse}
```

Before we finish, we set the float style to plain.

121 \floatstyle{plain}

Other float styles can be added without much ado. If there are many more float styles, it should be worthwhile to invent a scheme similar to that used in Frank Mittelbach's theorem option in order to conserve space, i.e., put the float styles into individual files that can be loaded on demand. I would like to hear from people who define interesting float styles.