Webfig.tex

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How to insert a box in a text.
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### The best way to go

The easiest and the best way to insert a picture or any kind of large box (array, boxed formula) is to do so within a display math environment like the following:

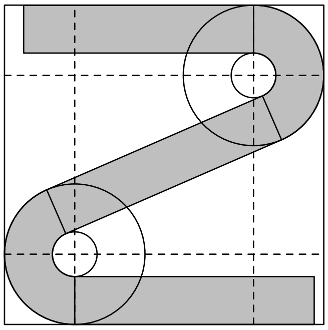

*Figure 1.*

*This picture explains how the Bourbaki's Z may be constructed. It relies on very basic mathematical knowledge. But it's still a bit tricky.*

that is to say `$$` *boxed material* `$$`. Any other solution would require:

- a very high skill in TeX programming;
- a very careful handling of paragraphs.

But, alas, people love special effects. They want text moving around a complex shape, square boxes within a paragraph. And they want it to be simple to do. But of course that's complex because TeX was not really designed for that, even if it has primitives—like `\parshape`—that help to do such a job (by hand tuning). One has to notice the existence of very powerful commands (`\topinsert`, `\pageinsert`, `\midinsert`) in plainTeX (see the TeXbook).

### The awful thing

While I was trying to design a TeX interpreter for HTML (I know it sounds dummy), I faced the problem of implementing the `<img>`'s tag which allows a very flexible insertion of pictures (in fact blank boxes). The main problem was how to make it go through many paragraphs. A part of the solution is given in a very nice book: *La maîtrise de TeX* by T. Lachand-Robert. With a little work more (...) I could write down a quite complex macro that would behave as `<img>`. (I you don't know anything about HTML, you have to know that it's a lot simpler to use than LaTeX.)

I'm not going to explain how it works (see the mentioned book). I'm not going also to tell anybody that my macro is wonderfull (it's not). It may be interesting only to TeXperts. If you think you are, read the code of this file. What is sure is that a good solution of this kind is needed for complex formats. It is also needed for those strange people who don't know where to put their huge pictures and who want to save some space. To end those claims, I must say that the following samples have required a careful tuning. That is: paragraphs have been adjusted to make it work. If not, pictures would have gone around in a quite silly way.

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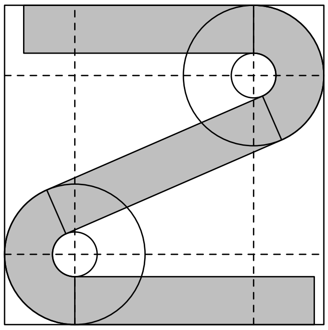

*Some text: blu blu blu blu blu blu blu blu*

Bla bla bla bla bla bla bla bla bla. Bla bla bla bla bla bla bla bla bla. Bla bla bla bla bla bla bla bla bla. Bla bla bla bla bla bla bla bla bla.

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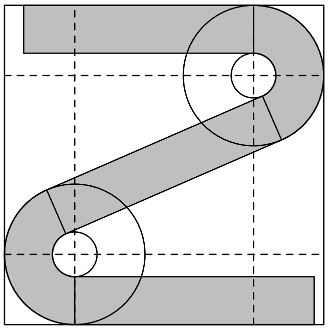

Bla bla bla bla bla bla bla bla bla. Bla bla bla bla bla bla bla bla bla. Bla bla bla bla bla bla bla bla bla. Bla bla bla bla bla bla bla bla bla. Bla bla bla bla bla bla bla bla bla. Bla bla bla bla bla bla bla bla bla. Bla bla bla bla bla bla bla bla bla. Bla bla bla bla bla bla bla bla bla.

In the margin with no indentation. Bla bla bla bla bla bla bla bla bla. Bla bla bla bla bla bla bla bla bla. Bla bla bla bla bla bla bla bla bla. Bla bla bla bla bla bla bla bla bla. Bla bla bla bla bla bla bla bla bla. Bla bla bla bla bla bla bla bla bla. Bla bla bla bla bla bla bla bla bla. Bla bla bla bla bla bla bla bla bla. Bla bla bla bla bla bla bla bla bla. Bla bla bla bla bla bla bla bla bla. Bla bla bla bla bla bla bla bla bla. Bla bla bla bla bla bla bla bla bla. Bla bla bla bla bla bla bla bla bla. Bla bla bla bla bla bla bla bla bla. Bla bla bla bla bla bla bla bla bla.