The main purpose of the following program is to explain the algorithms of TeX as clearly as possible. As a result, the program will not necessarily be very efficient when a particular PASCAL compiler has translated it into a particular machine language. However, the program has been written so that it can be tuned to run efficiently in a wide variety of operating environments by making comparatively few changes. Such flexibility is possible because the documentation that follows is written in the WEB language, which is at a higher level than PASCAL; the preprocessing step that converts WEB to PASCAL is able to introduce most of the necessary refinements. Semi-automatic translation to other languages is also feasible, because the program below does not make extensive use of features that are peculiar to PASCAL. A large piece of software like TeX has inherent complexity that cannot be reduced below a certain level of difficulty, although each individual part is fairly simple by itself. The WEB language is intended to make the algorithms as readable as possible, by reflecting the way the individual program pieces fit together and by providing the cross-references that connect different parts. Detailed comments about what is going on, and about why things were done in certain ways, have been liberally sprinkled throughout the program. These comments explain features of the

implementation, but they rarely attempt to explain the TeX language itself, since the reader is supposed to be familiar with The TeX book.

Box 1
Box 2
Box 3

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