
Editor's note: *MAPS* is the publication of NTG, the Dutch language \TeX user group. Their web site is <http://www.ntg.nl>.

MAPS 27, Spring 2002

JOHANNES BRAAMS, Redactioneel [From the editor]; p. 1

Overview of the issue's contents and an introduction of the new editorial team.

ERIK FRAMBACH, \TeX Gebruikersgroepen [\TeX user groups]; pp. 2–5

An overview of all \TeX user groups known to us, including corresponding contact information.

[Translation of author's abstract]

JULES VAN WEERDEN, Agenda [Calendar of events]; p. 6

PIET VAN OOSTRUM, Nieuws van CTAN [News from CTAN]; pp. 7–9

This article describes a number of recent contributions to the CTAN archive. The selection is based on what I find interesting and what I think others will find interesting. It is thus a personal choice. There is no intention of giving a complete overview. Consider this a kind of menu to whet the appetite of the curious.

[Translation of author's abstract]

SIEP KROONENBERG, Patenten, copyright en 'intellectual property' [Patents, copyright and 'intellectual property']; pp. 10–12

This piece calls attention to software patents and other attacks on our electronic freedom.

[Translation of author's abstract]

DONALD E. KNUTH, Brief van Knuth [Letter from Knuth]; p. 13

A facsimile of a letter from Knuth to Kroonenberg on the publication of the Euro \TeX 2001 proceedings.

PATRICK GRUNDLACH, meta-euro; pp. 14–19

This article shows how to draw the euro symbol using the MetaFun package for METAFONT.

[Author's abstract]

HANS HAGEN, The euro symbol; pp. 20–22

When Patrick Gundlach posted a nice METAFONT version of the euro symbol to the Con \TeX t discussion list, he added the comment "The official construction is ambiguous: how thick are the horizontal bars? How much do they stick out to the left? Is this thing a circle or what? Are the angles on the left side of the bars the same as the one on

the right side? ..." The alternative below is probably not as official as his, but permits a fine-tuning. You are warned: whatever you try, the euro *is* and *will remain* an ugly symbol. [Author's abstract]

JEAN-LUC DOUMONT, Doing it my way: a lone \TeX er in the real world; pp. 23–28

While a world-renowned standard in many academic fields, Don Knuth's much acclaimed typesetting system is almost unknown in most parts of the real world, where many a document designer has achieved professional success without ever hearing (let alone pronouncing) the word " \TeX ". Outside academia, the lone \TeX er faces not only compatibility headaches, but also outright incomprehension from his customers, colleagues, or competitors: why would anyone want to use \TeX to produce memos, two-color newsletters, full-color brochures, overhead transparencies, and other items — in short, anything but books that contain a lot of mathematics?

As a consultant in professional communication, I have been using \TeX for all documents I have produced for my clients and for myself during the last ten years or so. Though it has turned out to be most successful, this approach is seen by most as a mere idiosyncrasy. And yet, the systematic use of my own \TeX and PostScript programming gives me three unequalled advantages over using off-the-shelf software: I travel light, I can go anywhere I please, and I guarantee I'll get there.

[Author's abstract]

JEAN-LUC DOUMONT, Drawing effective (and beautiful) graphs with \TeX ; pp. 29–35

A standard approach to producing documents that include illustrations consists in typesetting text with specialized typesetting software (such as \TeX) and inserting illustrations created with different, equally specialized software. To better integrate the illustrations into the typeset page, it would be nice to be able to produce or modify them directly with the typesetting software. Drawing graphs with \TeX , for example, would allow one to set them $\backslash\text{hsize}$ wide and $0.75\backslash\text{hsize}$ high, position labels exactly $\backslash\text{baselineskip}$ below the horizontal axis, and, especially, typeset all annotations with the same fonts, sizes, and mathematical beauty as the rest of the document.

The hybrid \TeX and PostScript macros presented in this paper take advantage of \TeX 's power to graph and annotate data sets in a variety of ways in order to produce effective, beautiful, well-integrated graphs. They use \TeX to draw all horizontal and vertical lines (axes, tick marks, grid lines) and set all annotations, and PostScript to draw the

data, as markers, lines, and areas. While fairly simple, they have been successfully harnessed to appear in a wide range of real-life applications, up to logarithmic graphs and (with some patience) complex multipanel displays. Of course, the macros are a tool for drawing final graphs rather than exploring or transforming data sets. [Author's abstract]

HANS HAGEN and TON OTTEN, Figures;
pp. 36–40

Within the \TeX community there is a widely used database for bibliographic references, \BIBTeX , but not for figures. To manage figures \ConTeXt now supports a figures database. The database is set up in XML and converted to an interactive PDF figure library featuring ordered displays and a search mechanism. From the library, figures can be included easily in \ConTeXt documents as long as both the PDF and the XML files remain present.

[Authors' abstract]

ERNST VAN DER STORM, DTP'en met \LaTeX
[Desktop publishing with \LaTeX]; pp. 41–44

Report on the use of \LaTeX for desktop publishers showing some simple macros and how to incorporate images: a practical description.

[Translation of author's abstract]

KAREL H. WESSELING, GERTRUDE L. VAN DER SAR and JOS J. SETTELS, From PC-Write to \ConTeXt ; pp. 45–50

A tale of more than 10 years of joy and struggle with \TeX followed by a period of bliss, of easy to use tools, quickly obtained results, and incredible possibilities from the coming of \LaTeX and \ConTeXt , narrated by non-gurus.

[Authors' abstract]

KAREL H. WESSELING, A do-it-yourself `thebibliography` in \ConTeXt ; pp. 51–55

Moving from \LaTeX to \ConTeXt is not really simple, but to return from \ConTeXt to \LaTeX would have been equally hard were it not for a publication by Berend de Boer in *MAPS* 24 explaining how to do \LaTeX things in \ConTeXt . Only one thing was missing, a do-it-yourself `thebibliography`. Hans Hagen had a solution which is described below.

[Author's abstract]

SIEP KROONENBERG, \TeX voor thuis [\TeX at home]; pp. 56–59

A beginner's column, which in this issue discusses installing a \TeX distribution on various popular platforms.

SIEP KROONENBERG, Mac OS X als \TeX platform [Mac OS X as a \TeX platform]; pp. 60–61

Now that the Macintosh platform has been converted to UNIX and has built-in support for PDF, it has good credentials as a platform for \TeX . The \TeXShop program is proof of this.

[Translation of author's abstract]

SIEP KROONENBERG, Juggling `texmf` trees;
pp. 62–65

`texmf` trees can make a \TeX installation more maintainable. With creative use of environment variables, it is possible to run different versions and different configurations in different xterm or console windows.

[Author's abstract]

HANS HAGEN, MathML; pp. 66–119

It is a well known fact that \TeX can do a pretty good job on typesetting math. This is one reason why many scientific articles, papers and books are typeset using \TeX . However, in these days of triumphing angle brackets, coding in \TeX looks more and more out of place.

From the point of view of an author, coding in \TeX is quite natural, given that some time is spent on reading the manuals. There are however circumstances where one wants to share formulas (or formula-like specifications) between several applications, one of which is a typesetting engine. In that case, a bit more work now saves you some headaches later due to keeping the different source documents in sync.

In the following we will discuss the mathematical language MathML with respect to typography. As a typesetting vehicle, we have used \ConTeXt . However, the principles introduced here and the examples that we provide are independent of \ConTeXt . For a more formal exploration we recommend the MathML specification.

[Author's introduction (edited)]

MAPS 28, Fall 2002

JOHANNES BRAAMS, Redactioneel [From the editor]; p. 1

Overview of the issue's contents, including an apology for unexpected results in the last issue. Corrections are included in this issue.

SIEP KROONENBERG, De NTG flyer [The NTG flyer]; pp. 2–4

A description of the production and a showing of the new publicity flyer for NTG.

PIET VAN OOSTRUM, News van CTAN [News from CTAN]; pp. 5–7

See above under MAPS 27.

MICHAEL A. GURAVAGE, TUG 2002, Thiruvananthapuram; pp. 10–13

Report and overview of the annual TUG meeting in Trivandrum, India.

MAPS EDITORS (PATRICK GUNDLACH), meta-euro erratum; pp. 14–24

See above under MAPS 27.

MAPS EDITORS (HANS HAGEN), MathML erratum; pp. 20–24

See above under MAPS 27.

SIEP KROONENBERG, Fonts for the MAPS; pp. 25–26

Ever since the redesign of the MAPS (actually, it wouldn't hurt to have another one by now), we have used Times, with read small-caps and old-style figures, for body text, Frutiger for headings and special items, and narrowed Courier as monospaced font. Under the hood, however, font support has been redone twice.

[Author's introduction]

TACO HOEKWATER, ConTeXt System Documentation; p. 27

A new website exists that contains documentation for the lower-level ConTeXt macros. The URL for this website is <http://tex.aanhet.net/context>. This website also contains a full mirror of the pragma-ade website.

[Author's abstract]

MAARTEN WISSE, Hacking TeX4ht for XML Output; pp. 28–35

This article explains how the author employs the TeX4ht converter to manage multiple format (XML and PDF) output from a single L^AT_EX source by writing a TeX4ht configuration file and a L^AT_EX class file. Furthermore, it is explained how TeX4ht and the new OpenOffice package can be used to create a new L^AT_EX to MS Word converter.

[Author's abstract]

HANS HAGEN and KAREL H. WESSELING, texexec User's Guide; pp. 36–52

This guide describes the uses and options of the texexec program that is available in the ConTeXt distribution. The options are invoked by calls on a command line, which are words preceded by two

hyphens, as in `--make`. There are options for running ConTeXt on your T_EX file to produce printable output, options to specify languages, an option to make listings of (software program) files word for word, options for conditional execution, for selecting pages to print, for printing on differently sized paper, for directing your output to a particular file, for conversion of SGML and XML to T_EX. If it is no problem for you to use a command line and to occasionally look things up in the help file or in this user's guide, you will find texexec to be a useful, even indispensable tool for ConTeXt.

[Authors' abstract]

WYBO DEKKER, The ctable package for use with L^AT_EX 2_ε; pp. 65–68

This article serves as the package documentation by describing the purpose and usage of the ctable package to typeset centered, captioned tables and figure floats with optional footnotes. The article concludes with several examples and implementation details.

FRANS GODDIJN and KAREL H. WESSELING, Shifted bullets in graphs with METAPOST; pp. 5–72

With METAPOST fully integrated in ConTeXt using this graphic language has become convenient. When we tried to use John Hobby's `graph.mp` package, however, it turned out to require extra initializations and to produce unacceptable, shifted data graphs. Solutions to both problems are given.

[Authors' abstract]

KAREL H. WESSELING, A letterhead in ConTeXt; pp. 73–79

For years I have used a home-made logo in P_IC-T_EX within L^AT_EX, together with name and address as letterhead. Separate versions for myself and my wife were pre-printed on an HP 300 DPI Laserjet. With METAPOST fully integrated in ConTeXt, we decided to convert to METAPOST and print the letterhead with each letter automatically. I used the versatile ConTeXt layer mechanism and the mode option.

[Author's abstract]

FABRICE POPINEAU, Practical METAPOST; pp. 80–85

In this article, I will explain how to practically use METAPOST. This program is very different from usual drawing programs, but it fits very well in a T_EX based typesetting system.

[Author's abstract]

[Compiled by Steve Peter]