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T_EX@2015 T_FX in the 21st Century - where are we and what is up

Martin Schröder

Chemnitzer Linux-Tage 2015 21th-22nd March 2015, Chemnitz, Germany

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About me

- MS in CS, T_EX and PDF expert, Java developer
- ETEX user since 1989
- First level support at the LaTeX3 team (1998-2005)
- pdfT_EX maintainer (2001-2008)
- Member of the LuaTEX team
- Developer of a number of Lagrangian Englishing (since 1990)





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Three types of booth visitors

a) Does not know T_EX

- b) Has used T_EX some years or decades ago to typeset a larger document and is astonished that it still exists and wants to know what is new This talk is for you
- c) Currently typesets a larger document with T_EX and needs help

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Where we have been

- 1978 T_EX78
- 1979 METAFONT79
- 1982 T_EX82 (0)
- 1983 T_EX82 (1.0)
- 1984 METAFONT84 (0)
- 1986 Computers & Typesetting (T_EXbook etc.)
- 1986 METAFONT84 (1.0)
- 1986 T_EX 2.0
- 1986 LATEX
- 1990 T_EX 3.0

1990 METAFONT 2.0 1994 METAPOST 1994 ATFX 28 1994-2006 teT_FX 1996 TFX Live 1996 ConT_FXt 1997 pdfT_FX 2004 X₃T_FX 2007 LuaT_FX 2007 ConTFXt MKiV

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Problems we are working on: Unicode input

1982 TEX82: 7 bit 1990 TEX 3.0: 8 bit 1991 Unicode 1991-2004 Omega: 16 bit 2004 XaTEX: 32 bit 2007 LuaTEX: 32 bit 2010-today Unicode math (works with XaTEX and LuaTEX,

but we need more free fonts)

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Problems we are working on: Fonts

T_EX does not handle fonts itself but reads only metric information (tfm files) and leaves the usage of font files to the output drivers. Originally these worked only with METAFONT fonts but nearly nobody outside of the T_EX world created them.

The rest of the world instead developed PostScript (1984), TrueType (1991) and lately OpenType (1996). These fonts can be used with troubles (by experts) with T_EX and pdfT_EX, but then the special features of OpenType are ignored. Today we have X₃T_EX and LuaT_EX which make the usage of OpenType fonts very simple.

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Problems we are working on: PDF

 T_EX as designed by Knuth writes a device independent output format (DVI). Today the standard is PDF (1993). For that we made output drivers and finally pdfT_EX (1997), which can write PDF directly.

pdfTEX is now the default engine of the TEX world. X3TEX and LuaTEX can also write PDF.

The problem now is tagged PDF - that works with LuaT_EX and ConT_EXt since 2010, but not yet with LaT_EX.

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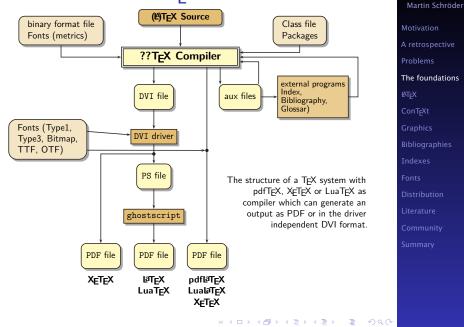
pdfTEX is now the default engine of the TEX world. X3TEX and LuaTEX can also write PDF.

The problem now is tagged PDF – that works with LuaTeX and ConTeXt since 2010, but not yet with PTEX.

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A short overwiew: LATEX workflow



348. 2015-03-19T23:12:03Z. Martin Schröder, martin@oneiros.de. CC BY-NC-SA

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The engines

T_EX the original by Donald Knuth ε-T_EX small evolutionary extensions pdfT_EX can create PDF and offers microtypographical extensions

X₃T_EX handles Unicode input and OpenType fonts; uses operating system specific libraries for font handling

LuaTEX can create PDF and offers microtypographical extensions, handles Unicode input and OpenType fonts; integrates Lua as a programming language, but is still compatible to TEX; integrates METAPOST. Currently in stable beta (0.80); 1.0 is planned for 2016.

ET_EX

Much has changed since LATEX 2.09 (1989):

- ET_EX 2_E: Planned as an intermediate version (e) between ET_EX 2.09 and ET_EX 3; very stable since 1994
- KOMA script: An alternative to the standard classes adapted to the typographical conventions of Europe which offers many extensions
- hyperref: Adds support for hyperlinks, forms and other capabilities of PDF (e.g. metadata)
- LATEX3: Develops slowly but now offers a good foundation for developers of classes and packages which is used by many new packages (e.g. for X_ATEX and LuaLATEX)

X_BATEX and LuaATEX

To use the extensions of X_3T_EX and LuaT_EX with P_TEX some packages have been developed which can be used with the commands xelatex and lualatex:

- fontspec: Font handling
- polyglossia: Multilingual documents; an alternative to babel
- Iuatextra: Loads all packages needed for LualATEX

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Presentations with LATEX

Presentations are one of the most popular uses of T_EX . $\&T_EX 2_{\mathcal{E}}$ offers only the obsolete slides class. Therefore alternatives have been developed of which two are most often used:

- beamer: Used for this talk, offers an excellent support of PDF
- powerdot: Uses PSTricks and therefore needs dvips or X₃T_EX

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ConT_EXt

ConTEXt is an alternative to PTEX that now (with version Mk IV) makes extensive use of LuaTEX and PDF to offer features that are hard or impossible with PTEX, e.g.:

- Multicolumn typesetting
- Integrated use of METAPOST (also possible with Lua&T_EX)

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- Handling of XML
- Support of layers
- Typesetting on a grid
- Creation of tagged PDF, XML, ePUB

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Images

Inclusion of images: pdfTEX, X3TEX and LuaTEX can handle JPEG, PNG and PDF when creating PDF; pdfTEX and LuaTEX can also handle JBIG2. EPS must be converted which is now done automagically

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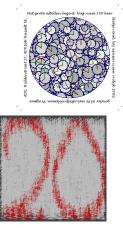
Some packages and programs for diagrams

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METAPOST

An extension of METAFONT which can create PostScript and SVG. It can be used for diagrams and is integrated into LuaT_EX.

We wish you a good 2011





Ve wish you a

We wish you a colorful 2014

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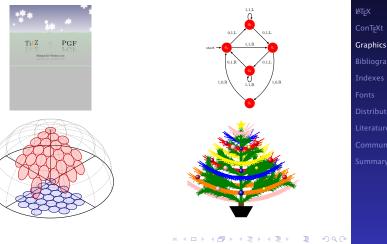
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Motivation

Graphics

TiKZ/PGF

TikZ and PGF are T_EX packages for creating graphics programmatically. TikZ is build on top of PGF and allows you to create sophisticated graphics in a rather intuitive and easy manner.



2348, 2015-03-19T23:12:03Z, Martin Schröder, martin@oneiros.de, CC BY-NC-SA

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PSTricks

A macro package for $\[mathbb{E}T_EX\]$ which uses PostScript for the creation of diagrams and graphics.

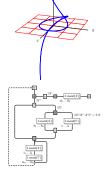
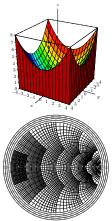


Figure 1: Reduction from Games to Draw-Free Games (see J. FLUM, M. KU-HILDERNY, B. LUDÖKURD, Telef and Partial Well-Faunded Datalog Caincide. Proc. 6th Intl. Conference on Database Theory (ICDT), Delphi, Greece, 1997, LNCS 1146, Springer).



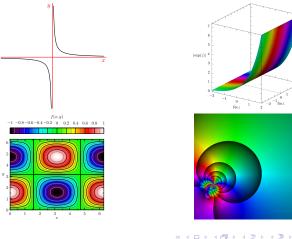
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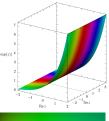
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2348, 2015-03-19T23:12:03Z, Martin Schröder, martin@oneiros.de, CC BY-NC-SA

Asymptote

A descriptive vector graphics language that provides a natural coordinate-based framework for technical drawing. Labels and equations are typeset with Labels Are typeset with Labels and equations are typeset with Labels are typeset with Labels and equations are typeset with Labels are high-quality PostScript output.







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Bibliographies

One of the strengths of $\ensuremath{\text{ET}_{E}\!X}$ is the handling of bibliographies with $\ensuremath{\text{BibT}_{E}\!X}$

- BibT_EX: Can only handle 7 Bit and is difficult to program
- BibT_EX8: Can only handle 8 Bit and is difficult to program
- Biber: A replacement of BibTEX used by BibLATEX; XML support is planned. The style files are programmed in TEX

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BibleTEX is the future (for Let EX)

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Indexes

Good scientific books have indexes, so their creation also had to be automated

- MakeIndex: The standard solution since 1986; handles only 7 bit
- Xindy: Handles any language and unicode, sorting can be adapted, can handle arbitrary "page numbers" (e.g. "Genesis 1:31"), the markup can be configured
- Every generated index can be manipulated as needed by external programs

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Fonts

It is not enough to have programs that can handle OpenType fonts, we also need good free OpenType fonts:

- Latin Modern: An extended and improved version of Computer Modern, which supports all "roman" languages
- T_EX Gyre: Extended and improved versions of the GhostScript PostScript default fonts
- Many polish fonts (Antykwa Toruńska, Kurier and Iwona, Cyklop)

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Math fonts

T_EX of course needs math fonts and for decades has been the reference implementation for math typesetting, so math fonts (very few) were designed for T_EX. With the advent of OpenType Microsoft designed OpenType math and created a math font (Cambria Math) for use with Office. Work is ongoing and mostly finished to extend the T_EX engines (X₃T_EX and LuaT_EX) to handle OpenType math and to create free OpenType math fonts:

- Latin Modern and TEX Gyre: Work is ongoing on OpenType math
- Asana math: Free math font designed to complement Palatino. Beta.
- STIX/XITS: Free math fonts designed to complement Times. STIX is designed to handle *all* mathematical symbols included in Unicode; XITS is the OpenType version.

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T_EX distributions

Since the installation of T_EX was a real problem in the olden days (in the last millenium...), free and operating system independent T_EX distributions were developed of which these two are still active:

T_EX Live For Unix, MacOS and Windows. Has its own package management and offers online updates. All moden Unix distributions get their T_EX from T_EX Live.

MikT_EX For Windows with a package management and online updates

Both would be impossible without CTAN (the Comprehensive T_EX Archive Network), a network of FTP serves which offer software related to T_EX

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Books

There are a lot of books on $\[Mathebaarefted{ATE}X\]$ and new ones are still published, but some deserve special attention

ETEX Companion The ETEX3 projects sole income is from the sale of the ETEX Companion, the follow-up to the ETEX manual by Leslie Lamport

DANTE books Since there were some books on PTEX missing and publishers are not always interested (the german translation of Lamport's book is unavailable for some years) DANTE (the german TEX user group) has published some books on its own (e.g. on KOMA script and PSTricks)

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The community

The TEX community is quite active:

User groups There are a number of national (and one international: TUG) user groups, of which DANTE (for german speakers) is the largest with more then 2000 members

Own conferences DANTE organises two conferences every year and there are conferences by other user groups (of these the polish one is highly recommended), one european and one on ConTEXt

Conferences by others For some years we also participate in conferences by others (e.g. the LinuxTag, FrOSCon, or OpenRheinRuhr) with booths and presentations

Funding The developmeent of T_EX et. al. is not funded by companies but mainly by the user groups (from their membership fees and contributions)

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Stackexchange

$\{T_{EX}\}$

- tex.stackexchange.com aka TeX.SX
- Public online since November 2010
- Currently (2015-03-18) more than 59k registered users, ca. 83k questions and more than 114k answers; ca. 80k visitors per day
- Unique in features and interface
- Has become the first stop for online T_EX support
- The complete content is released under the cc-wiki license, regular database dumps are freely available for download on clearbits.net
- More infos

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Summary

Although T_EX is now nearly 36 years old, it is still actively developed. The main topics are Unicode input and the use of OpenType fonts. The programs developed today are X₃T_EX and LuaT_EX; both can and *should* be used (but one needs an up to date installation of T_EX)

 $\[matheb{ETE}X\]$ is still the standard and is being adapted to the new programs; ConTEXt is a very interesting "newcomer" which developes very fast

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Motivation Summarv

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