

MAPS 44 (Spring 2013)

MAPS is the publication of NTG, the Dutch language T_EX user group (<http://www.ntg.nl>).

TACO HOEKWATER, Redactioneel [From the editor]; pp. 1–2

HANS HAGEN, Does T_EX have a future; pp. 3–7
[Published in *TUGboat* 34:2.]

KEES VAN DER LAAN, CD and DVD labels; pp. 8–12

Making CD and DVD labels by PostScript, to be printed on prefabricated glued paper, assisted by Photoshop for the conversion of an illustration into EPSF, is explained.

KOEN WYBO, Review of *L^AT_EX and Friends* by Marc van Dongen; pp. 13–14

Saying that L^AT_EX is not easy to learn is a truism. With a good book like *L^AT_EX and Friends*, you will more than adequately be put on the road.

C.M. FORTUIN, Kegelsneden benaderen [Conic approximation]; pp. 15–26

Conic sections can systematically be approximated by vertices of a (part of a) circumscribed polygon. An algorithm is developed for the determination of the support points of a third degree iterative “Bézier” approach of a conic. Initially, three points are needed. The algorithm is independent of the position of the conic section.

KEES VAN DER LAAN, Pythagoras Trees in PostScript; pp. 27–48

Pythagoras Trees are drawn elegantly in PostScript, varied by randomness, colour and the use of curves. Lindenmayer production rules for systematic PS program development are enriched by PS concepts.

KEES VAN DER LAAN, Classical Math Fractals in PostScript; pp. 49–78

Classical mathematical fractals in BASIC are explained and converted into lean-and-mean EPSF defs, of which the .eps pictures are delivered in .pdf format and cropped to the prescribed BoundingBox when processed by Acrobat Pro, to be included easily in pdf(L^A)T_EX, Word, . . . documents. The EPSF fractals are transcriptions of the Turtle Graphics BASIC codes or programmed anew, recursively, based on the production rules of oriented objects. The Lindenmayer production rules are enriched by PostScript concepts. Experience gained in converting a T_EX script into WYSIWYG Word is communicated.

HANS VAN DER MEER, Exam Papers Revisited; pp. 79–90

Described is a module for the consistent production and maintenance of student examinations. It can typeset questions with long or short answers, yes/no questions and multiple choice. The questions are formulated as XML documents and access ConT_EXt through a special interface with HTML-like syntax.

HANS VAN DER MEER, A bit of HTML and a bit of ConT_EXt; pp. 91–96

Described is a module for the typesetting of a subset of HTML operators. These can be used to build data sets in XML with HTML as formatting elements and have them typeset in ConT_EXt. Other features are the inclusion of predefined content and provision for language localized words and expressions.

HANS VAN DER MEER, Yet Another Table; pp. 97–105

Described is a module for the typesetting of tables. The module resembles the L^AT_EX tabular environment but is in fact based on a much older package, the origins of which are lost to the author.

SIETSE BROUWER, Making the ConT_EXt wiki easier to improve; pp. 106–108

An effort is underway to encourage both reading and editing of the ConT_EXt wiki. This article names nine concrete improvements that are part of this effort, and makes a case for each of them. These nine items are the following. To impose structure and to ease navigation: predictable article names; navboxes; and a simple Main Page. To coordinate efforts: a “How this wiki works” page; a village pump; and templates for flagging problems. To make things easy for our editors: templates for common things; template documentation; sandboxes and testcases for templates.

TACO HOEKWATER, MetaPost: Numerical engines; pp. 109–113

After years of talks about future plans for MetaPost 2.0, finally real progress is being made. This paper introduces a pre-release of MetaPost 2 that can optionally use IEEE floating point for its internal calculations instead of the traditional 32-bit integers.

HANS HAGEN, Simple Spreadsheets; pp. 114–122

A ConT_EXt spreadsheet module, based on Lua.

MICHAEL GURAVAGE, 5th International ConT_EXt Meeting; pp. 123–126

Conference report.

[Received from Wybo Dekker.]