Abstracts

Die TEXnische Komödie
Contents of Recent Issues

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A short statement commenting on the DANTE'92 conference.

[Luzia DIETSCHE and Joachim LAMMARSCH], Protokoll der 6. Mitgliederversammlung von DANTE, Deutschsprachige Anwendervereinigung TEX e.V. [Protocol of the 6th assembly of members of DANTE]; pp. 5–22

This is the official report on the members' meeting held during DANTE'92. It starts with short accounts on the various hardware platforms and **german.sty** (as presented by the appointed coordinators), followed by a report on the situation of DANTE (change of bylaws, organization, activities). A report on the meeting of the BoD of TUG (Birmingham, Feb. 14–16, 1992) is followed by some criticism of TUG, and the claim that European groups, in particular DANTE, are more widely accepted and offer better services than TUG. The report of the treasurer is accepted. Under the heading 'Planning for the future — A successor to TEX' a project under the working title of 'Pi' (estimated costs: DM 500 000) is presented and accepted. The final topic discussed is the negotiations with TUG, mainly concerning the transfer of money. The blame for lack of progress is attributed to TUG.

Friedhelm SOWA, Kassenbericht für den Zeitraum 1.1.1991 – 31.12.1991 [The treasurer's report for 1991]; pp. 23–25

Reinhard ZIERKE, Stammtischbericht aus Hamburg [Report on the regular meeting in Hamburg]; pp. 25–26

This short report on the local group in Hamburg is mainly concerned with software distribution.

Markus ERLMEIER, Software-Verteilung Amiga [The distribution of Amiga software]; pp. 26–28

This article describes the software available for the Amiga, and how it can be obtained.

○ *Bretter, die die Welt bedeuten*
[The stage is the world]; pp. 29–48:

Werner BURKHARDT, Klassenarbeiten mit LATEX [Classroom examinations with LATEX]; pp. 29–32

This article presents two LATEX style files (input and output, no source code) for teachers preparing classroom examinations.

Wilhelm BARTH and Helmut STEINER, Deutsche Silbentrennung für TEX 3.1 [German hyphenation for TEX 3.1]; pp. 33–35

SiSiSi (*SIchere SInnentsprechende SIlbentrennung*, i.e., 'safe and meaningful hyphenation') is an algorithm addressing the hyphenation problem posed by German compound words. It uses a dictionary of about 8000 words and is implemented on VAX/VMS via a change file to TEX. (The system can be obtained by ftp from **eichow.tuwien.ac.at**. The method used is described in a paper in: *Angewandte Informatik* 1985, pp. 152–159.)

Martin WALLMEIER, Deutsches und internationales BIBTEXing [German and international BIBTEXing]; pp. 35–38

The standard style files for BIBTEX do not support multilingual bibliographic entries. The BIBTEX style files **gerplain** (etc.) together with a special LATEX style (**bibgerm.sty**) described here overcome this difficulty. They use an additional field **language** to allow language dependent formatting of each item (e.g., switching off capitalization).

Fred SUMBECK, Verwaltung von Literaturdaten [Managing bibliographic data]; pp. 39–46

LITVER is a utility program that takes bibliographic data from a DBASE file and automatically inserts them into references in footnotes and bibliographies of a LATEX document.

Jens SCHMIDT, METAFONT-Spielerei [METAFONT recreation]; pp. 46–48

A short piece of METAFONT code is used to modify cm-fonts (as inch high sans serif bold extended) to produce an artistic font suitable for posters and giving a 'nervous' impression.

○ *Was Sie schon immmer über TEX wissen wollten ...* [What you always wanted to know about TEX ...]; pp. 49–50:

Luzia DIETSCHE, Anfängerfragen gesucht [Looking for beginners' questions]; p. 49
   A new service offers help for newbies.

Rainer SCHÖPF, Drei TEX-Rätsel — die Auflösung [Three TEX puzzles — solutions]; p. 50
   The solutions to three questions on TEX from the previous issue (vol. 3, no. 4) are explained.

○ *TEX-Beiprogramm* [TEX co-features]; p. 51:

Luzia DIETSCHE, Bezugsquellen für TEX [Sources for TEX]; p. 51
   A list of addresses where TEX can be obtained.

○ *Leserbrief(e)* [Letter(s)]; pp. 52–55:

Horst SZILLAT, DC-Fonts; pp. 52–54
   The author agrees with the criticism of the concept underlying the DC-fonts (expressed in an earlier letter by Peter Schmitt, vol. 3, no. 2) and makes some alternative suggestions. Furthermore, he objects to file naming conventions that are shaped according to the requirements of the least convenient operating system.

Claus LANGHANS, Serverzugang [Access to servers]; p. 54
   This letter is concerned with the difficulties of mailbox access by those without net access.

Helmut WÖHRLE, Geräteunabhängigkeit [Device independence]; p. 55
   The author of this letter praises the device independence of TEX files.

Guido F. PAULI, Wissenschaftliche Publikationen und TEX [Scientific publications and TEX]; p. 55
   The author points out that many publishers (except publishers of texts in mathematics or physics texts) do not know TEX and its possibilities. He asks for samples with which one could show them that TEX can also be used for other fields (e.g., chemistry).

○ *Spielplan* [Repertory]; pp. 56–62:
   The international and national calendar, and announcements of conferences (EuroTEX'92 — First announcement, One day LATEX V3 conference, TUG'92).

○ *Adressen* [Addresses]; pp. 63–67:
   Various addresses related to DANTE and TUG, the addresses of all persons who have contributed

to this issue, and the addresses of the coordinators in charge of the various hardware platforms.

2/1992, 4. Jahrgang (August 1992)

Luzia DIETSCHE, [Editorial]; p. 3
   A short opening statement asking (among others) for addresses of services offering phototypesetting of dvi-files.

○ *Hinter der Bühne : Vereinsinternes* [Behind the scenes : Club matters]; pp. 4–6:

Joachim LAMMARSCH, Grußwort [Welcome message]; pp. 4–5
   A short report on the author's impressions from the TEX Users Group conference in Portland, his meeting with D.E. Knuth, and the meeting of the board of directors. In particular, he expresses his strong disappointment over the statements on NTS (New Typesetting System) made by Malcolm Clark in his opening address.

Friedhelm SOWA, Stammtisch in Duisburg [Regular meeting in Duisburg]; pp. 5–6
   A report on the first local meeting in Duisburg.

○ *TEX-Theatertage* [TEX theatre festival]; pp. 7–12:

Arne WELLSSOW, Bericht über DANTE'92 in Hamburg [Report on the DANTE'92 conference in Hamburg]; pp. 7–12
   This report on the proceedings of the conference contains short abstracts of the tutorial and the lectures.

○ *Bretter, die die Welt bedeuten* [The stage is the world]; pp. 13–45:

Erich NEUWIRTH, Die Weiterentwicklung von TEX : Protokoll vom 27. März 1992 im Rahmen von DANTE'92 in Hamburg [The future development of TEX]; pp. 13–15
   This is the protocol of a meeting during DANTE'92 dedicated to the project of developing a successor to TEX. It consists mostly of questions. A mailing list dedicated to this project is announced (nts-l@vm.urz.uni-heidelberg.de).

Frank MITTELBACH, LATEX3; pp. 15–22
   A report on the origins and the current state of the LATEX3 project, containing some details of the guiding principles (internal language for style design and the context model).

Claus LANGHANS, Elektronische Kommunikation für Jedermann [Electronic communication for everyone]; pp. 22–26

An overview of the network possibilities available for private use in Germany.

Horst SZILLAT, $\mathcal{AMS}$-LATEX; pp. 26–31

This overview describes the advantages and disadvantages of American Mathematical Society-LATEX, and how to install the package.

Hans-Hermann BODE, Neue BibTEX-Style-Files: Die *adaptable family* [New style files for BibTEX: The adaptable family]; pp. 31–41

The new BibTEX styles (`aplain`, etc.) presented are modifications of the standard styles. They provide the possibility to change the layout (fonts used for specific fields) and the words and phrases inserted by the style (like names for months, editions, and chapters).

Friedhelm SOWA, Text und Bilder [Text and pictures]; pp. 41–45

This article describes the history and the usage of `picinpar`, a set of macros which allow the specification of a window in a paragraph that can be filled by arbitrary material (text or graphics).

o *Was Sie schon immer über TEXwissen wollten* ... [What you always wanted to know about TEX ...]; p. 46:

Joachim LAMMARSCH, Umgebungsbereich zu klein? [DOS-environment too small?]; p. 46

A hint describing how to enlarge the space available for DOS environment variables.

o *TEX-Beiprogramm* [TEX co-features]; p. 47:

Joachim LAMMARSCH, Das Ärgernis [The cause of anger]; p. 47

The author expresses his annoyance over two cases of software distribution, namely, the TEX system distributed by TUG (too little credit is given to emTEX), and a disk included in a special issue of CHIP (no credit to DANTE).

o *Rezensionen* [Reviews]; pp. 48–49:

Reinhard ZIERKE, Das Vieweg LATEX-Buch: Eine praxisorientierte Einführung [The Vieweg LATEX book: A practical introduction]; pp. 48–49

o *Leserbrief(e)* [Letter(s)]; p. 50:

Two letters, one asking for a printer driver for the NECP6+ under UNIX, the other informing that the PiCTEX manual is now distributed by TUG.

o *Spielplan* [Repertory]; pp. 51–58:

The international and national calendar, and announcements of conferences (Clausthal-Zellerfeld and EuroTEX'92).

o *Adressen* [Addresses]; pp. 59–63:

Various addresses related to DANTE and TUG, the addresses of all persons who have contributed to this issue, and the addresses of the coordinators in charge of the various hardware platforms.

3/1992, 4. Jahrgang (November 1992)

Luzia DIETSCHE, [Editorial]; p. 3

In her opening statement, the managing editor of the journal comments on the divergent format in which contributed articles reach her. One article was even in Word format!

o *Hinter der Bühne : Vereinsinternes* [Behind the scenes : Club matters]; pp. 4–17:

[Luzia DIETSCHE and Joachim LAMMARSCH], Protokoll der 7. Mitgliederversammlung von DANTE, Deutschsprachige Anwendervereinigung TEX e.V. [Protocol of the 7th assembly of members of DANTE]; pp. 4–17

This is the official report on the members' meeting held in Clausthal. It starts with short accounts on the various hardware platforms, software services, and `german.sty` (presented by the appointed coordinators), followed by a report on the situation of DANTE (2102 members by August 1992, organization, services).

Joachim Lammarsch gives a detailed report on his problems with the publisher of the journal 'CHIP' (Vogel Verlag, already mentioned in the previous issue, p. 47) who did not give credit for the disk provided by DANTE. In his report on the software distribution by DANTE he admits problems that still cause rather delayed delivery. Nevertheless, when he cites a letter of a complaining member, he classifies the attitude expressed as an example of a consumer's thinking which (unfortunately) spreads more and more. The feedback, he deplores, is usually negative — there is almost never a word of thanks.

Then Joachim Lammarsch gives reports on his meeting with D.E. Knuth in Stanford (on NTS), and on the meeting of the BoD of TUG in Portland. The next TEX Users Group conference will be held in Birmingham. Though he suggests cancelling the European conference to avoid reduced numbers of participicants, he also rejects the possibility

to announce it as a joint TUG *and* European conference.

Friedhelm Sowa delivers a short report on the Portland conference. He deplores that — in contrast to European conferences — the participants did not gather socially in the evenings (with only one exception, a bowling event), and that — due to the high costs — only a few 'new faces' appeared.

o *Bretter, die die Welt bedeuten*
[The stage is the world]; pp. 18–36:

Joachim BLESER and Edmund LANG, Bilder in LaTeX-Dokumenten [Pictures in LaTeX documents.]; pp. 18–24

The macro package `picins.sty` allows the inclusion of pictures in LaTeX documents. Four environments produce a frame for the picture (a normal frame, a frame with rounded corners, a dashed frame, and a frame with a shadow). The pictures can be placed at the beginning of a paragraph (left or right), or between paragraphs. The inclusion of pictures prepared by external means is briefly discussed.

Bernd RAICHLE, Umlaute im BibTeX-Stylebefehl `MACRO` [Accents and the BibTeX command `MACRO`]; pp. 25–27

In a BibTeX macro definition the replacement text has to be put between double quotes, and the text may not contain a double quote. This poses a problem for German macro definitions, e.g., if one wants to define a macro for 'M\"arz' (the German name for March). The author discusses the disadvantages of various solutions, and proposes a new method.

Oliver SCHURR, Die `documentstyle`-Familie `SCRIPT` [The `documentstyle` family `SCRIPT`]; pp. 27–28

The author reports his positive experiences with the `SCRIPT` package for LaTeX which allows easy adaption to German layout conventions, and which provides a very flexible `letter` style.

Peter WILLADT, Anregungen hinsichtlich der Softwareverteilung von DANTE e.V. [Suggestions concerning the DANTE software distribution]; pp. 29–30

This article contains a checklist for authors of software packages: What should they observe when preparing a release?

Dieter JURZITZA, `WANDEL.EXE` — ein vielfältig nutzbarer Formatkonverter [`WANDEL.EXE` — a format converter with many uses]; pp. 31–32

WANDEL is a program that converts WordStar (3 and 5) and ASCII files to TeX, and that performs various conversions between WordStar 3 and 5, Tempus, and ASCII files.

Thomas ESKEN, Kurzer Nachtrag zur TeX-Benutzeroberfläche TX1 [A short addendum to the TeX user interface TX1]; pp. 33–34

This article describes the features of TX1 (now version 4.10), a free TeX shell, and an accompanying utility DVIChk. The package is also available in English.

Christoph GÜLICHER, Autoaufkleber [Car stickers]; pp. 34–35

This note gives the LaTeX code (using `portland.sty`) to produce a sticker with the inscription 'High TeX Car'.

W.F. KUCHEL and P.H. MUUS, Kalender [Datebook]; pp. 35–36

KALENDER is a shareware program that produces a `.dvi` file for printing out a datebook containing personal entries (addresses, birthdays, etc.).

o *Was Sie schon immer über TeX wissen wollten ...* [What you always wanted to know about TeX ...]; pp. 37–38:

Luzia DIETSCHE, Blocksatz beim Abbildungs-/ Tabellentitel [Paragraph shape in the caption of a figure or table]; pp. 37–38

It is shown how the **article** style has to be modified to provide captions with hanging indentation after the first line.

o *TeX-Beiprogramm* [TeX co-features]; pp. 39–40:

Ekkehard HUNDT, Nachdrucke der Knuth-Bände [Reprints of the books by Knuth]; pp. 39–40

This is a list of the latest editions of the books from *Computers & Typesetting*. It also informs that the error logs of these books can be obtained free of charge.

o *Rezensionen* [Reviews]; pp. 41–43:

Joachim LAMMARSCH, A Beginner's Book of TeX; pp. 41–43

This is a review of the English translation (by Silvio Levy) of the book by Raymond Seroul. It mainly consists of a description of the contents.

○ *Leserbrief(e)* [Letter(s)]; pp. 44–45:

Four letters, one pointing out an anglicism in an article by Friedhelm Sowa (who used *Paragraph* instead of *Absatz*) in the previous issue, one looking for a used phototypesetter, one wanting help with the use of Devanagari fonts, and one offering used TₑX material.

○ *Spielplan* [Repertory]; pp. 46–51:

The international and national calendar, and announcements of conferences (TUG'93 call for papers : World Wide Window on TₑX).

○ *Adressen* [Addresses]; pp. 52–55:

Various addresses related to DANTE and TUG, the addresses of all persons who have contributed to this issue, and the addresses of the technical advisors in charge of the various hardware platforms.

4/1992, 4. Jahrgang (Dezember 1992)

Luzia DIETSCHE, [Editorial]; p. 3

In her opening statement the managing editor of the journal comments on the difficulties posed by PₜCTₑX and by the LATₑX picture environment when contributed articles have to be converted to the A5 format used by the journal (usually from A4 format).

○ *Hinter der Bühne : Vereinsinternes* [Behind the scenes : Club matters]; pp. 4–8:

Joachim LAMMARSCH, Grußwort [Welcome message]; pp. 4–6

In his column the president of DANTE addresses various organizational questions (payment of membership dues, organizing an office, software and books distributed by DANTE). One remarkable fact mentioned is that about half of the TₑX books delivered by Addison-Wesley are out of date — the record being a book on METAFONT 1.0!

Lothar MEYER-LERBS, TₑX auf dem Mac [TₑX on the Mac]; p. 6

This note lists sources and current versions of OzTₑX, *Textures*, and DirectTₑX.

Markus ERLMEIER, TₑXnische Software für den Amiga [TₑXnical software for the Amiga]; pp. 6–8

This article explains how DANTE members may order TₑX software for the Amiga.

○ *Bretter, die die Welt bedeuten* [The stage is the world]; pp. 9–34:

Jürgen GLÖCKNER, Erzeugung virtueller Fonts [Generating virtual fonts]; pp. 9–16

Everybody has heard of virtual fonts — but who uses them? This article explains in detail some of the basics of generating virtual fonts. For the following three examples complete step-by-step instructions are given: (i) replacing the digits of one font by those of another one; (ii) using Post-Script-\special to obtain grey digits; (iii) adapting the font coding scheme of one font to that of another one (in this case: for the DVIPS drivers of ArborText and of Tomas Rokicki). Articles like this may help that virtual fonts — a powerful, but yet often neglected tool — are more commonly used.

Joachim DIPPEL, Neues zum LATₑX-Seitenlayout: Der Ourhead Style [News on LATₑX page layout: The ourhead style]; pp. 16–20

The author explains how the definitions of headlines and footlines in **article** style can be modified to realize a complicated page layout, e.g., framed pages, with (framed) multi-line page heads and page footers.

Stefan BREUER, Anmerkungen zum \footnote-Befehl [Remarks on the \footnote command]; pp. 20–22

The author describes an ad-hoc solution in which he modified the LATₑX \footnote command to obtain a format demanded by a publisher: footnotes as a list (with numbers) and indented text.

Werner BURKHARDT, Schaubilder mathematischer Funktionen mit PₜCTₑX [Diagrams of mathematical functions using PₜCTₑX]; pp. 22–27

This PₜCTₑX tutorial shows (using the sine function as an example) how the graph of a function can be plotted in a labelled coordinate system. The final code is obtained by refinement in several steps. (It must be remarked, however, that using only five values of the function — at $-\pi$, $-\pi/2$, 0, $\pi/2$, and π — is too crude, even if the plotted curve might look quite all right.)

Joachim BLESER and Edmund LANG, Balkendiagramme in LATₑX-Dokumenten [Column charts in LATₑX documents]; pp. 28–31

This article describes the use of **bar.sty**, a LATₑX style file that uses the **picture** environment to draw column charts. The columns can be drawn 2- or 3-dimensional. Eight different patterns can be used to shade the columns.

Dieter JURZITZA, Schaltbilder mit LaTeX
[Circuit diagrams with LaTeX]; pp. 32–34

A LaTeX file `e_symbol` defines various elements which help to draw circuit diagrams in the `picture` environment.

○ *Was Sie schon immer über TeX wissen wollten ...* [What you always wanted to know about TeX ...]; p. 35:

Luzia DIETSCHE, Fette mathematische Akzente [Bold mathematical accents]; p. 35

LaTeX's `\boldmath` cannot be used to produce accented bold letters because it only switches to bold math fonts which do not contain the accents. One has to use `\bf` instead.

○ *TeX-Beiprogramm* [TeX co-features]; p. 36:

Markus ERLMEIER, PasTeX — neue Version in Planung [PasTeX — a new version is in preparation]; p. 36

PasTeX is a public domain implementation of TeX for the Amiga. Its author Georg Heßmann plans a new version, and this is a call for suggestions and critical remarks.

○ *Rezensionen* [Reviews]; pp. 37–40:

Ernst BRATZ, Beinahe gut — ein subjektiver Test von Scientific Word [Almost good — a subjective test of Scientific Word]; pp. 37–38

Scientific Word (from TCI Software) is a Windows-based package that includes an editor (which exports special LaTeX code), a LaTeX compiler, a previewer, and various printer drivers. The reviewer observes two main deficiencies: the LaTeX compiler is extremely slow, and it is difficult (or, for German documents, sometimes even impossible) to import existing documents. Positively mentioned are formula editing facilities, and (German and English) spellchecking.

Lothar MEYER-LERBS, Ganz unTeXnische Bücher [Completely non-TeXnical books]; pp. 38–40

The author provides pointers to some books of (not exclusively) typographical interest: a reprint of a collection of Chinese stories, edited 1944 by Jan Tschichold; the books published by Schumacher-Gebler, Munich, which are produced with great care, usually using traditional typesetting methods; and a visually designed book which was typeset using TeX (*Life Cast: Behind the Mask*).

○ *Spielplan* [Repertory]; pp. 41–51:

The international and national calendar, and announcements of conferences (DANTE'93 in Chemnitz: March 9–12; 'TeX for non-American languages — METAFONT in Theory and Practice' near London, instead of in Glasgow: April 6–8; and TUG93 in Birmingham: July 26–30).

○ *Adressen* [Addresses]; pp. 52–55:

Various addresses related to DANTE and TUG, the addresses of all persons who have contributed to this issue, and the addresses of the technical advisors in charge of the various hardware platforms.

(compiled by Peter Schmitt)