

**Zpravodaj 2020/1–2**

*Zpravodaj* is the journal of  $\mathcal{C}\mathcal{S}\text{TUG}$ , the  $\text{T}\text{E}\text{X}$  user group oriented mainly but not entirely to the Czech and Slovak languages. The full issue can be downloaded at [cstug.cz/bulletin](http://cstug.cz/bulletin).

The issue includes several pages of photos from a visit to Don Knuth’s home during TUG 2020, and Don’s visit to Brno. Also, videos for the q&a sessions at Brno (item below) are linked at [tug.org/videos](http://tug.org/videos).

PETR SOJKA, Úvodník staronového předsedy [Introductory words from the once and future president]; pp. 1–11

This editorial introduces the content of the issue, and the author gives some personal reminiscences about Don’s trips, together with reporting on the recent visit of the Grand Wizard to Brno.

Go forth and participate in  $\mathcal{C}\mathcal{S}\text{TUG}$  to make the bright future of  $\text{T}\text{E}\text{X}$  & Friends a reality! You can!

MARIAN GENČEV, Vícejazyčné pseudonáhodné generování písemných testů z databází [Multilingual pseudorandomly generated tests from databases]; pp. 12–47

The aim of this paper is the description of the class `ngt.cls` that was created to simplify the preparation of written tests for educators with common user knowledge of  $\text{L}\text{A}\text{T}\text{E}\text{X}$ . The described simplification consists mainly of pseudo-random generation of tests from a prepared database of problems. Further advantages of the created system include the ease of control for the end user and the possibility of creating a version with or without results. Writing the problems in the database file is designed to work with any number of language versions in a single source file, with easy switching between them.

VÍT NOVOTNÝ, Markdown 2.8.1: Směle k trůnu odlehčeného značkování v  $\text{T}\text{E}\text{X}$ u [Markdown 2.8.1: Boldly unto the throne of lightweight markup in  $\text{T}\text{E}\text{X}$ ]; pp. 48–56

Markdown is a lightweight markup language that makes it easy to write structurally simple documents. Existing tools for rendering markdown documents to PDF treat  $\text{T}\text{E}\text{X}$  as a black box. In contrast, the Markdown package provides support for styling and typesetting markdown documents inside  $\text{T}\text{E}\text{X}$ , extending a  $\text{T}\text{E}\text{X}$ ie’s toolbox rather than forcing them to replace  $\text{T}\text{E}\text{X}$  with a more limited tool.

Since its release in 2016, the package has received several important updates improving the functionality and user experience. In this article, I will reintroduce the package, and describe its new functionality and documentation.

JAN ŠUSTEK, Zpracování dat z tabulkového editoru  $\text{T}\text{E}\text{X}$ em [Processing spreadsheet data in  $\text{T}\text{E}\text{X}$ ]; pp. 57–63

In the paper we show a way to read and process spreadsheet data in  $\text{T}\text{E}\text{X}$ . The macros are described in detail, allowing readers to create simple macros easily. We also show a three-line macro for inserting a whole table into a  $\text{T}\text{E}\text{X}$  document.

TOMÁŠ SZANISZLO, Dva bloky otázek a odpovědí od Donalda Knutha na FI MU [Two questions and answer sessions by Donald Knuth at FI MU]; pp. 64–97

In October 2019 the Faculty of Informatics, Masaryk University hosted Donald Knuth as a guest who led two question and answer sessions for the occasion, dedicated to the themes of computer science and art. Following some background on these lectures, you can find their transcripts in this article.

PETER WILSON, Mělo by to fungovat IX – Opakování textu [It Might Work IX — Repetition of text]; pp. 98–104

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Translated to Czech by Jan Šustek.]

[Received from Vít Novotný.]

Editor’s note: The following questions were among those asked during the two Q&A sessions with Don Knuth (item noted above).

#### Session 1

- What is your favorite problem in Computer Science?
- Do you still write any code? If so, why and what computer language?
- Did you try to write a program for a quantum computer?
- What was your subject in your PhD thesis?
- What do you think about Artificial Intelligence?
- Could you tell us the story of  $\text{T}\text{E}\text{X}$  from the very beginning to implementation?
- What would you advise to your 25-year-old self?
- Is it too late for 20-year-old students to start learning real mathematics and programming?
- Biggest challenge of becoming a good programmer?
- Do you prefer screen and keyboard or paper and pencil?

#### Session 2

- P vs. NP (reprise)
- What’s your idea about limits, the capacity of the human mind?
- Compatibility problem between musical styles in *Fantasia Apocalyptica*?

- Tabs or spaces? Vim or Emacs?
- What is the worst code you have ever seen?
- Any problems you gave up on trying to solve?
- Can you elaborate your stance on software patents?
- What would you like to redo?
- If you had the ability to write CWEB or WEB again today, would you do anything differently?
- What kind of organ do you have at home?

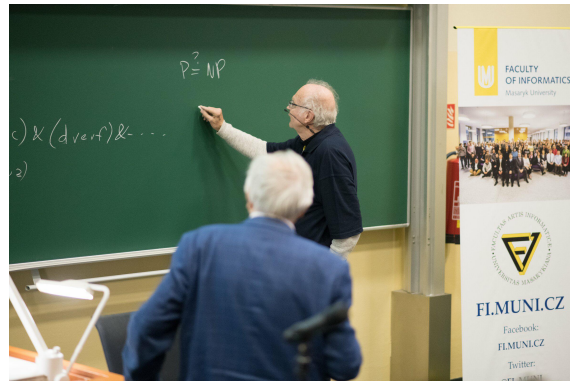
Photos courtesy of *Zpravodaj*;  
credits to Martina Morávková and Petr Sojka.



Dragon curve (with error) in entrance hall (Don's home).



Don Knuth playing on his home organ.



$P \neq NP?$ , lecture of 2019-10-08, FI MU.



Type case with mementos (Don's home).



Signing after the lecture.



Don in his office.



Preparing for *Fantasia Apocalyptica* concert, 2019-11-10.