

ArsT_EXnica #8 (October 2009)

ArsT_EXnica is the journal of G_UT, the Italian T_EX user group (<http://www.guit.sssup.it/>).

MASSIMILIANO DOMINICI and GIANLUCA PIGNALBERI, Editoriale [From the editor]; pp. 5–6
A short overview of the present issue.

ENRICO GREGORIO, Simboli matematici in T_EX e L^AT_EX [Mathematical symbols in T_EX and L^AT_EX]; pp. 7–24

An introduction to the primitive commands of T_EX for the typesetting of mathematical formulas and to the corresponding L^AT_EX commands, with examples and suggestions for defining new symbols in a suitable way in order to exploit the automatic spacing provided by T_EX.

AGOSTINO DE MARCO, Produrre grafica vettoriale di alta qualità programmando Asymptote [Introducing the high quality vector graphics programming Asymptote]; pp. 25–39

Asymptote is a powerful programmable graphics system, distributed under the GNU GPL. It provides a high level descriptive programming language, which is based on advanced mathematical functions. Asymptote is particularly suited to produce technical drawings. It allows users to compose labels and more complicated textual objects with L^AT_EX and this feature guarantees a high-quality typographical performance. This article does not give a complete overview of Asymptote, rather it has the aim at introducing gradually, with appropriate examples, the main elements of its programming language emphasizing the aspects which are of interest for the L^AT_EX user.

Given the breadth of topics related to a high level programming language, the reader interested in the details and in the potential of this graphics system is advised to read carefully the references cited and to study the source code of the many pre-defined functions.

KAVEH BAZARGAN, T_EX as an ebook reader; pp. 40–41

Published in *TUGboat* 30:2.

CLAUDIO BECCARI, La composizione di tabelle con larghezza specificata [Composition of specified-width tables]; pp. 42–47

This tutorial examines the L^AT_EX kernel's basic commands necessary to typeset tabular material with specified width; pros and cons are discussed and, as an exercise, this tutorial suggests correction of some glitches with suitable macros.

LORENZO PANTIERI, L'arte di gestire la bibliografia con `biblatex` [The art of bibliography handling with `biblatex`]; pp. 48–60

The purpose of this work is to describe the basic concepts of the `biblatex` package, which offers a general solution for managing and customizing the bibliography in a L^AT_EX document. The article requires a basic knowledge of BIBT_EX.

MASSIMILIANO DOMINICI, L^AT_EX e CSV [L^AT_EX and CSV]; pp. 61–69

In this paper we will present some techniques and a few examples about handling data in comma separated value format. We will focus mainly on two packages specifically aimed at this purpose: `datatool` and `pgfplots`.

GIANLUCA PIGNALBERI, `combelow`: abbasso i segni diacritici di serie B [`combelow`: Down with second-class diacritic marks]; pp. 70–75

Should Romanian and Latvian be considered second class languages in the T_EX world? Though up to now they may have been, this small package tries to raise them to the right level, by using the correct diacritic mark. No more cedilla instead of comma below.

CLAUDIO BECCARI, Uso del comando `\write18` per comporre l'indice analitico in modo sincrono [Using `\write18` command to typeset the index in a synchronous way]; pp. 76–78

Published in *TUGboat* 30:2.

LUIGI SCARSO, Una estensione di `luatex`: `luatex lunatic` [A `luatex` extension: `luatex lunatic`]; pp. 79–91

Published in *TUGboat* 30:3.

EMMANUELE SOMMA, Il respawn di Infomedia (L^AT_EX-based) [The rebirth of Infomedia (L^AT_EX-based)]; pp. 92–101

Infomedia, famous Italian publisher of programming magazines, has been born again thanks to free software. To typeset its magazines it relies on L^AT_EX and some other tools discussed in the paper.

JEAN-MICHEL HUFFLEN, Processing “computed” texts; pp. 102–110

This article is a comparison among methods that may be used to derive texts to be typeset by a word processor. By ‘derive’, we mean that such texts are extracted from a larger structure. The present standard for such a structure uses XML-like format, and we give an overview of the available tools for this derivation task.

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