# The manuals

Welcome to the suite of ConTEXt manuals. These manuals not only cover the macro package itself, but also the tools that come with it. In this suite you will also find manuals on how to use ConTEXt for processing xml. Fonts and MetaPost graphic are discussed in dedicated manuals. On the following pages, the main manuals are shown large, while their screen companions are shown in the bottom right corner of a page. Clicking on a picture brings you to the document at hand. Some manuals come in more than one language, in which case small pictures of the title pages are shown. The next pages show overviews of manuals that are specific for MkII and MkIV as well as obsolete manuals.

Manual covers

ConTEXt an excursion

Read Me First

metafun — Hans Hagen

CONTEXTEN

ConTEXt commands — EN

PPCHTEX

MathML — HANS HAGEN

FIGURES — ConTEXt XML

STEPS — ConTEXt XML

MATHML — ConTEXt XML

PHYSML — ConTEXt XML

CHEMML — ConTEXt XML

WIDGETS uncovered

ConTEXt — Hans Hagen

IT'S IN THE DETAILS

SciTE — IN CONTEXT MkIV

XML DIR — Hans Hagen – Pragma ADE

Typographic Programming

Modes — Hans Hagen

MkIV manuals

Here you will find the manuals that describe MkIV functionality and/or features not present in MkII.

MKII CONTEXT

CONTEXT MKIV

The factory refbedlgh installt weeng/ir jn pp

MkIV Hybrid Technology

basics

ECMA SCRIPT
in context latex

usiny the xptrend toys library

basics

COLUMNS
COLUMNS
COLUMNS
COLUMNS
Hans Hagen

$ math

Spacing in ConTeXt

workflow
support in context

BIBLIOGRAPHIES
THE CONTEXT WAY
Hans Hagen and Alan Braslau

Languages in ConTeXt
Hans Hagen
PRELUDE XXII

Coloring ConTeXt
Hans Hagen
PRELUDE XIII

hans hagen

about
luatex and context

Dealing with XML in ConTeXt MkIV

ConTeXt Lua Documents
Hans Hagen

luatools
mtxrun
context

EXTREME TABLES
HANS HAGEN
CONTEXT MKIV

?
context

HANS HAGEN
CONTEXT MKIV

UNITS

Simple Spreadsheets
ConTeXt MkIV
Hans Hagen
May 12, 2014

LMX
TEMPLATES
HANS HAGEN

Lua
the context libraries

Q
SQL
CONTEXT

Tools out of ConTeXt
Hans Hagen
PRELUDE XIV

$ math

<div/>
<div >
</div>
exporting
xml and epub
from context

LuaTeX
Reference Manual

Flowcharts

Hans Hagen

ConTeXt
lmtx
FOLLOWING UP

MkIV manuals

Here you will find the manuals that describe MkIV functionality and/or features not present in MkII.

RULES

l2r r2l
a few tips

Context Musings
hans hagen

Graphics
Hans Hagen

Still
going on
Hans Hagen

TEXit

BIBLIOGRAPHIES
THE CONTEXT WAY
Hans Hagen and Alan Braslau

PAGES PAGES
PAGES
PAGES PAGES
Hans Hagen

W H Y
N O T
N O W

MkII manuals

Although MkII and MkIV are rather compatible, there are some differences. Also, as MkII is frozen new features will only show up in MkIV.

TEXEXEC explained

fonts in ConTeXt

TeXFONT explained

Chinese in ConTeXt

creating MetaPost outlines

makeup manual
Hans Hagen

XML in ConTeXt

Color

COLUMNS

CHARTS uncovered

Weaving PS into PDF

TEXMFSTART

HYPHENATION

PATTERNS

just an XML FO engine

Hans Hagen
PRAGMA ADE

CORRESPONDENCE
Hans Hagen
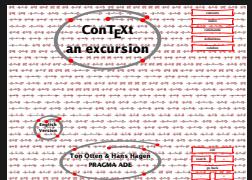
Obsolete manuals

We keep some of the old manuals around for historic reasons. Some of what is described might still float around in the distribution but is likely replaced by more modern and hip variants.

how to install
ConTeXt

TeXUTIL
explained

TeXWORK
explained

Adding Text
to Graphics

PRAGMA POD
Example GUI

texsync

ConTEXt
an excursion

English Version
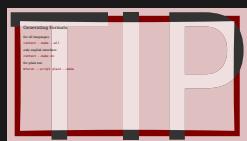
Ton Otten & Hans Hagen
PRAGMA ADE

Getting started

Although meant for beginners, these manuals shows already a lot of what ConTEXt can do for you. They also demonstrate that TEX documents can be colorful and can contain lots of graphics.
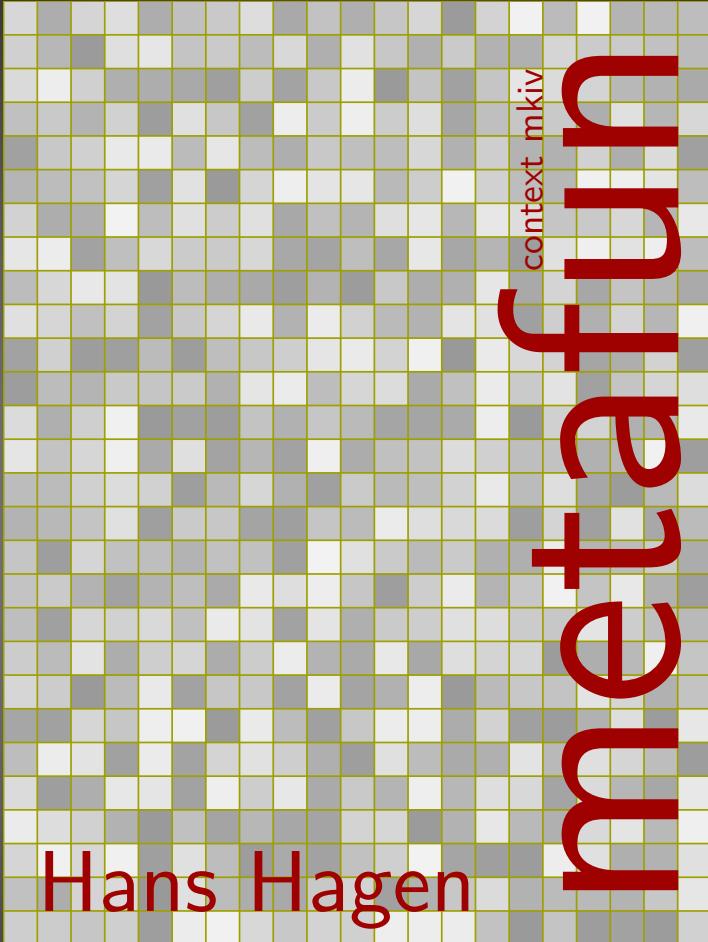
Read Me

It's in the name: you should read this file. Not so much because the content should bother you, but more because it gives you an idea about what we have in mind with making ConTEXt available for everyone. ConTEXt is completely free software, which does not mean that there are no restrictions on redistributing and changing the files. When you want to redistribute (changed) source code, please read this licence first.
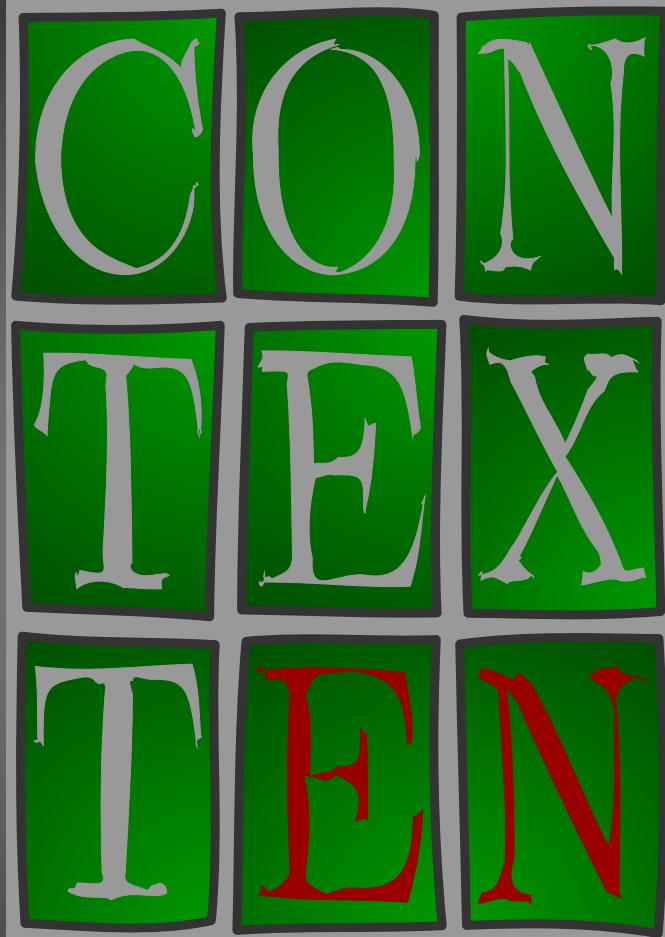
MetaFun
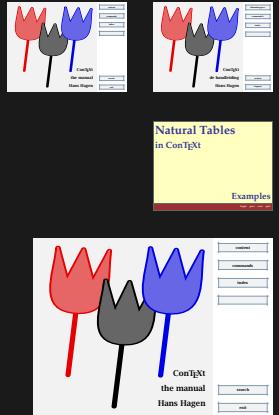
If you like graphics, you may like MetaFun, a collection of MetaPost macros. The manual covers most of MetaPost, as well as the interface between this graphical environment and ConTeXt. There are numerous examples, that give you an impression about the power of this graphical system as well as the strength of the combination with TeX.

context mkiv

metafun

Hans Hagen
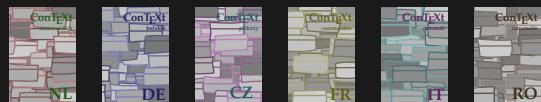
The Manual

This is the big reference manual, the one that is supposed to cover the whole of ConTEXt. However, some more detailed aspects are covered in specialized manuals. This manual is written for MkII but a lot of it still applies to MkIV. Especially fonts, encodings and languages are different in MkIV. For most commands the user interface hasn't changed, so don't be fooled by the fact that this manual is old.

ConTEXt

commands

EN
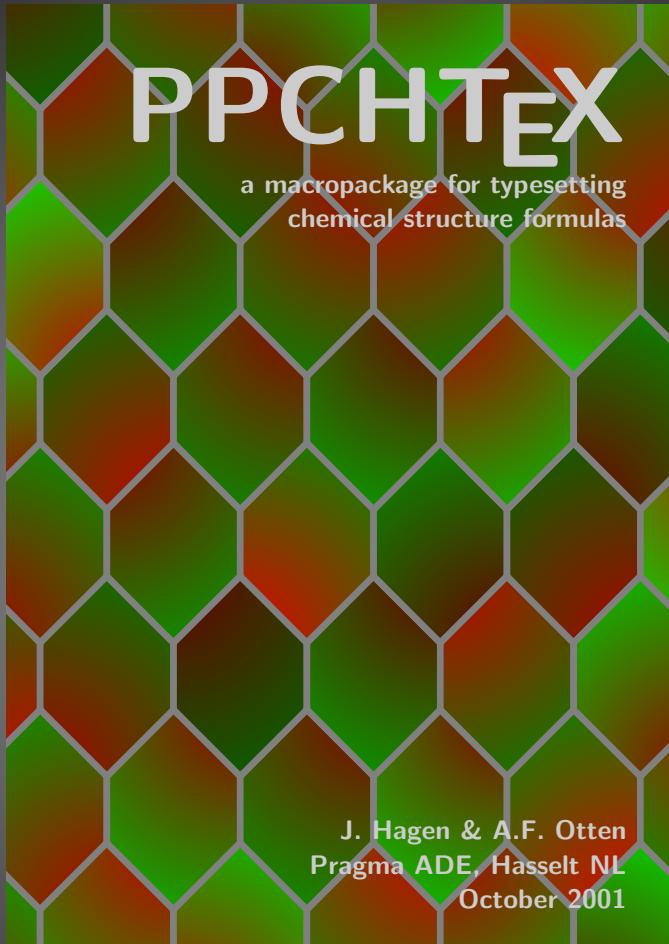
Quick References

This quick reference manual does not replace the other manuals, but advanced users can benefit from its compactness. The manual can be generated on the user's system, since the style and database that is needed is part of the distribution.

PPCHTEX

**a macropackage for typesetting
chemical structure formulas**

J. Hagen & A.F. Otten
Pragma ADE, Hasselt NL
October 2001

Chemistry
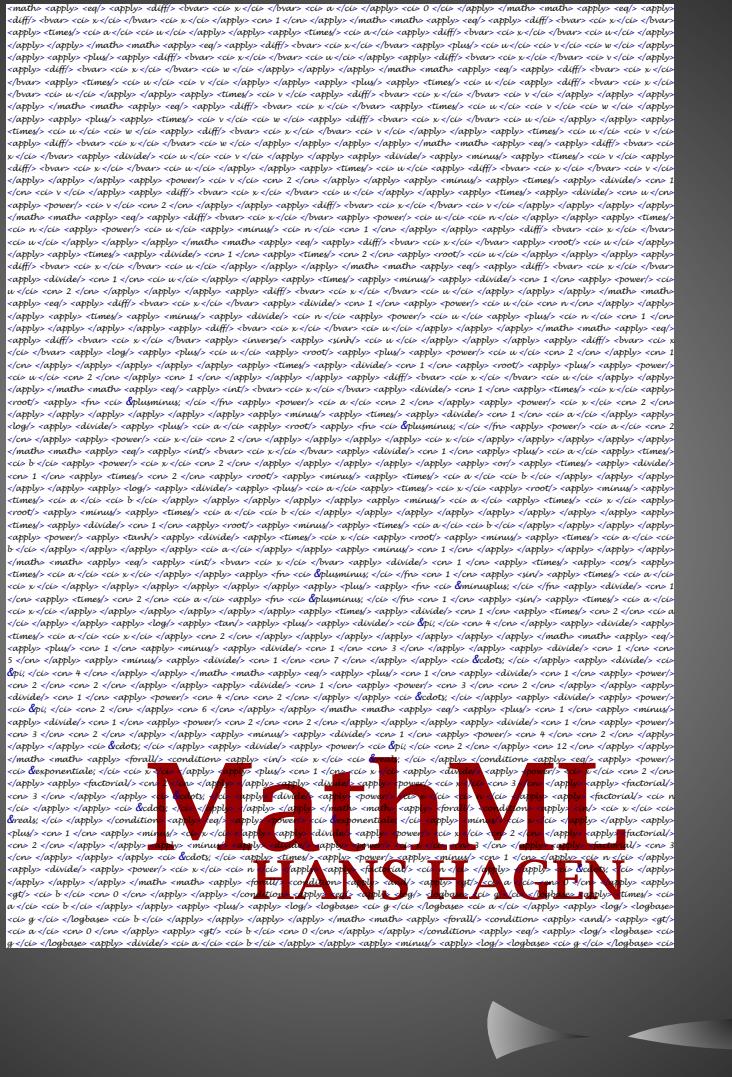
ppchTEX is a relatively independent macro package that can be used to typeset chemical formulas. These manuals show how it's done. There are also some faq's and a suite with many examples.

Chemical Formulas
in ConTeXt
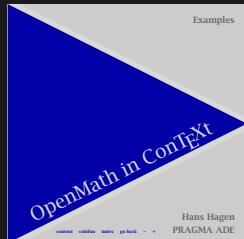
Examples
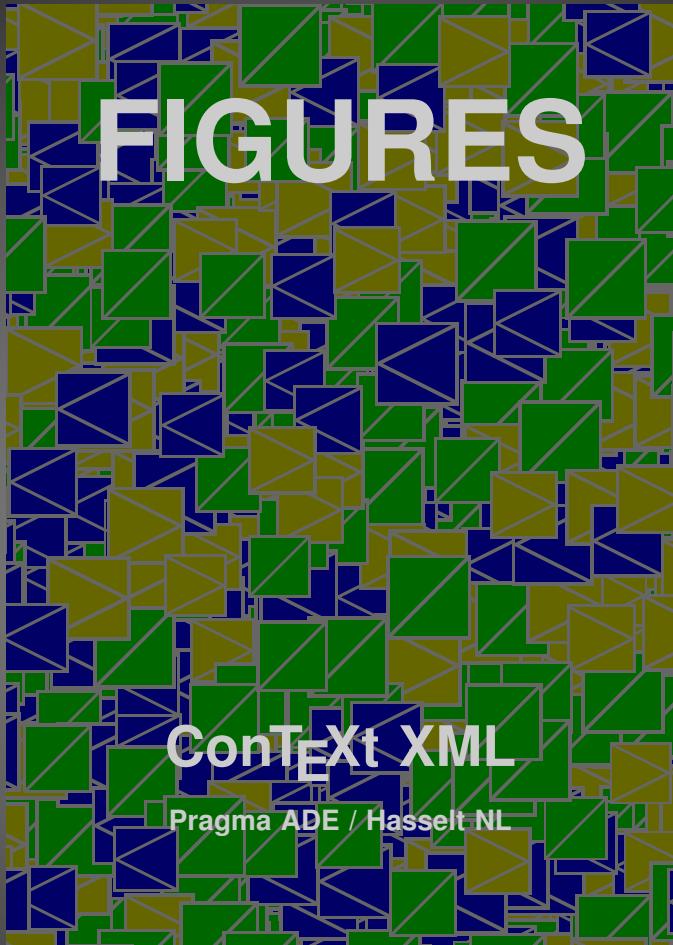
MathML

MathML is a way of coding math in the xml syntax. This manual not only covers both presentational and content MathML in detail, but also provides many examples and demonstrates ways to fine tune the typeset representation. In addition to the MathML examples documents we also provide some examples of OpenMath
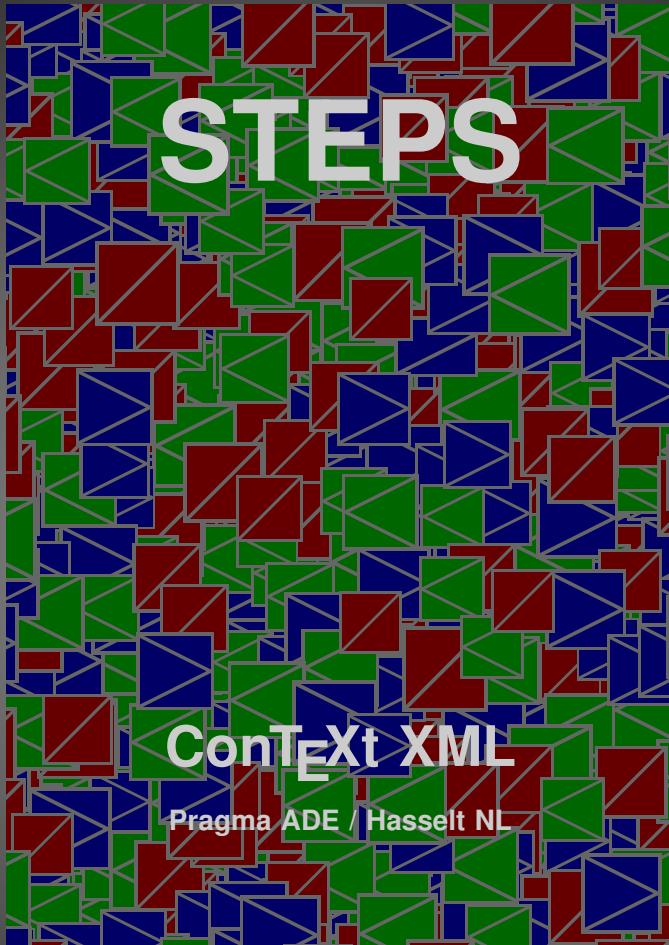
Figure Databases

Instead of moving hundreds of graphics around, you can package them in a database. ConTEXt not only has means to generate such databases, but also can filter the information needed from the corresponding xml files and include graphics by label. Figure bases make it easy to swap high and low resolution graphics.

FIGURES

ConTEXt XML

Pragma ADE / Hasselt NL
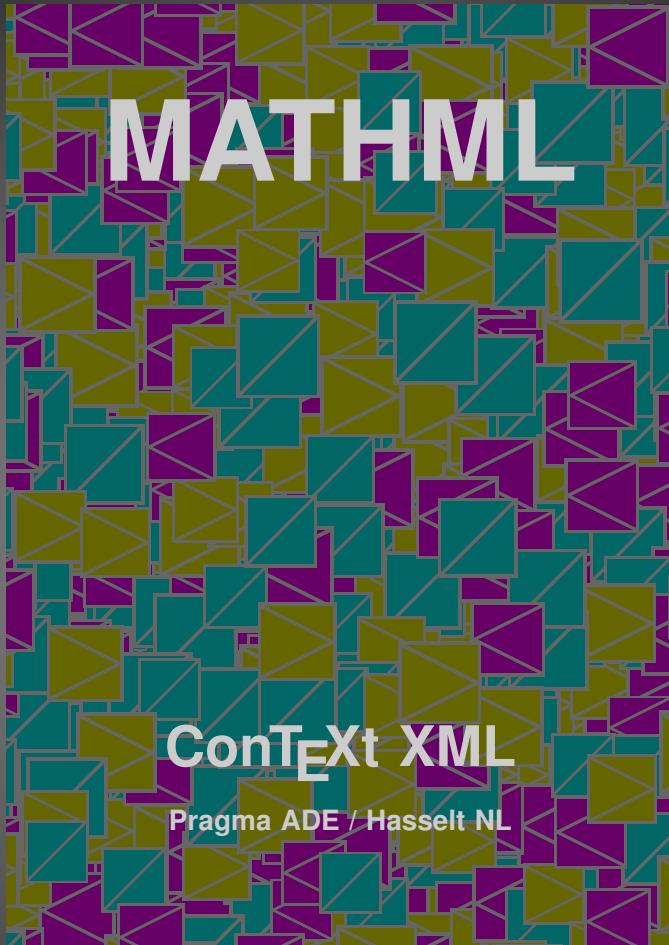
Stepcharts

Stepcharts are a specific kind of tabular charts. They are a combination of MetaPost graphics and T_EX code. There is a T_EX as well as xml implementation.

STEPS

ConT_EXt XML

Pragma ADE / Hasselt NL

MATHML

ConTEXt XML

Pragma ADE / Hasselt NL
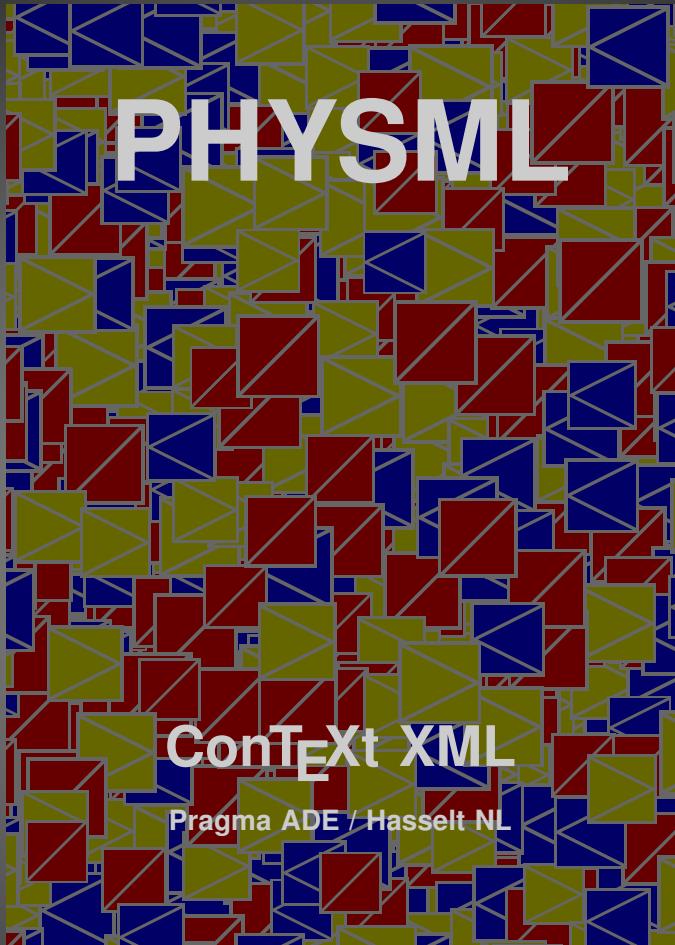
MathML support

This (short) manual explains how to invoke MathML support in ConTEXt. It can be seen as an addendum to the MathML manual.
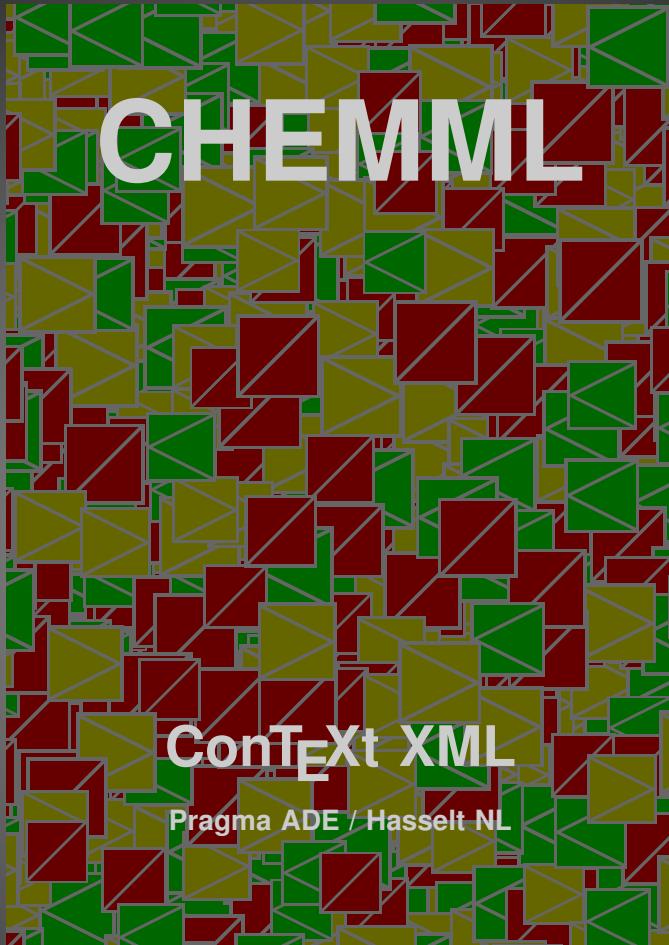
PhysML support
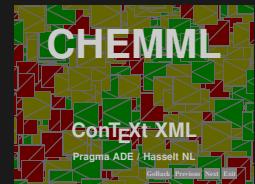
Support for physical units is build on top of
the MathML engine. The method used is de-
rived from the units module that comes with
ConTEXt.

PHYSML

ConTEXt XML

Pragma ADE / Hasselt NL

ChemML support
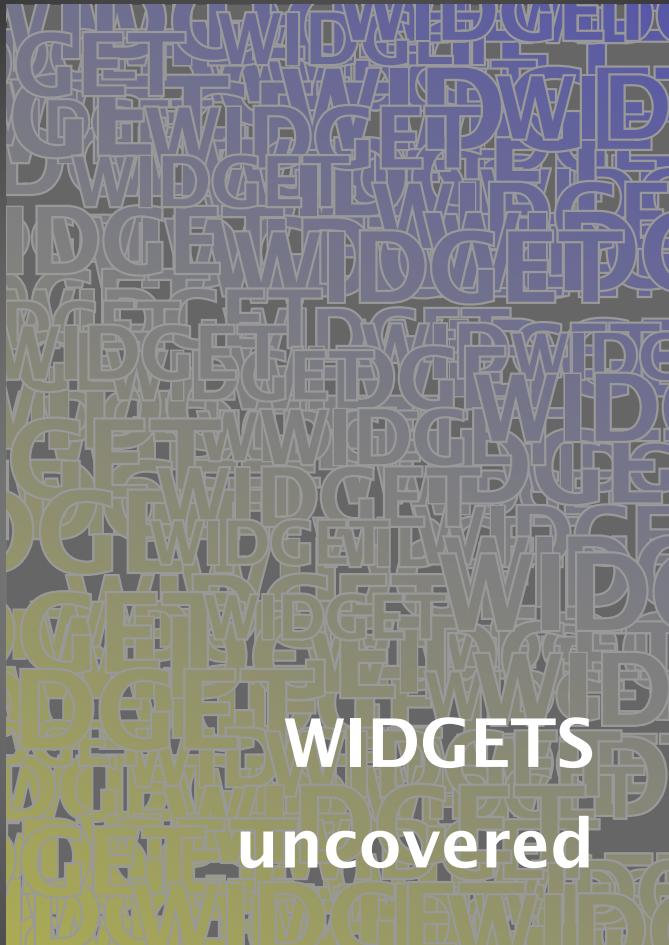
Chemical formulas have their own typographic needs. This module provides a way to code atoms, ions, molecules, and a sequence of re-actions.

CHEMML

ConTeXt XML

Pragma ADE / Hasselt NL

Widgets

Widgets are interative elements in (screen based) documents. This manual describes how to use the reference mechanism for advanced hyperlinking, but also discussed how to construct forms. Adding text annotations and page transitions is also discussed. This manual will be replaced by the manual on interaction.

WIDGETS
uncovered

Interaction

Producing interactive documents have always been an integral part of ConTEXt. This manual describes how to configure hyperlinks, comments, attachments, forms and also how to add navigational elements to a document designed for display.

ConTEXt

Hans Hagen

IT'S IN THE DETAILS

HANS HAGEN
PRAGMA ADE
HASSELT NL

It's in the details

This manual is meant for users who want to divert from the more or less traditional looking TEX documents. There is a strong focus on elements that determine the look and feel of a document, like graphics. (This manual is unfinished)

SciTE in ConTeXt

SciTE is an editor and these manuals describes how to configure it for use with ConTeXt and MetaFun. Beware, the mscite manuals are the old ones, still valid for traditional lexing, while the readme version descibes the latest greatest lexers.

XMLDIR

Hans Hagen — Pragma ADE

xmldir

This manual describes how to access information about files on your system from within ConTEXt. The modules described here are accompanied by features in the TEXtools script. You can use the styles to generate overviews as well as access properties of files.

Typographic Programming

Designing styles is a mixture of making the right decisions in setting up the layout, finding the right values for the parameters that determine the typographic quality of the paragraph and page, and writing programs that take care of constructing the special elements that make up the page. This document tries to provide some insight in these matters and will be completed when we have time or reason.

Hans Hagen

# Typographic
Programming

Hans Hagen

Modes

Modes

Modes

Modes are a convenient way to create styles that server multiple purposes. This manual describes how to enable modes and test for their state. The special system modes that ConTEXt sets itself are also explained.
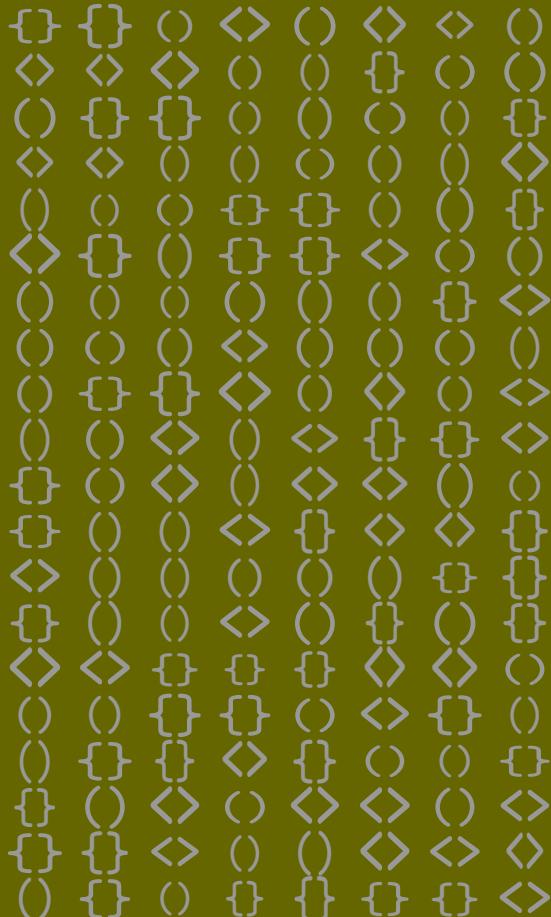
ConT$_E$Xt MkII - MkIV, the history of LuaTeX

This document keeps track of the development history of both ConT$_E$Xt (mkiv) as well as LuaT$_E$X. It is also one of our torture tests for both (rather related) systems.

MKII

CONTEXT

CONTEXT

The history of luaT$_E$X
2006–2009 / v 0.50

MKIV

MkIV hybrid technology

This document keeps track of the development history of both ConTeXt (mkiv) as well as LuaTeX from the moment we considered ourselves to be halfway in the project. Like the MK document it is also one of our torture tests. Many of the chapters of MK were first published as articles and the same is true for this document. So, the version published on the web lags behind as we don't want to compete with the user group journals.

Libraries in LuaTeX

In LuaTeX we use the ffi interface to implement support for external (binary) libraries. In LuaMetaTeX we use so called optional libraries instead. This manual explains this in modre detail.

basics
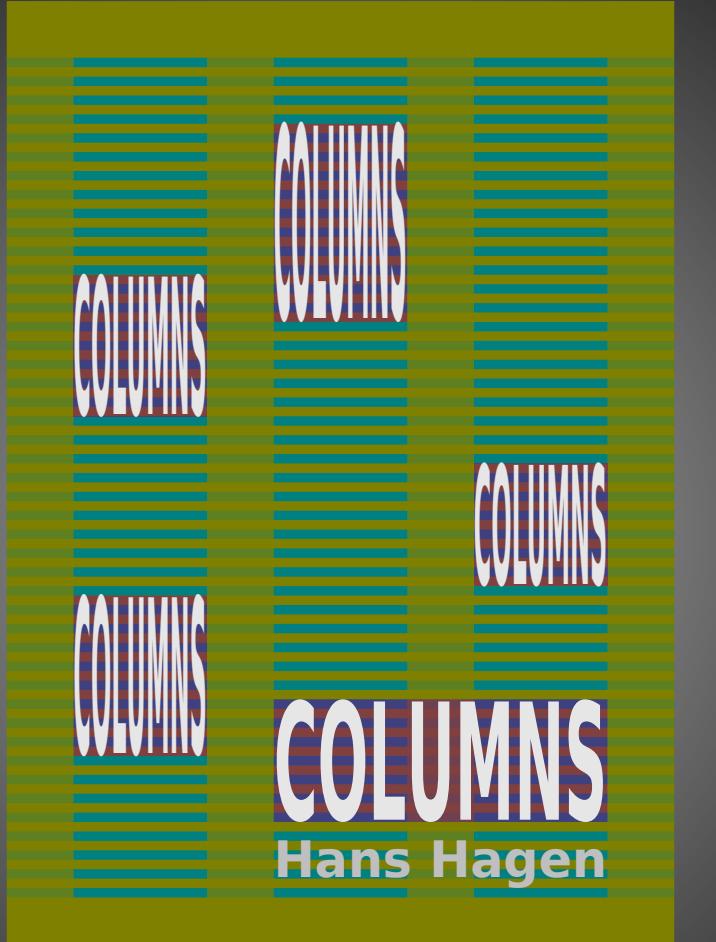
ECMA

SCRIPT

in context lmtx

using the optional mujs library

ECMASCRIPT in ConTeXt LMTX

It is possible to embed ecmascript (of which JavaScript is an example) in ConTeXt lmtx. The (external) library used is .

SwigLib basics

The swiglib project provides a framework for using additional Lua libraries in LuaTEX. Although ConTEXt supports this, it will not depend on external libraries for typesetting.

Columnsets

Column sets can be used for quite complex but nice looking layouts. They are used for magazine like layouts and mix well with explicitly placed graphics. The MkIV version is a bit different from the MkII version but uses teh same principles.

Math

This a preliminary manual about some aspects of math typesetting. It is not a replacement for the Knuthian references.

Spacing

This a work-in-progress manual about aspects of spacing in ConTeXt MkIV.
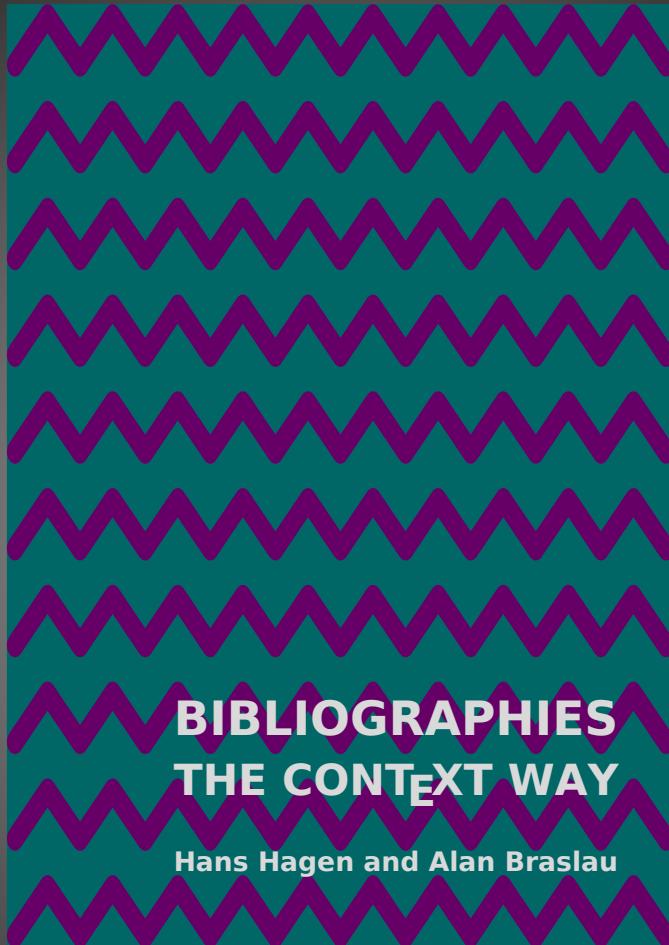
Spacing in ConTeXt

Workflows

The ConTEXt ecosystem is of course centered around typesetting but in addition comes with all kind of tools and subsystems for managing the process. Here we collect some tips.

BIBLIOGRAPHIES

THE CONTEXT WAY

Hans Hagen and Alan Braslau

Publications

In ConTEXt we support the bibTEX format for handling references. The subsystem for dealing is flexible enough to deal with many situations and is extensible as well. It does not depend on external tools and is driven by Lua on the one hand and ConTEXt setups on the other

Languages

The ability to deal with many languages is an important property of TEX systems. Here we cover aspects like hyphenation and language dependent labels.
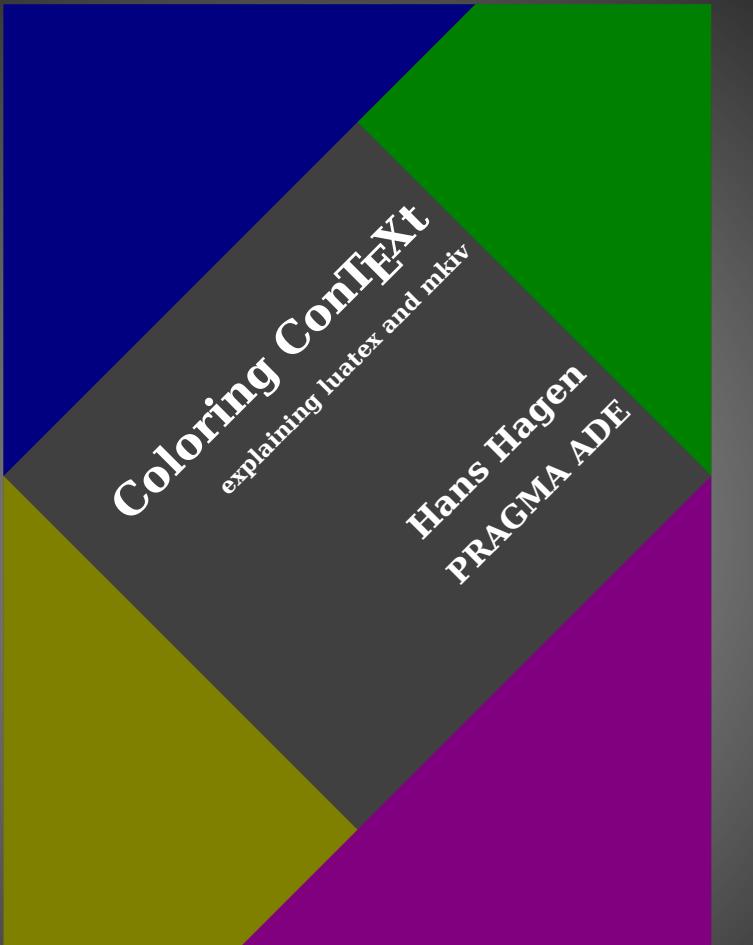
Languages in ConTEXt

explaining luatex and mkiv

Hans Hagen

PRAGMA ADE

Colors

Color support is like fonts and languages a core mechanism. This manual is part of the more technical description of features like that.

Coloring ConTeXt

explaining luatex and mkiv

Hans Hagen

PRAGMA ADE

hans hagen
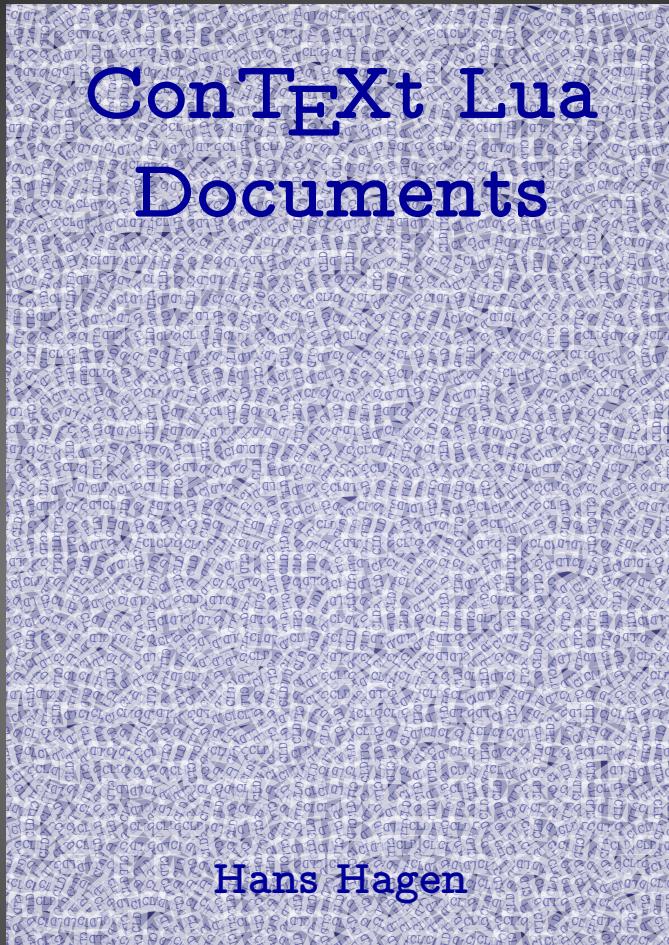
about
luatex and context

About LuaTeX and ConTeXt

This is the third document in the series about the development of LuaTeX and MkIV. This one goes under the name 'about' as one might wonder what all this development is about. After all we've now reached a state where we can think about future applications instead of improving older features as that process is ongoing. As we're a bit beyond experimenting now, the focus will be on practical usage and of course we target on applications that the Lua and TeXcombination makes possible, either new or in a renewed form.

Dealing with XML

This manual explains how to define styles for tree based processing of xml files. This variant showed up in MkIV. The manual also contains examples of filtering content.

Hans Hagen, Pragma ADE, May 30, 2019

Dealing with XML in ConTeXt MkIV

ConTeXt Lua Documents

This manual describes how to generate documents (structure as well as content) using Lua exclusively. Of course you can also embed such code in your normal TeX documents but usign Lua has some advantages when you deal with for instance database output.

ConTeXt Lua Documents

Documents

Hans Hagen

luatools
mtxrun
context

Luatools, Mtxrun & Context

Here we discuss the main tools on the Con-TEXt suite of programs. We focus on the lua-tools tree handler, the mtxrun script manager and the process management tool ConTEXt.
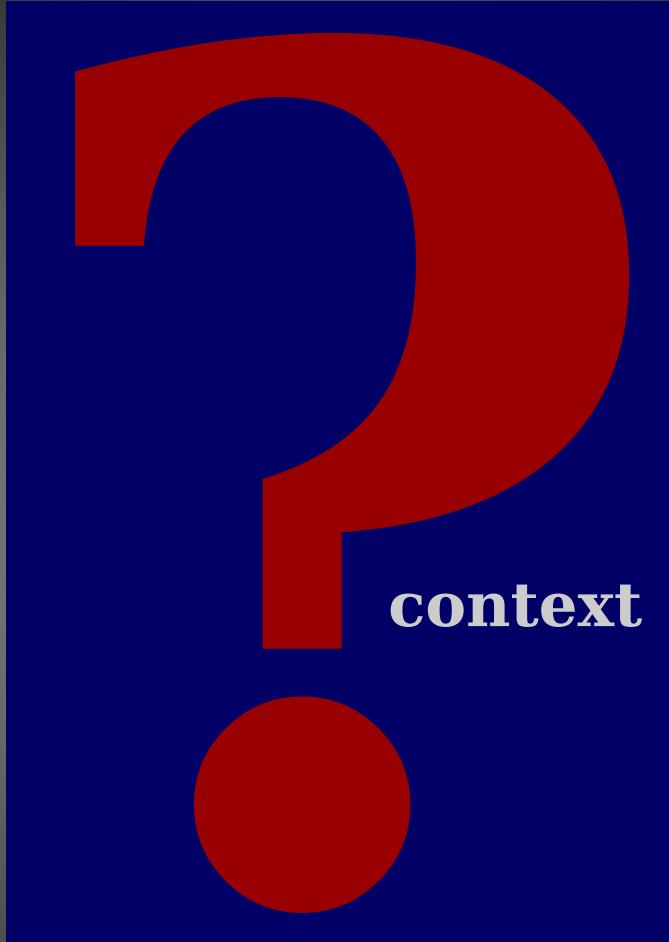
Extreme Tables

This is a short introduction to yet another table mechanism built in ConTEXt. It is a variant of the so called natural tables but it has a different configuration. These tables are faster to process and can span lots of pages.

EXTREME TABLES

HANS HAGEN
CONTEXT MKIV

What is ConTeXt

Occasionally I run into a description of Con-TeXt that contains observations that are somewhat off. This document provides some insight in why this macro package looks the way it looks. What started out as a TeX only system evolved via adding MetaPost to the current hybrid system that also uses Lua.

context

UNITS

HANS HAGEN

CONTEXT MKIV

Units

As part of physics support the ConTEXt core provides a mechanism for typesetting units. This manual describes the basics as well as explains how additional units can be added and extra variants of the command can be configured. The manual also introduces the related digits mechanism. The built in support for units should not be confused with the older (incompatible but conceptually similar) units module.

Simple Spreadsheets

This module provides an easy way to add calculations to a document in a tabular form. It is not a replacement for a decent spreadsheet program but fits well into regular document processing as done by ConTeXt.

Simple Spreadsheets

ConTeXt MkIV

Hans Hagen

May 12, 2016

LMX templates

Templates as described here can be used to construct ConTEXt documents using a more programmatic approach. The method discussed wil stay but might get extended. This mechanism also introduces two new dialects: MkIX and MkXI.

Lua

the context libraries
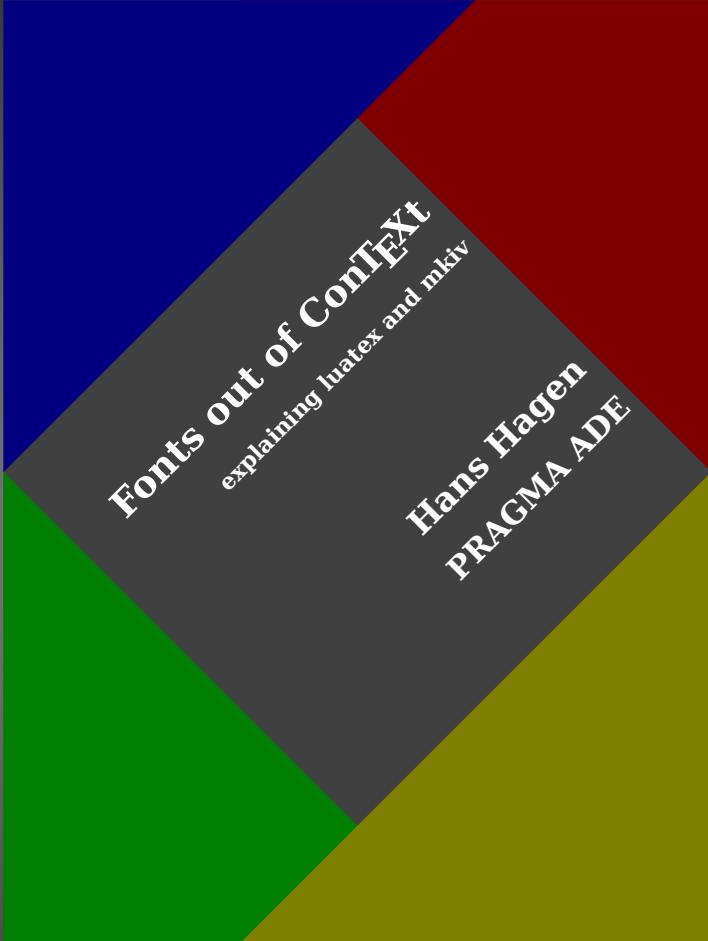
Lua libraries

This manual describes how to use generic Lua modules outside ConTeXt. The helper functions themselves are discussed in the cld manuals.

SQL in context

The ConTEXt infrastructure can be quite handy to process sql output. This manual describes how integrate mysql support into your styles. The libraries can also be used independent from ConTEXt but fit into the package.

Fonts out of context

In TeX and therefore in ConTeXt fonts play an important role. This document describes some of the characteristics of the MkIV font system. It is not a manual about using fonts, although some details can be found only here.

Fonts out of ConTeXt

explaining luatex and mkiv

Hans Hagen

PRAGMA ADE

Math

This manual describes a few aspects of typesetting mathematics in ConTEXt and will evolve over time.

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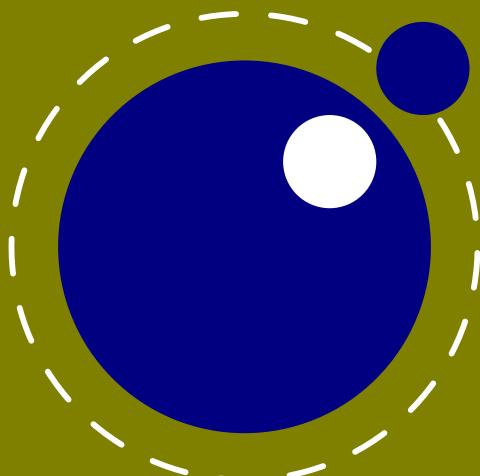
exporting xml and epub from context

Epub

The export option in ConTEXt can produce a basic set of xml and epub files that can be either used directly (using a css) or enhanced for usage otherwise. This manual gives an overview of the process.

LuaTₑX
Reference
Manual

stable
December 2019
Version 1.10

LuaTeX

The MkIV version of ConTₑXt uses the LuaTₑX engine. This engine is an ongoing development and happens in the scope of ConTₑXt development. This manual descibes the current version and is offered here for convenience.

Flowcharts

The flowchart module is an old one that has been around for a while. It got updated to MkIV and wil stay around.

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Hans Hagen

On and on

This is yet another document in the series about the development of LuaTeX and MkIV. This time we use the tag 'onandon' to indicate that we never seem to stop moving forwards. The content lags a bit behind in the sense that some chapters are first published in user group journals.

Followingup

This is the fifth document in the series about the development of LuaTeX and MkIV, but here we focus on LuaMetaTeX instead. It is a relative small set of progress reports that describes the steps to get there. This engine is a follow up on LuaTeX, the engine that is used for the ConTeXt version tagged as lmtx. While the functionality of its ancestor is more or less set in stone, so that it can be used in other macro packages, this follow up permits further experiments in ConTeXt.

ConTeXt lmtx

FOLLOWING UP

RULES

HANS HAGEN

A CONTEXT MKIV MANUAL

Rules

In this manual we cover some aspects of drawing (ornamental) rules in ConTEXt using native rule operators as well as MetaPost.

l2r
r2l

a few tips

hans hagen

Bidi
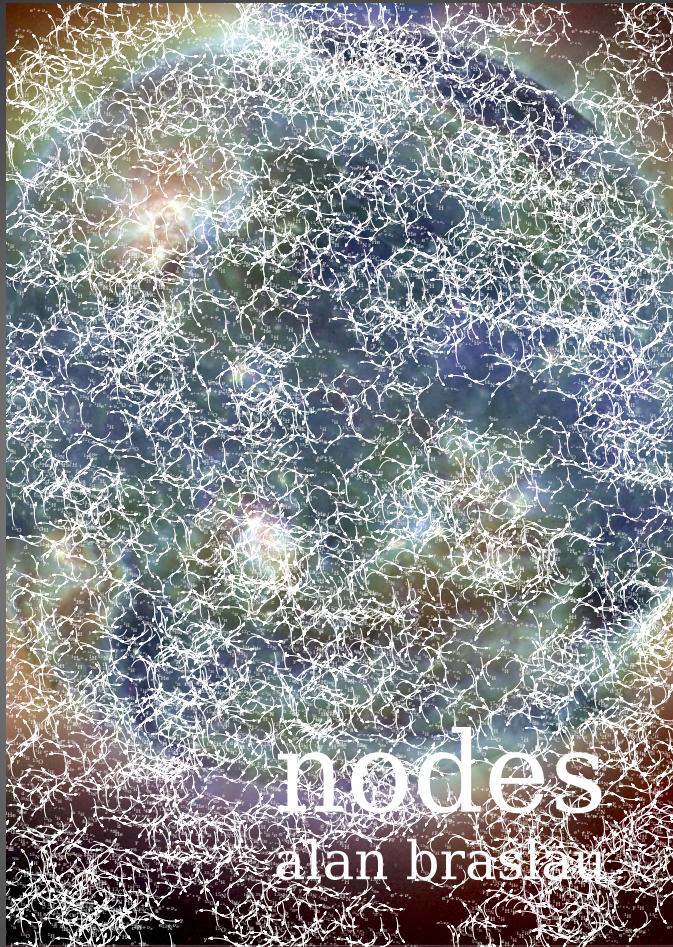
Right to left typesetting involves directives, fonts, heuristics, and a sometimes dedicated layout. In ConTEXt some mechanism are direction aware. Here we discuss some details.

Context
Musings

hans hagen
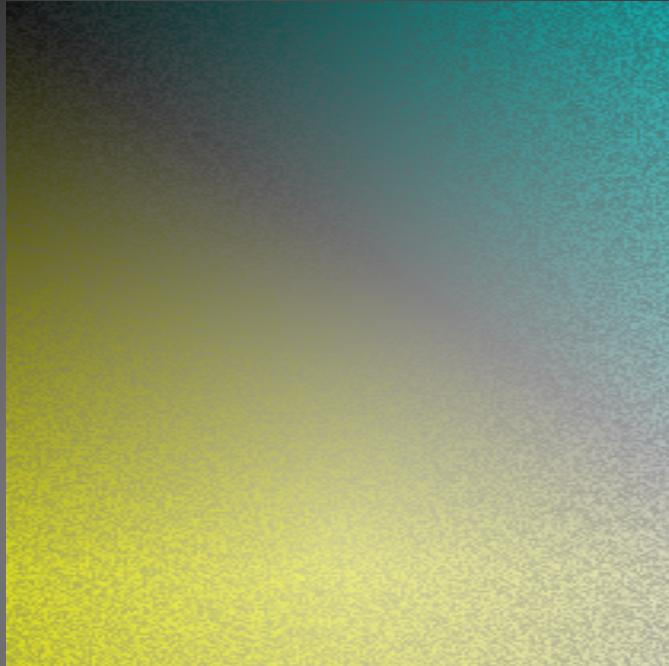
Musings

In this manual we collect articles that don't fit into another manual or collection. Some relate to talks, other to experiences or observations. They are often opinions.

Nodes

This manual is about a rather neat set of macros to produce node related drawings in MetaPost and ConTEXt like charts and trees. It also presents some tricks that can be applied elsewhere.

Graphics

This manual explains how to insert images into a document.

Graphics
Hans Hagen

Still

going on

Hans Hagen

Still
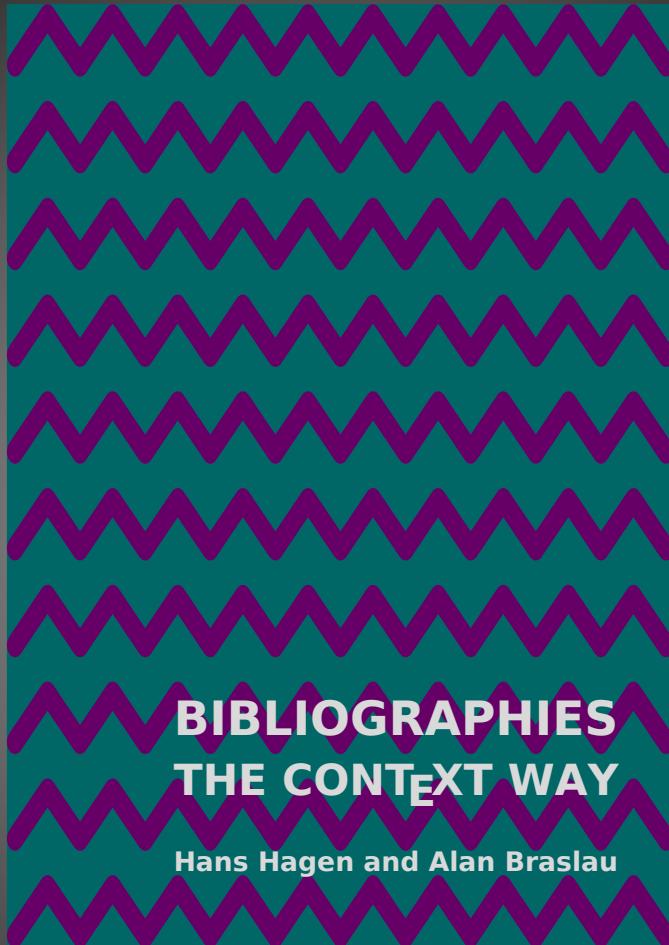
This is the fourth document describing the history of LuaTEX. Most of the development is done, but we keep on playing with the possibilities it offers for ConTEXt. We finally arrive at version 1.0 too.

Texit

Hans Hagen
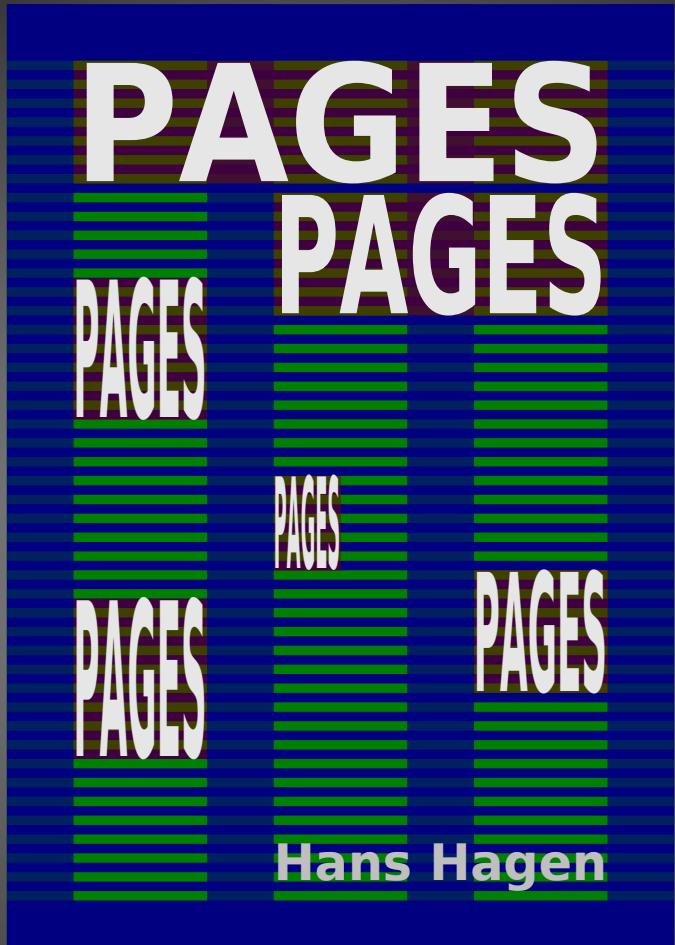
T_EXit

Sometimes questions on the mailing list pop up that demand a bit more tex-nical explanation. This manual will collect explanations and insights that don't fit into regular manuals.
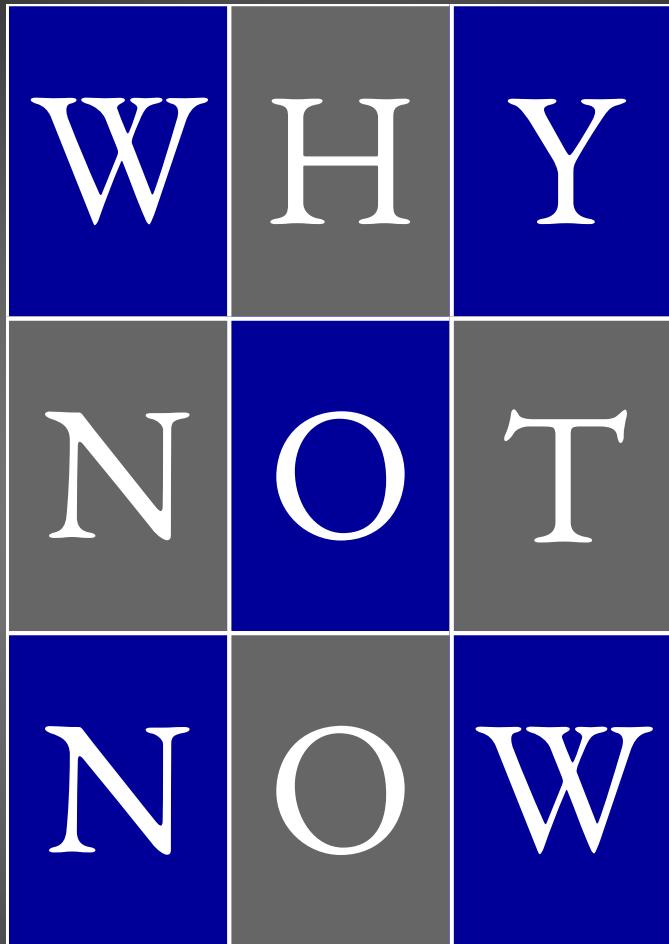
Publications

Like any macro package ConTeXt has to support bibliographies. This manual describes in great detail how to copye with this, and especially bibTeX databases and finetuning the rendering. We got rid of depdencies of external programs and all happens in Lua. This also opens up access to the data to users for various purposes.

BIBLIOGRAPHIES THE CONTEXT WAY

Hans Hagen and Alan Braslau
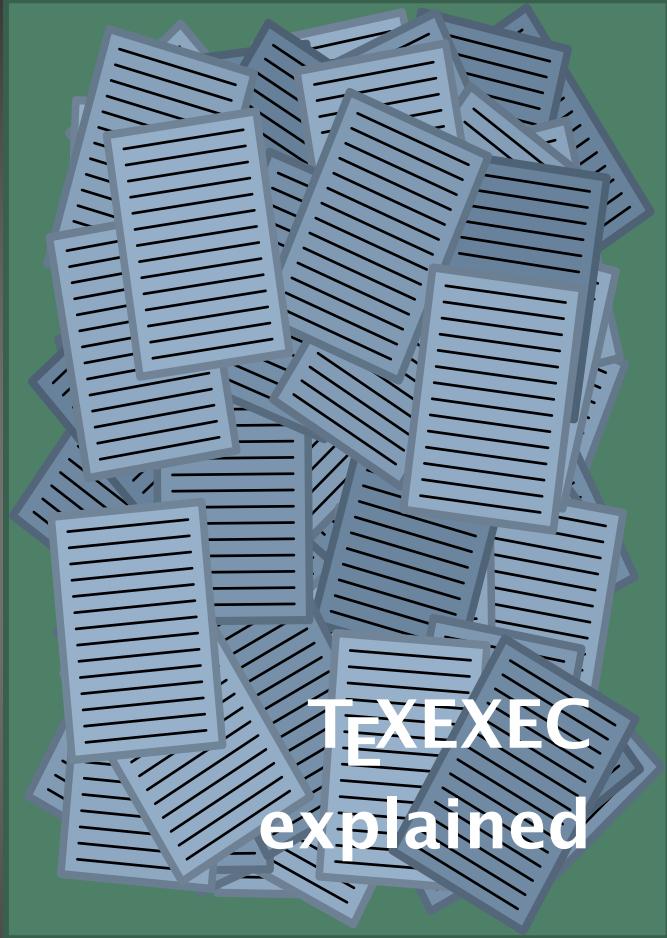
Page columns

There are several column mechanisms and this is one of them. It boils down to treating each column as a page which in turn means that we can do for instance side floats. This manual might also give you an idea about its usability.

Not now

This is more an excuse manual: why are some features not supported or limited.

W	H	Y
N	O	T
N	O	W

TEXexec

Traditional TEX is hard to control on the commandline. This is why ConTEXt comes with TEXexec, a Perl script that makes document processing more convenient. This script also helps you to postprocess pdf files, typeset ConTEXt documentation, arrange pages, and manage files.

TEXEXEC
explained

Fonts in ConTeXt

Hans Hagen
November 2005
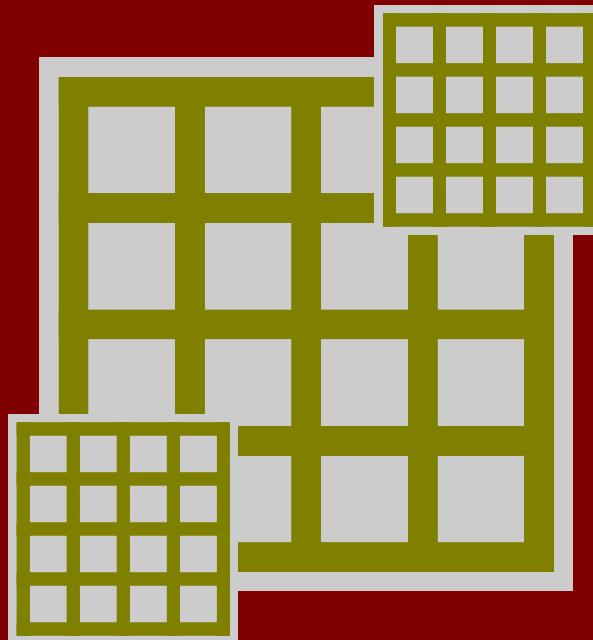
Fonts

Although installation of TeX and friends has become relatively easy, fonts always will be a special case. This is a result from the flexibility of TeX, as well as the fact that TeX can typeset virtually any language. The font manual covers the installation of fonts in ConTeXt and describes in detail how to define typescripts, how to achieve special effects, like hanging punctuation, and how to set up math fonts.

Fonts
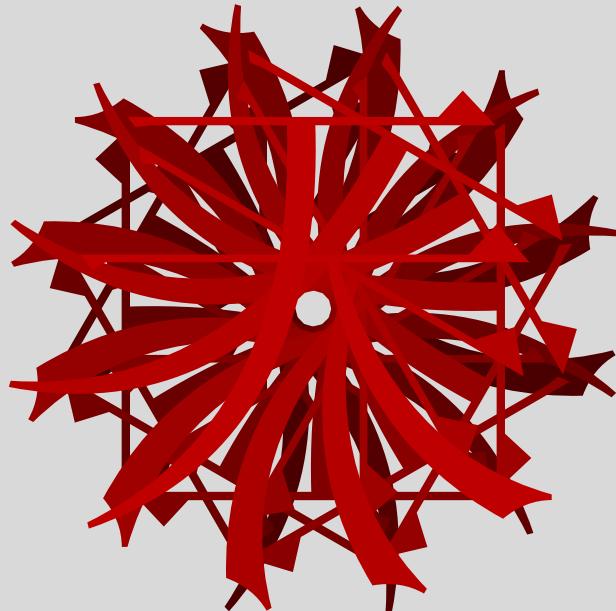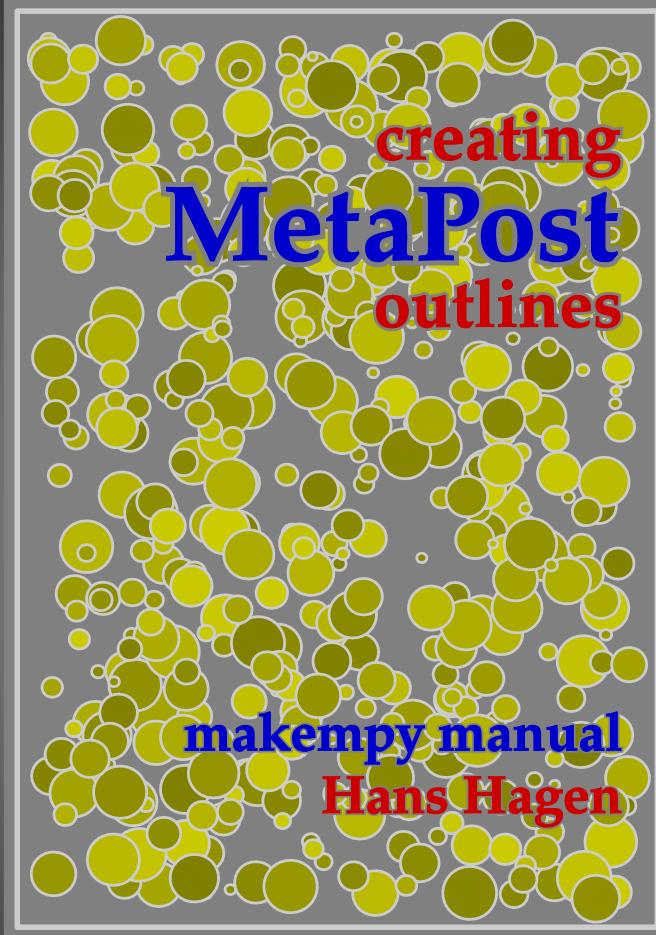
Installing fonts is one of the nasty parts of using TEX. This is why ConTEXt comes with a Perl script called TEXfont. You can use TEXfont to generate font metric files in specified encodings, manipulate fonts, creating instances of multiple master fonts, build map files, etc. The script runs on top of afm2tfm and the mminstance tools.

TEXFONT
explained

Chinese
in ConTEXt

Chinese

In many aspects, typesetting Chinese differs from typesetting Latin languages. Most noticably are the pictographic characters, vertical typesetting, multiple numbering systems, and a different way of handling labels. This manual covers the specific font setups, encoding issues, and mixed Latin and Chinese typesetting.

MetaPost outlines

MakeMPY is a Perl script and some macros that make it possible to create outlines from text typeset by TeX, that can be imported into MetaPost graphics. This toolkit uses pdfTeX, pdftops, pstoedit and Ghostscript, and works with any TeX.

creating
MetaPost
outlines

makempy manual
Hans Hagen
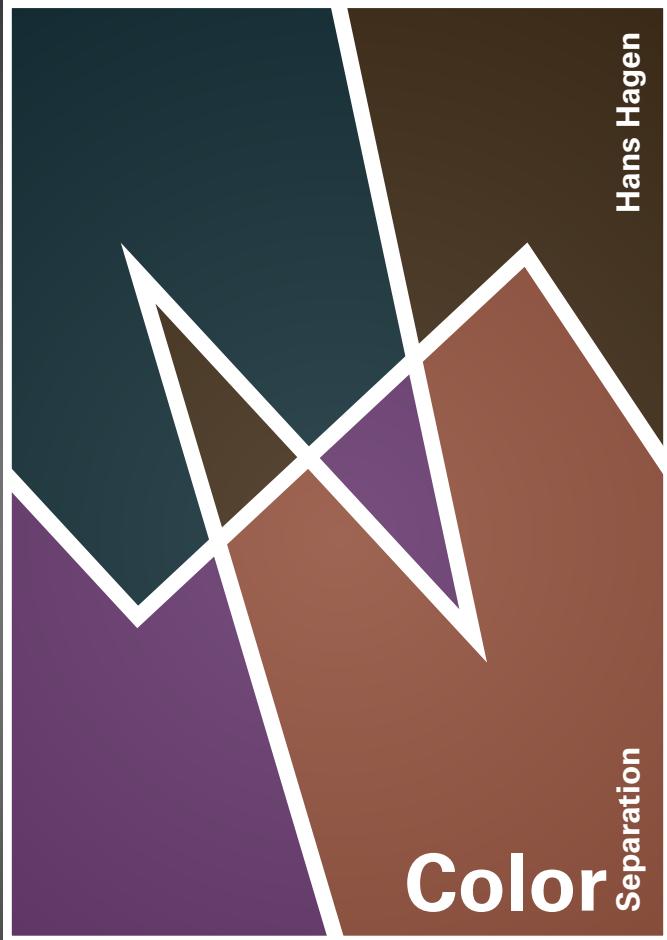
XML in ConTeXt

PRAGMA ADE │ November 9, 2001

XML
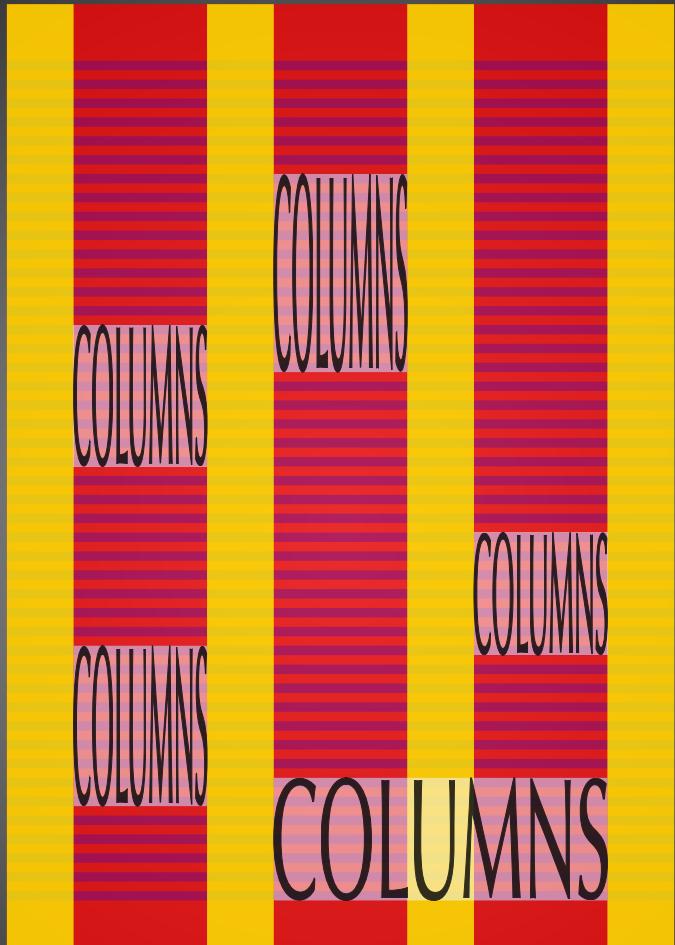
Since TeX can handle ascii input rather well, it will be no surprise that ConTeXt can handle xml. In this document we describe the interface to xml. We also provide some examples, tips and tricks. This document is still under construction.

Color separation

This is a manual for those who are forced to deliver their typeset results color separated. The manual describes how to create an instance of a document in a specific color space and channel. Text as well as graphics are covered.

Hans Hagen

Color Separation

Extreme Columns

Column sets can be used for quite complex but nice looking layouts. (Behind the screens) this mechanims goes to the extremes of what we can do with TEX's output routines. With columnsets we try to bridge between sequential makeup and semi automated desk top publishing.

Charts

The flow chart module is an example of combining the power of TEX and MetaPost. You can use this module to define charts in a descriptive way such that parts can be used, and or charts can be combined. The advantage of using this integrated approach (opposite to dedicated programns) is that you have the whole ConTEXt machinery available, like hyperlinks and embedded graphics. Also, by using this module, you have a proper match of fonts between graphics and text.

CHARTS

uncovered

Weaving PS into PDF

This manual describes the pstopdf tool that comes with ConTeXt. You can use this tool to convert PostScript images into pdf. The program is actually a wrapper around Ghostscript, but applies some additional trickery and filtering. It also supports watched folders and is suited for interfacing to the eXaMpLe framework.

TEXMFSTART

Hans Hagen – 2003/2006

texmfstart & ...tools

This very short manual demonstrates how you can use texmfstart to launch scripts and documents located in your TEX tree. The script uses kpsewhich as well as its own (more aggressive) methods for locating the file. The TEXtools manual describes a program that actually is a (growing) collection of small utilities that operate on TEX related files and trees. The xmltools manual describes a similar program, this time a collection of utilities that operate on cq. produce xml files and trees. Finally, the pdftools manual deals with the associated program, that operates on pdf files. This tool is not yet public.

TEX TOOLS   XML TOOLS   PDF TOOLS

Hyphenation Patterns

Although normally users are not supposed to know the dirty details of pattern management, it may be handy to read this manuals at least once, if only to know what to do when for some reason pattern loading fails on your machine. This manual also describes how to apply the ctxtools program to generate generic pattern files from existing encoding specific files.

Hans Hagen

HYPHENATION

PATTERNS

just an XML FO engine

Hans Hagen

PRAGMA ADE

foXet

You can see foXet as just another way of processing xml formatting objects. You may use it to process documents coded in (reasonable) xsl-fo or as (textual) graphics format in ConTeXt documents, a sort of placed xml.
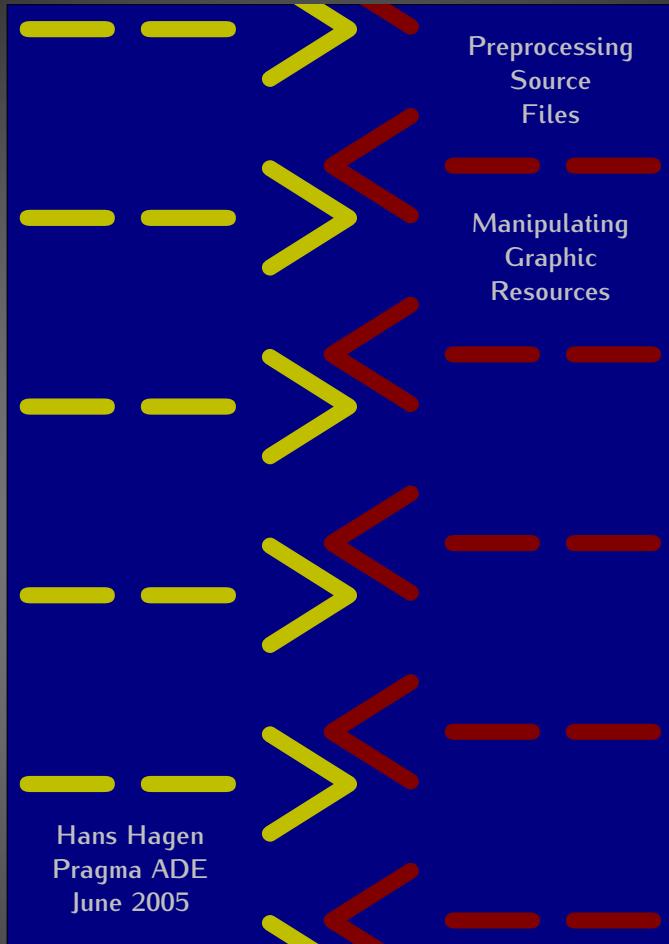
Correspondence

One of the first application at Pragma ADEof
T_EX was in typesetting letters. Over time the
T_EX only based system moved to a combina-
tion of xml and T_EX. This manual roughly de-
scribes the components that make up such a
system. A graphical user interface is provided
as well.

name:
examplap/gui/lette

file:
examplap/gui/letter.pdf

state: unknown

name:
examplap/gui/envelop

file:
examplap/gui/envelop

state: unknown

name: examplap/gui/letter.pdf

file: examplap/gui/letter.pdf

state: unknown

CORRESPONDENCE
Hans Hagen

Preprocessing and Manipulating

This manual describes the facilities for automatic preprocessing of source files and manipulation of graphics. These features come in handy in automated typesetting workflows and are handled by TEXexec and rlxtools. The definition files are xml based.

Preprocessing
Source
Files

Manipulating
Graphic
Resources

Hans Hagen
Pragma ADE
June 2005
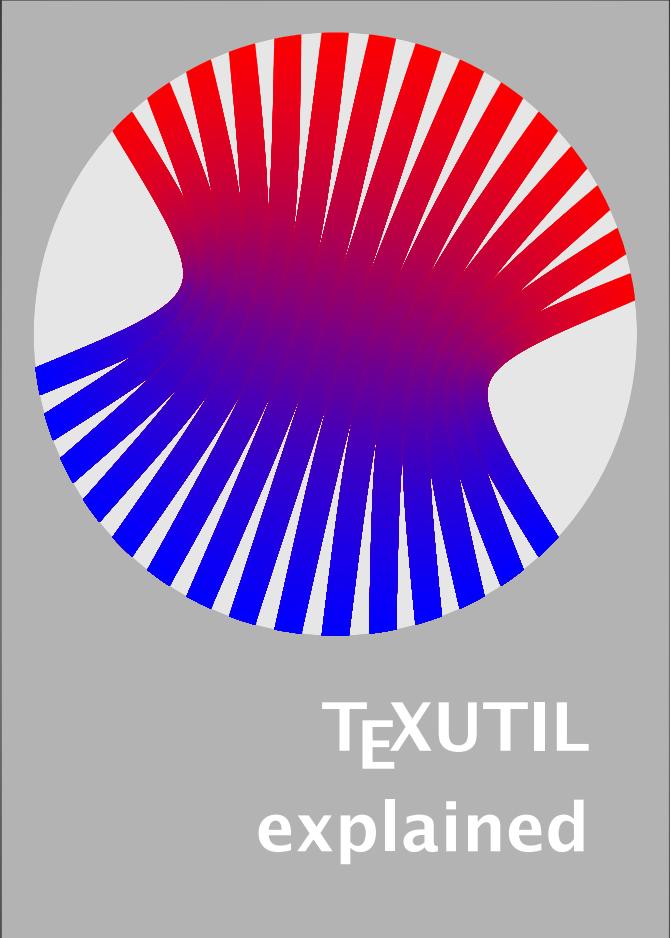
Installation

When one uses teT$_E$X, fpT$_E$X, gwT$_E$X, MikT$_E$X or T$_E$X Live, installation of ConT$_E$Xt is a breeze. Nevertheless, in this manual, we provide some information on installing ConT$_E$Xt.

how to install ConT$_E$Xt
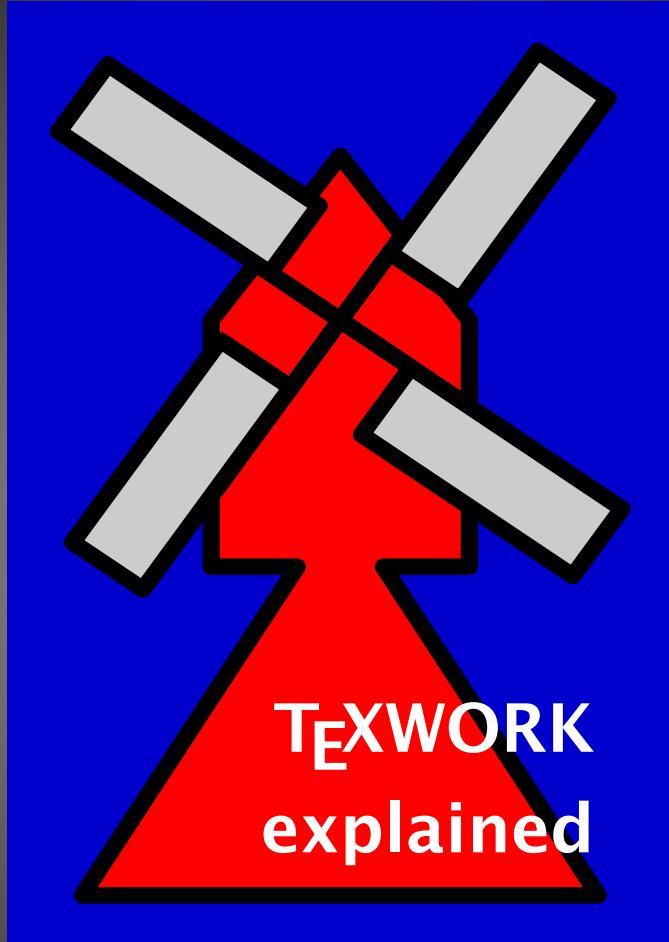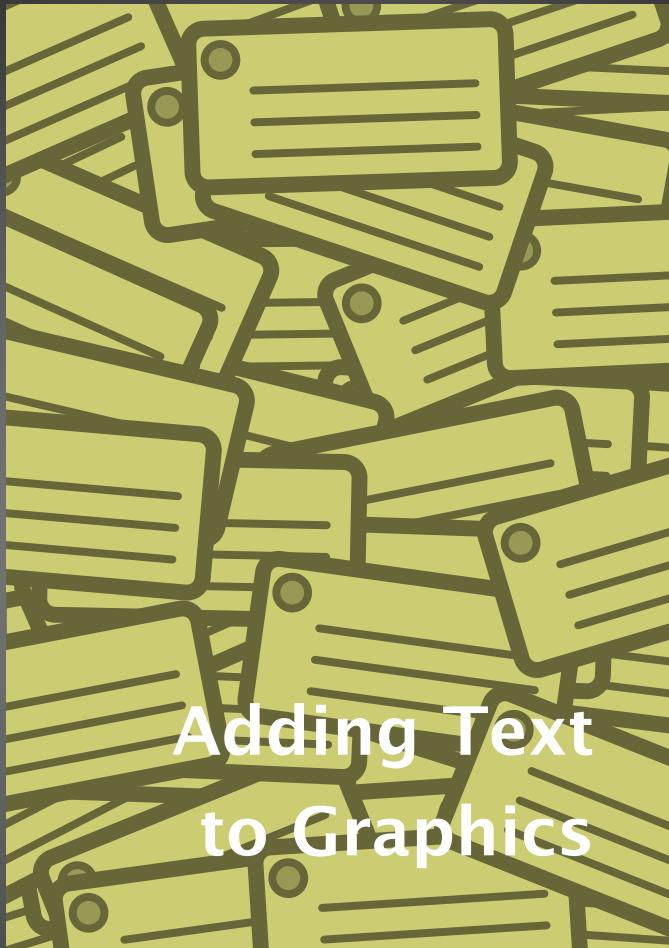
# TEXutil

The TEXutil Perl script deals with files, especially the ConTEXt second pass data file. It moves information around and sorts indexes and lists. This script is the natural companion of TEXexec.

TeXwork

TeXwork is our local editing environment. It is a rewrite of the Modula~2 program TeXedit in Perl/Tk.

Adding Text
to Graphics
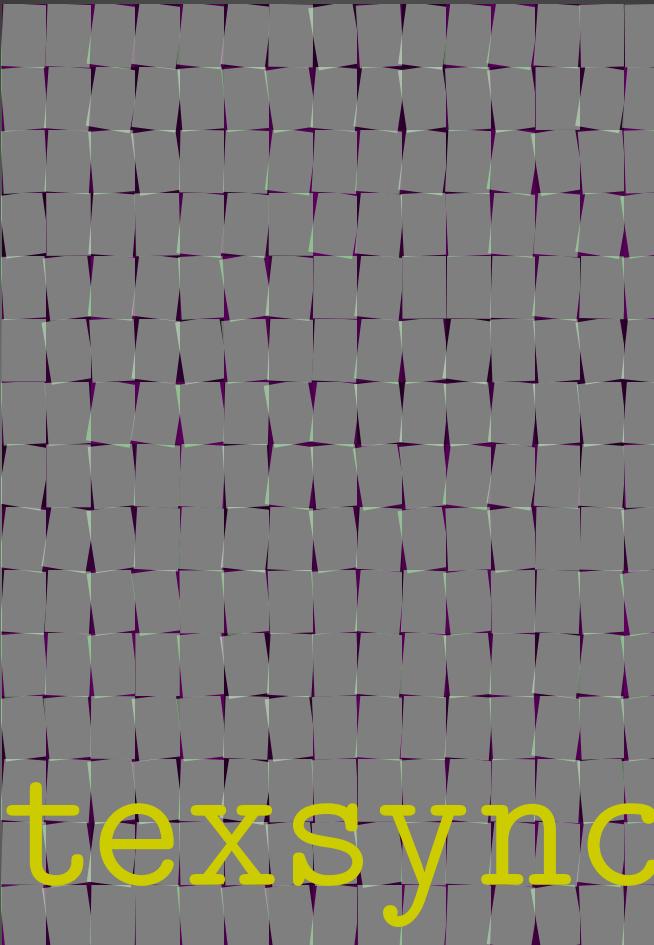
Labels

The author of a graphic is not neccessarily also its graphic designer. In that case it makes sense to split the design of the graphic elements from the process of adding labels. This document describes how to add text to graphics either or not using the resource (figure) library mechanism.

Example GUI

This manual describes how to install a user interface to some of the ConTEXt mechanisms and other programs. In the distribution there are applications for postprocessing documents (page imposition), testing MathML, and converting PostScript files to pdf.

PRAGMA POD

Example GUI
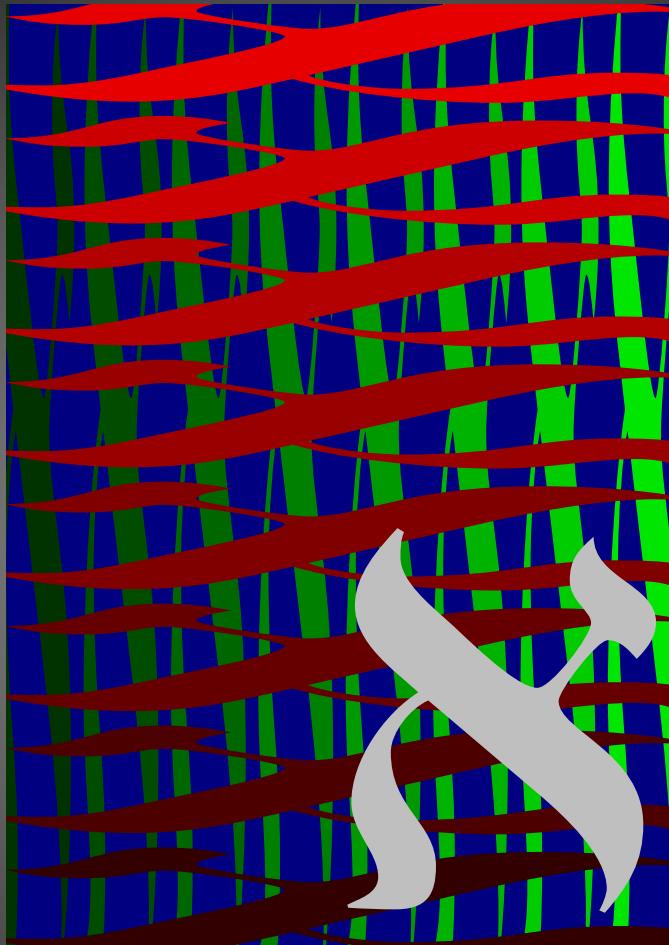
texsync

There are several ways to install a TEX system on your machine. Popular platform dependent distributions are fpTEX, teTEX, gwTEX and MikTEX, and user groups distribute the nicely packaged TEXLive collection. At Pragma ADE we use for projects a small subset of TEX Live, often with the latest ConTEXt and project specific font trees. The program described in this manual enables you to synchronize with our minimal ConTEXt tree.

texsync

texsync

Aleph

This document shows a few things that Aleph can do with respect to multidirectional typesetting. This document may change over time and is mostly a testbed and less a manual, although in the end it may evolve into one.