

# An overview of T<sub>E</sub>X, its children and their friends ...

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[Link for the impatient.](#)

In the world of T<sub>E</sub>X, there are many developments and ambiguous names. This paper tries to give an overview of the development of T<sub>E</sub>X and related programs. Contributions are very welcome!<sup>1</sup>

## Introduction

This document is for people that have stumbled upon different term including something related to T<sub>E</sub>X and are confused by the many different terms – at least I was, so maybe others are, too ...

The base frame and main idea for this overview was taken from the article *A brief history of T<sub>E</sub>X, volume II* by Arthur Reutenauer in the proceedings of EuroBachTeX2007 and his talk there (see references on page 36). Additional information is taken from original documentations and some review articles. For old, historic information, the historic archive maintained by Ulrik Vieth and hosted on <ftp.tug.org> (see refs) was very useful, especially in the reconstruction of L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X versions. Many thanks for that great archive!

All information is up to the date of this generated PDF and up to the information I found. Everything here is without guarantee – this is just to get an overview. Consult the references for further (and/or correct) information!

In the tree views, every node has a tooltip that shows up when you hover the mouse over it. For the case that your PDF viewer does not support this, there is a list of all the descriptions on page 24.

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<sup>1</sup>The current source code of this document is available at <http://github.com/alt/tex-overview>. Please feel free to patch there or mail me any suggestions and comments. I'll be happy to extend and correct this document!

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# 1. The Difference Between Engine, Format and Distribution

There are three kinds of terms that are often confused especially by new users. This will try to explain them very shortly:

**engine** This is the program that does all the actual work. The original program is T<sub>E</sub>X, a famous development is pdfT<sub>E</sub>X, while LuaT<sub>E</sub>X is the latest successor.

**format** A format is a (large) collection of abbreviations (macros) that make the life easy when working with T<sub>E</sub>X. The most commonly used formats are L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, ConT<sub>E</sub>Xt and plainT<sub>E</sub>X. The latter one is a minimal set of macros provided by Don Knuth. Formats can be combined with different engines, exploiting the special abilities of these engines. A format is first a collection of text files, but can be compiled into a binary format that can be read in faster by the engine.

**distribution** In addition to formats, a large set of supplementary files can be used to work with T<sub>E</sub>X, called *packages* for L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, *modules* for ConT<sub>E</sub>Xt, and many external programs have proven useful for the work with T<sub>E</sub>X. Distributions such as T<sub>E</sub>X live and MiK<sub>T</sub><sub>E</sub>X strive to provide a full set of such programs and macros by using a package manager to take care of package dependencies and updating. Many Linux distributions, as well as cygwin for Windows, repackaging a T<sub>E</sub>X distribution (mostly T<sub>E</sub>X live) using the Linux distribution's package system.

# 2. How to read this document

This document consists of several graphs showing the development of software more or less directly related to T<sub>E</sub>X. The graphs try to show the time development (downwards), as well as dependencies, changes, etc.

I tried to make the graphs more readable by using colors for different categories. The decisions about what is important and what is “normal” reflect my personal opinion only.

**normal** That is, not very important in my opinion, no huge user group, but still maybe important for special needs. Was used by a major community at least some time back, but is not of great impact nowadays.

**important** Engines or formats that had or have a great impact on (everyday) typesetting for a large community.

**experimental** Developments that might still be under construction or were never used by a large community. Nevertheless, these might be very important to the development of other engines or for use of special typesetting.

**planned** Things that are planned to raise one day and are in the phase of preparation, i. e. there may be some code but not in the final form yet.

**package** L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X-packages or single T<sub>E</sub>X-files (useable as packages or modules) that seemed worth mentioning. There won't be many of this; most very important packages won't be mentioned.

**distribution** Software bundles that bring T<sub>E</sub>X and friends to the normal user.

**hist. dist.** Historical distributions that have no use today but were important for bringing TeX to older computer systems.

**program** Programs that are not directly connected to T<sub>E</sub>X (but interesting in the context of using T<sub>E</sub>X) or are separate helper programs.

**font** Something related to a font. Neither a program nor libraries that provide access to fonts nor the actual files, but rather the abstract definition or specification.

Some of the graphs are quite complex, which is the reason why there are two versions of them: A short one mentioning only the most important things and a full version with everything I could find.

In most cases I did not mention the authors of the programs/packages. This is not to diminish their effort but only for brevity (long names make things harder to read). I did not write any of the below-mentioned programs or packages. The authors are given in the documents linked in the references.

## 3. How to contribute

I hope one day this document would become the standard reference for questions like "What program do I need for ...?", "What's the difference between ... $\TeX$  and ... $\TeX$ ?", "Why is it called ...?" etc.

To get to this point, I need some help of people who know more about the  $\TeX$  world than I do. At the moment, special help is needed for:

- font technologies
- METAFONT and sucesors
- Bib $\TeX$  and successors/alternatives

It is up to you to contribute texts, references, links, descriptions, hints etc. I'll be happy about anything I can add here. Also, if you have suggestions about the layout, let me know.

## 4. Problems with PDF viewers

As this document makes heavy use of PDF-features, some PDF viewers are not able to show everything correct and as intended. My experiences with viewers are as follows, where the number is the version which I tested:

**evince 3.0.2** Shows the document correct and complete. (Tested on Arch Linux)

**Adobe Reader 9** will show all the information but might hide some text of very long tooltips (at least that's the case on my machine). Also, it draws annoying green boxes around the tooltips which do not belong there. (Tested on Arch Linux)

**$\TeX$ works 0.5 r869** The built-in PDF viewer of the  $\TeX$ works editor does not break lines of tooltips, therefore long annotations are not shown completely. (Tested on Arch Linux)

**okular 0.13** also does not break the lines. (Tested on Arch Linux)

**xpdf 3.03** shows only very short tooltips. Most of the information is not visible in the graphs. (Tested on Arch Linux)

**gv 3.7.2** shows no tooltips, but the annoying green boxes. (Tested on Arch Linux)

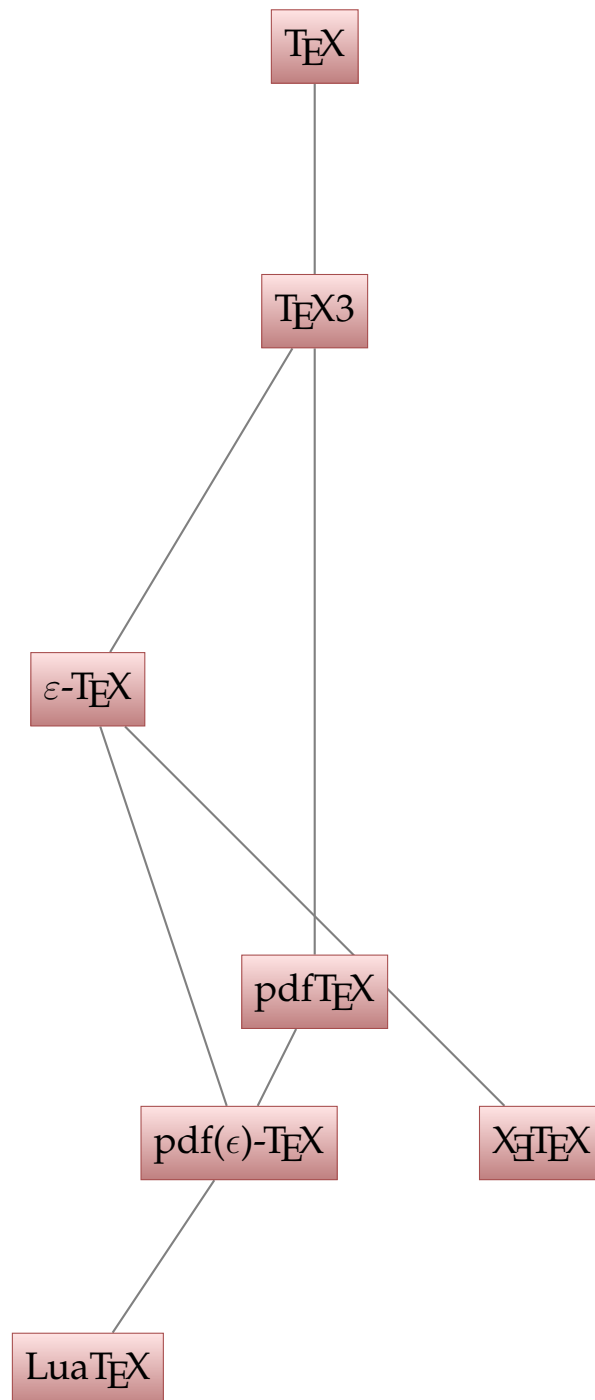
## About this document

This document is typeset in the  $\TeX$  Gyre Pagella font using the Lua $\LaTeX$  2 $\epsilon$  format with `expl3` and `xpackages` based on Lua $\TeX$  0.70.1.

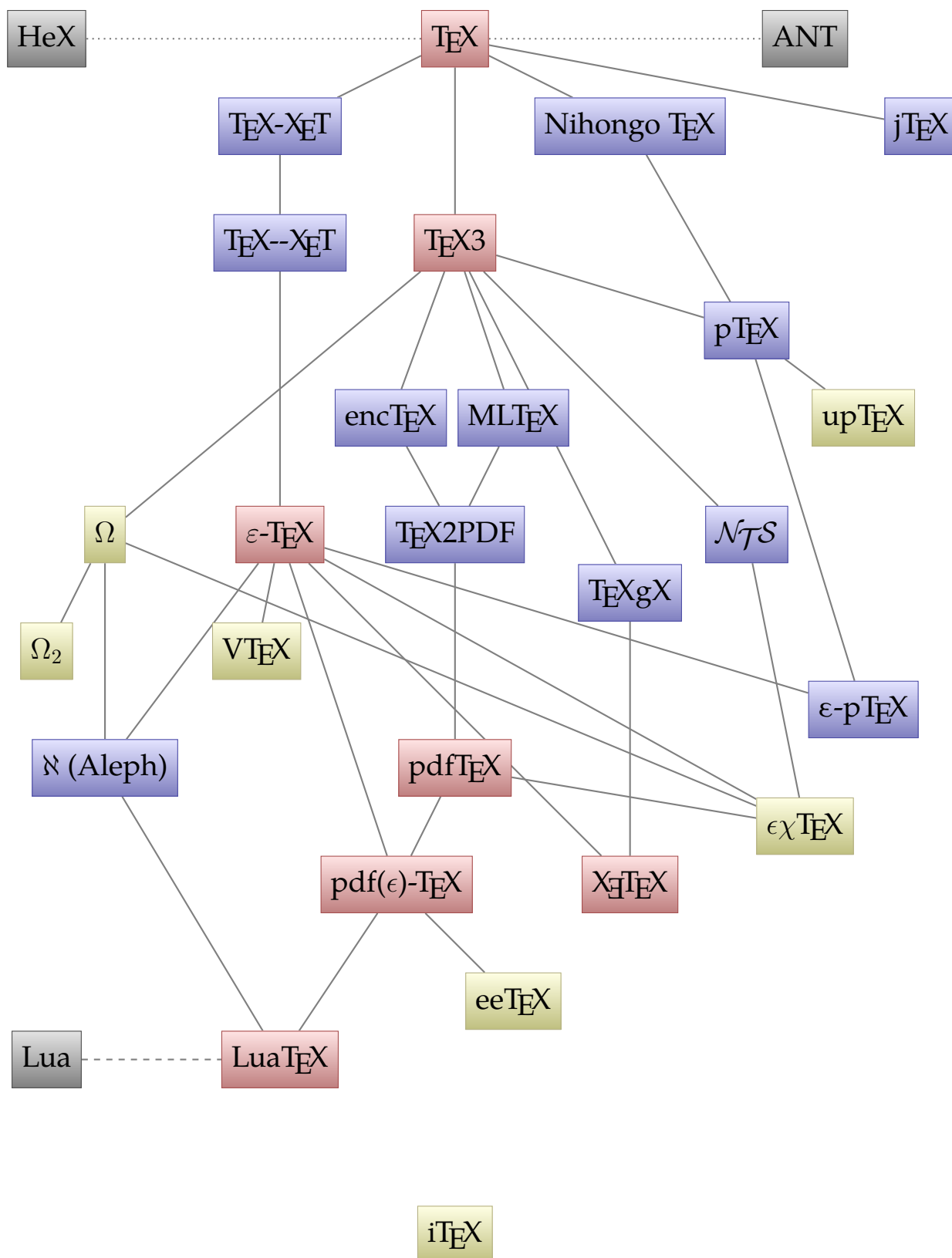
Part I.

Tree Views

## 5. T<sub>E</sub>X – the program short view



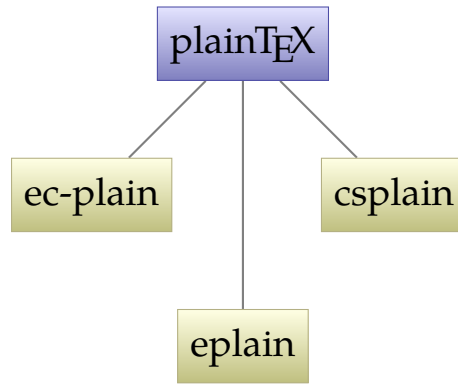
## 5. T<sub>E</sub>X – the program



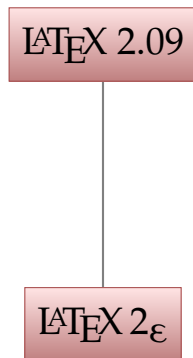
The chronological order may not be exact in this graph. I have to work hard on the arrangement to show both chronological order and code dependence, and for now only the code dependence is (should be) correct.



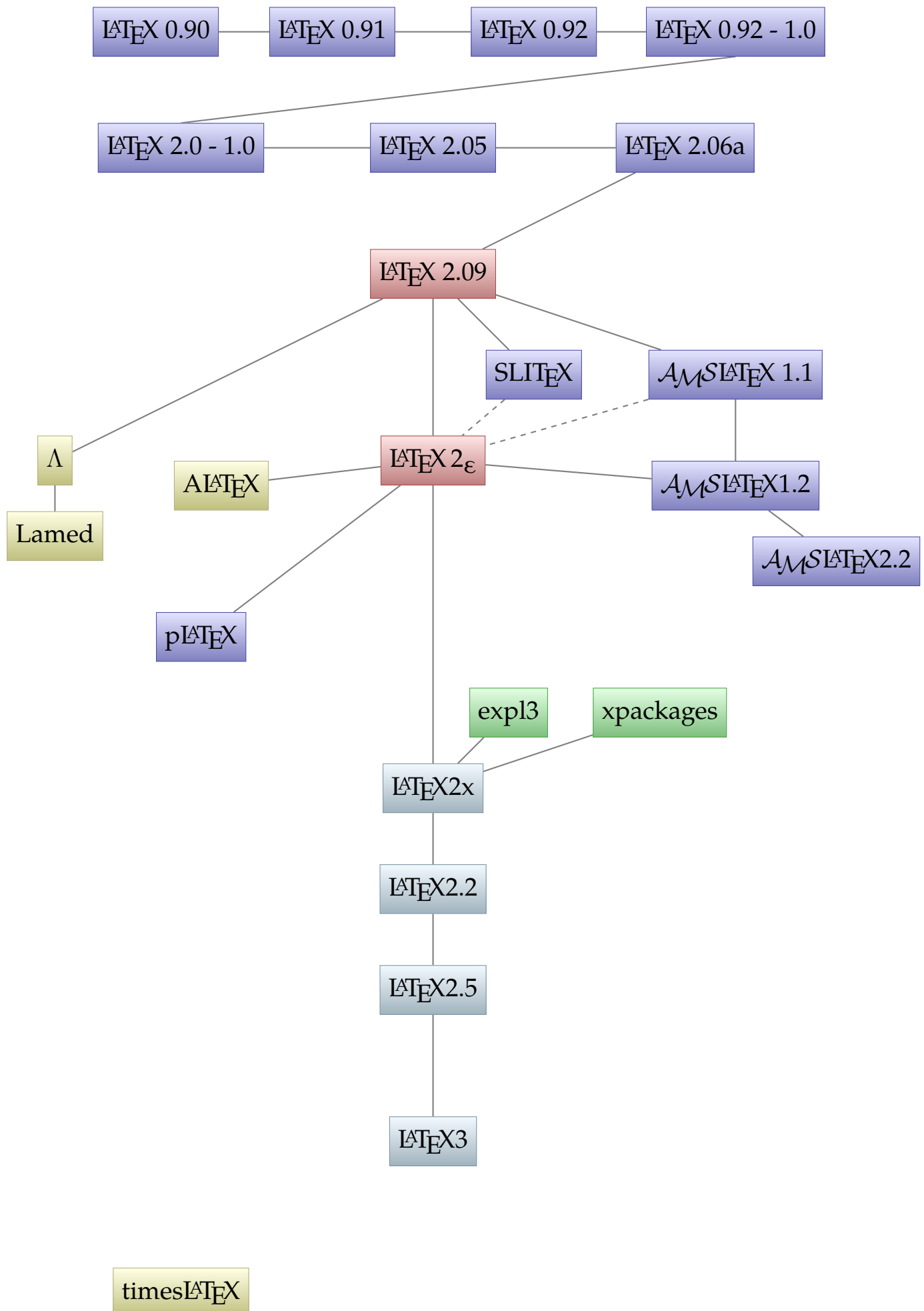
## 6. plainT<sub>E</sub>X – the first format



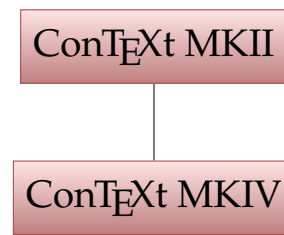
## 7. L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X – Lamport's T<sub>E</sub>X format short view



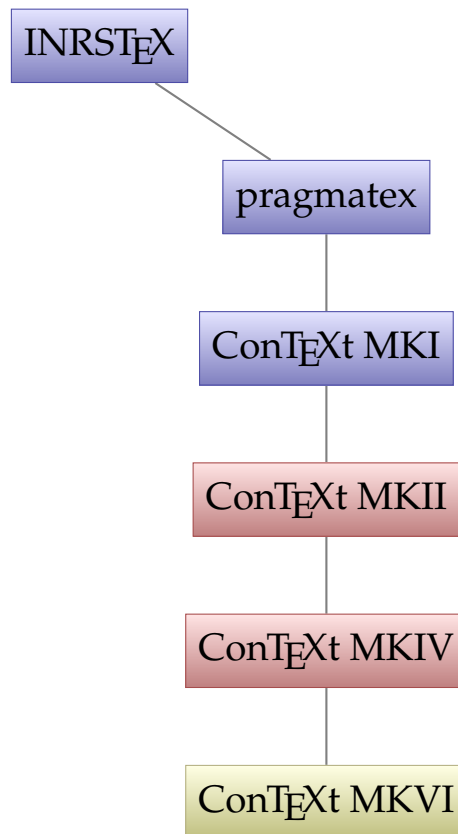
## 7. L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X – L<sup>A</sup>mpport's T<sub>E</sub>X format



## 8. ConT<sub>E</sub>Xt: con tex t – text with tex short view

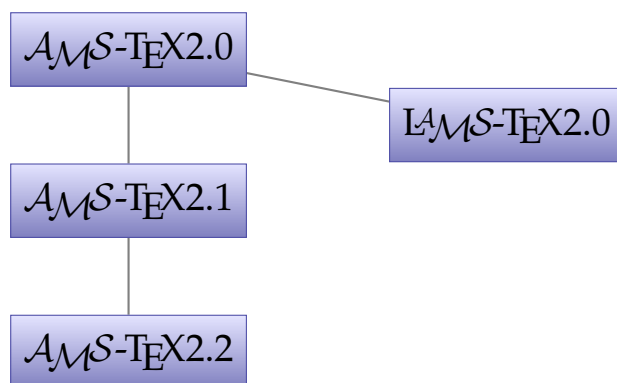


## 8. ConT<sub>E</sub>Xt: con tex t – text with tex



## 9. Other Formats

### 9.1. $\mathcal{A}\mathcal{M}\mathcal{S}\text{-}\text{T}_{\text{E}}\text{X}$



### 9.2. BLUe

BLUe

### 9.3. $\text{HP}\text{T}_{\text{E}}\text{X}$

HP  $\text{T}_{\text{E}}\text{X}$

### 9.4. Jade $\text{T}_{\text{E}}\text{X}$

Jade $\text{T}_{\text{E}}\text{X}$

### 9.5. Lollipop

Lollipop 0.95

### 9.6. Macro $\text{T}_{\text{E}}\text{X}$

Macro $\text{T}_{\text{E}}\text{X}$

### 9.7. MeX

MeX

## 9.8. PHYS(E)

PHYS(E)

## 9.9. PHYZZX

PHYZZX

## 9.10. StarT<sub>E</sub>X – Starter's T<sub>E</sub>X

StarT<sub>E</sub>X

## 9.11. Texinfo

Texinfo

## 9.12. T<sub>E</sub>Xsis

T<sub>E</sub>Xsis

## 9.13. XMLT<sub>E</sub>X

XMLT<sub>E</sub>X

## 9.14. YT<sub>E</sub>X

YT<sub>E</sub>X

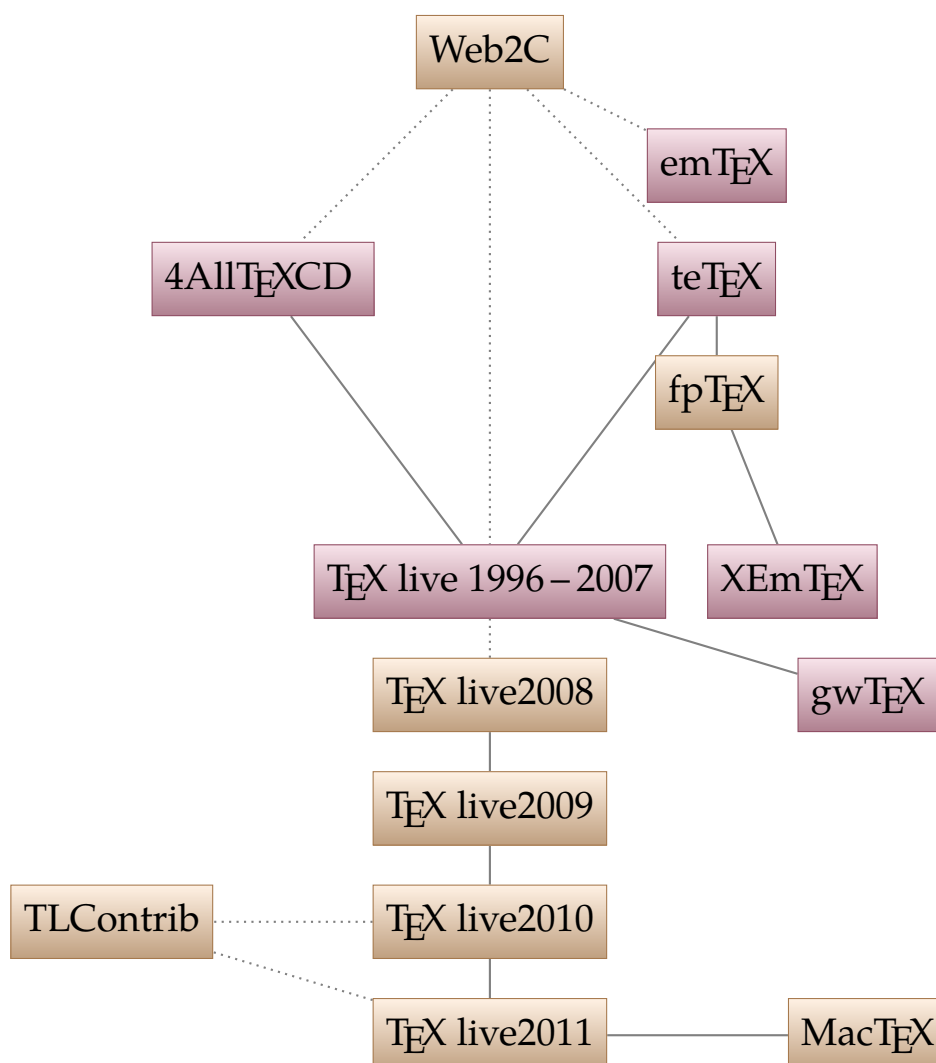
## 9.15. ZzT<sub>E</sub>X

ZzT<sub>E</sub>X

# 10. Distributions

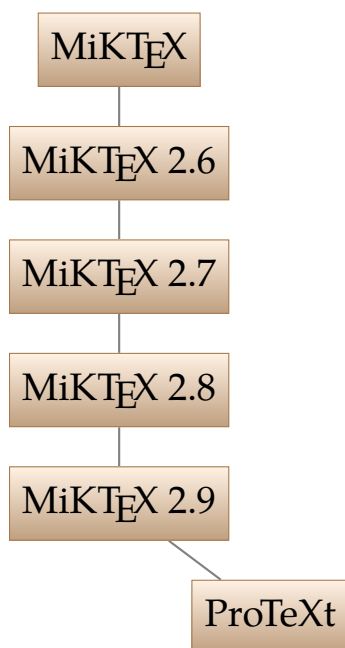
This section will feature the main distributions of  $\text{T}_{\text{E}}\text{X}$  and related programs. Of course, not every Linux Distribution's  $\text{T}_{\text{E}}\text{X}$  package can be listed here, but only official upstream distributions.

## 10.1. $\text{T}_{\text{E}}\text{X}$ live





## 10.2. MiKTeX



## 10.3. T<sub>E</sub>X collection



## 10.4. standalone ConT<sub>E</sub>Xt



## 10.5. W32T<sub>E</sub>X



## 10.6. OzTeX



## 10.7. For Amiga



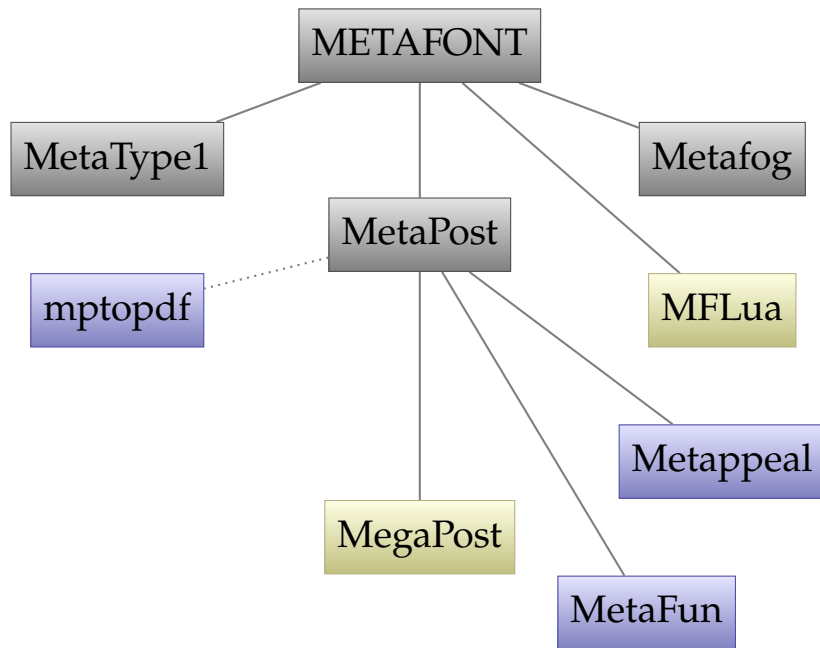
## 10.8. NT<sub>E</sub>X



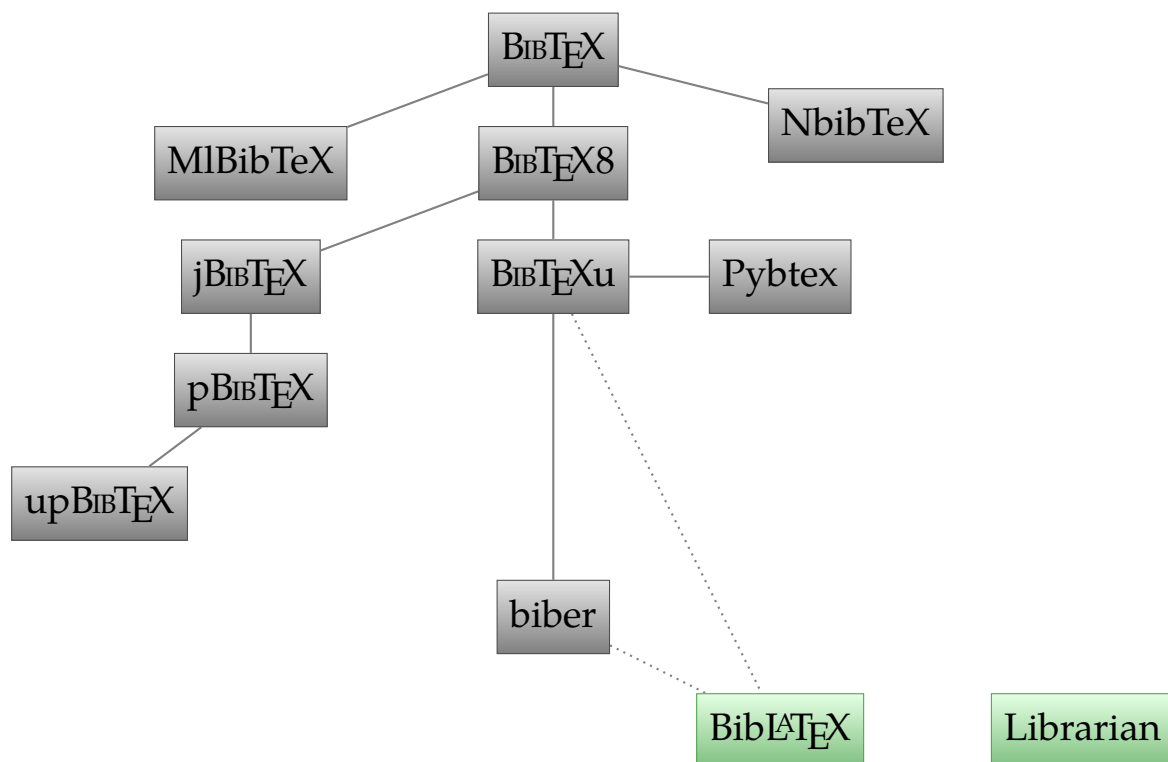
# 11. Pandora's Box

The following pages will be a hodge-podge of many things that are related to T<sub>E</sub>X and used in the process of generating documents in different file formats, i. e. conversion tools, bibliography tools etc. Feel free to contribute, I'll choose case-by-case if I'll add something or won't include it. Text editors or viewers will *not* be included!

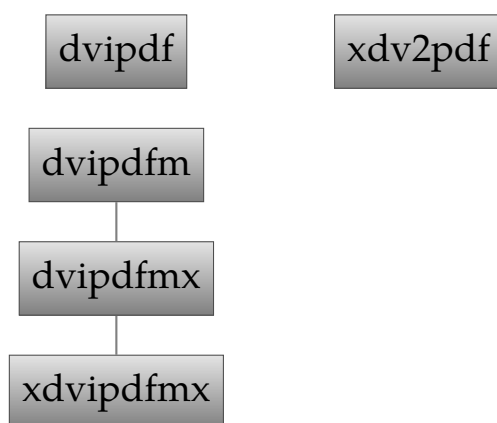
## 11.1. META\*



## 11.2. BibTeX

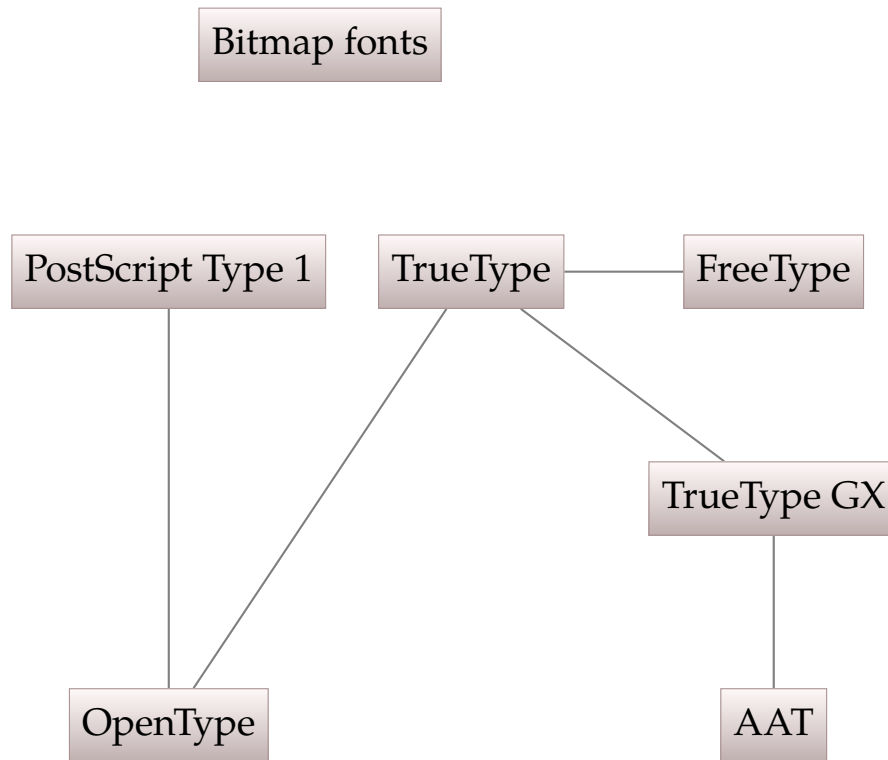


## 11.3. (x)dvipdf(m)(x)



## 11.4. Fonts

This section tries to cover the development of fonts – the most important thing for a typesetting system is it's font mechanism ...



## 11.5. Work Flow – Under Construction!

Ok, this section maybe will kill me ... I will try to depict the typical work flow for working with  $\text{\TeX}$ . This will never be complete as there are many ways to work with any of the  $\text{\TeX}$  flavours, including helper programs etc. We will start with a simple  $\text{\LaTeX}$  document, and maybe we will extend this to different formats, engines etc. ...

The preliminary nomenclature is:

red necessary files

yellow additional input files

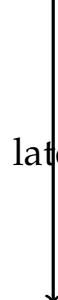
blue automatically produced files

green program that is used – editor, processing tool, viewer, ...

.tex

latex

.pdf



**Part II.**

**Text Views**

## 4. T<sub>E</sub>X – the program

### T<sub>E</sub>X

Born in 1978 by Donald Erwin Knuth.

### ANT

Ant is Not TeX. A typesetting system inspired by TeX. Only \*inspired\*, so it has nothing to do with TeX in terms of common code.

### HeX

An experimental reimplementaion of TeX in Haskell.

### T<sub>E</sub>X- $\mathbb{X}$ <sub>E</sub>T

The first extension to TeX, 1987. It was able to typeset in two directions, but only with a mark in the DVI to change the direction.

### Nihongo T<sub>E</sub>X

A true multibyte extension of TeX. Could handle all Japanese characters in one font.

### jT<sub>E</sub>X

An extension of TeX for typesetting Japanese. (1987, Yasuki Saito)

### T<sub>E</sub>X-- $\mathbb{X}$ <sub>E</sub>T

TeX--XeT was able to really put the glyphs on the right place in the DVI.

### T<sub>E</sub>X3

Ability to handle 8-bit input. 1989. TeX development was frozen in 1991 and only bugfixes were made. Now in version 3.1415926, it gets closer to pi with every bugfix. Don Knuth wishes the version number to be pi when he dies.

### pT<sub>E</sub>X

Extension of Nihongo TeX to enable vertical typesetting. ("p" for "publishing") Distributed as WEB change files. Primary author is D. E. Knuth, latest version (TeX live 2011) is pTeX 3.1415926-p3.2 (modified from the official version 3.1.11)

### encT<sub>E</sub>X

A small extension to TeX, started 1997. Adds 10 new primitives relating input re-encoding

### MLT<sub>E</sub>X

Extension to TeX (started 1990) that allows hyphenation of words with accented letters. (Therefore the name: MultiLingual TeX.) Distributed as a change file to the original WEB sources of TeX.

### upT<sub>E</sub>X

Unicode-aware version of pTeX – "Unicode-publishing"-TeX

### $\Omega$

Support for 16bit-Unicode-input. Still constrained on the output encoding. Started 1994.

### $\varepsilon$ -T<sub>E</sub>X

An extension to TeX, provided by the NTS team as an intermediate project until NTS would be ready. eTeX is a full TeX and backward compatible. The number of TeX's registers is increased and various new primitives useful to programmers are added.

### T<sub>E</sub>X2PDF

Early name for pdfTeX. Don't confuse with converters like dvi2pdf.

### $\mathcal{N}_{TS}$

A project to completely reimplement TeX in Java. Now NTS is officially declared dead.

### T<sub>E</sub>XgX

"GX" stands for Graphic eXtension, a font technology available only on Mac OS. TeXGX was able to handle these fonts.

### $\Omega_2$

A short-time try to pick up the development of Omega again in 2006. Seemed more like a good plan and is now regarded as obsolete. LuaTeX is kind of a successor.



## VTeX

VTeX (VisualTeX) can produce PDF, HTML, SVG, DVI or ps output directly from input. In contrast to pdfTeX, it includes a full PostScript interpreter, thus capable to include EPS figures, PStricks etc. First official version I found: February 15, 1999: VTeX 6.3; last official version seems to be from Oct 1, 2005: VTeX 8.61. Commercial product.

## ε-pTeX

A merge of e-TeX with pTeX written by Hironori Kitagawa. Additional support for 256 math fonts, and some pdfTeX functionality. Latest Version (TeXlive 2011) is 3.1415926-p3.2-110415-2.3.

## ℵ (Aleph)

Originally named epsilon-Omega, an attempt to stabilize Omega while merging epsilon extensions. Authors: John Plaice and Yannis Haralambous, now maintained for severe bugfixes by Taco Hoekwater. Latest version number is 3.1415926-1.15-2.1-0.0-rc4.

## pdfTeX

A new engine to directly produce PDF-files from TeX, without the need of DVI-PS-PDF. This allows to use microtypographic extensions and many other features of the PDF format like page transitions etc.

## εχTeX

Planned implementation of a high-quality typesetting system, written in Java. Based on experiences in NTS, eTeX, pdfTeX and Omega. Started in 2003, current version in repository is 0.0. (i. e. not very far ...)

## pdf(ε)-TeX

Merging the pdfTeX engine with the eTeX-extensions. This engine can produce DVI (with or without the eTeX-extensions) as well as PDF (again, with or without extensions).

## X<sub>Y</sub>TeX

This extension enables full multilingual support for left-to-right typesetting, right-to-left and almost any other possible direction. Unicode encoding is fully supported (utf8 as native encoding). XeTeX also features support for OpenType, AAT, TrueType and Graphite-fonts (via the operation system). In contrary to pdfTeX or LuaTeX, no external configuration file is needed to use fonts. In newest versions, character protrusion is possible.

## eeTeX

Experimental extension to pdfTeX by Taco Hoekwater, created 2000. Distributed as change file. Now dead due to his development of LuaTeX.

## Lua

A script language; has nothing to do with TeX.

## LuaTeX

LuaTeX supports utf8, OpenType and many more things. TeX live 2011 ships version 0.70.1. LuaTeX features an embedded scripting language, Lua, making it easy to extend and to change the TeX interna, so most of the programming can be done in Lua instead of TeX-hackery.

## iTeX

iTeX is the official successor of TeX3, announced by Don Knuth at the TUG conference 2010. Not to be confused with William Cheswick's application for the iPad.

## 5. plainTeX – the first format

### plainTeX

The basic format offered by Don Knuth to provide a minimal set of macros to work with.

### ec-plain

A plainTeX using EC fonts. Latest changes in May 2002 for pdfTeX.

### csplain

A plainTeX using cs-fonts.

## eplain

Extensions of plainTeX to provide often-used utilities. Not thought for document preparation as LaTeX is. First version that is still available is 2.1 from 1992. Latest version 3.4 is from 2010 and based on pdfTeX.

## 6. L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X – Lamport's T<sub>E</sub>X format

### L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X 0.90

First version still on web (historic archive, see refs) is 0.90, for use with TeX 0.95. No installation help found. Apparently one needs the files lplain.tex and latex.tex to create the format.

### L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X 0.91

Version 0.91 for use with TeX 0.97 (C) 1983 by Leslie Lamport. Most changes to previous version are in the file lplain.tex.

### L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X 0.92

First version with the @ as letter for internal names. Seemingly first version with a manual. For use with TeX Version 0.999999. (no joke, that's the version number given in the latex.tex file!) (C) 1983 by Leslie Lamport, conversion to 0.92 from 0.91 by Arthur Keller.

### L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X 0.92 - 1.0

Adaptation of 0.92 for TeX version 1.0. (C) 1983 by Leslie Lamport, conversion to 0.92 from 0.91 by Arthur Keller.

### L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X 2.0 - 1.0

Seemingly heavy changes compared to 0.92. Version for TeX 1.0. Release of 11 Dec 1983. There were never public versions 1.x

### L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X 2.05

No sure information found so far.

### L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X 2.06a

Release of version 2.06a of the LaTeX macros. September 1984.

### L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X 2.09

The first official version by Leslie Lamport, 1985.

### SL<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X

A variation of LaTeX 2.09 to provide an easy way for producing presentations. In LaTeX 2<sub>ε</sub> absorbed as a documentclass (slides).

### A<sup>M</sup>S<sup>L</sup>A<sup>T</sup>E<sub>X</sub> 1.1

A port of Spivak's AMS-TeX to LaTeX 2.09 by Frank Mittelbach and Rainer Schöpf, released 1990.

### L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X 2<sub>ε</sub>

June 1994: New release of LaTeX to avoid incompatible dialects of LaTeX 2.09. Introduced by the LaTeX3-Team. This is the latest stable version of LaTeX at the moment. Support for pdfTeX, XeTeX and LuaTeX is given, where small changes allow for the special abilities of the engines. Most adaption to the engines is done on package level (fonts, encodings etc.)

### Λ

A LaTeX based format for the omega engine.

### Lamed

A LaTeX based format for the aleph engine.

### A<sup>M</sup>S<sup>L</sup>A<sup>T</sup>E<sub>X</sub> 1.2

A port of version 1.1 to LaTeX 2<sub>ε</sub> by Downes and Jones.

### A<sup>L</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X

A slightly changed LaTeX format by Matt Swift to offer modularity at format level. Acts as normal LaTeX if not explicitly told to do different. "A" for "alternate", "abstract" or the indefinite article.

### A<sup>M</sup>S<sup>L</sup>A<sup>T</sup>E<sub>X</sub> 2.2

Latest AMSLaTeX version is 2.2 from 2001. Intermediate versions are not shown.

### p<sup>L</sup>A<sup>T</sup>E<sub>X</sub>

A LaTeX based format for the pTeX engine.

## expl3

The expl3 bundle is the ground stock of LaTeX3. It is a bundle of packages that can be used with LaTeX2e, but are planned to become the kernel of LaTeX3. They provide the low-level structures, programming structures and everything needed for package authors.

## xpackages

The xpackages are a bundle of packages intended to become the ground stock of packages for the high-level and user-level interface in LaTeX3. Based on expl3, they can be used with LaTeX2e already.

## LaTeX2x

A (somewhat) planned experimental step towards LaTeX3. LaTeX2x is a normal LaTeX2e, but with expl3 and xpackages compiled in the format. It is *not* intended for everyday use but only for experimenting with LaTeX3. Might be concentrated on LuaTeX, but XeTeX and pdfTeX variants will be available.

## LaTeX2.2

Inofficial suggestion by Philipp Stephani on the LuaLaTeX list. LaTeX2.2 should still be a full LaTeX2e, but with the expl3 bundle in the format. In fact, this is what LaTeX2x is planned to be.

## LaTeX2.5

Will Robertson suggested in an interview (see refs) an interim unstable version on the way to LaTeX3 with version number 2.5 that should bring package authors towards using LaTeX3 syntax. This version should be backwards *incompatible* to LaTeX2e. (This version does not exist in any official plannings, but I liked the idea, so it is mentioned here ;) )

## LaTeX3

The long-time successor of LaTeX2e. It is planned to implement a very elaborate low-level programming language. (Almost done by now.) The expl3-package provides an implementation that can be used on top of LaTeX2e. Several LaTeX packages already make heavy use of expl3. (As does this document.) LaTeX3 makes use of eTeX primitives and therefore needs this engine or successors. Special adaptations of LuaTeX features are starting to evolve.

## timesLaTeX

Some LaTeX 2.09 derivate, need more information.

# 7. ConTeXt: context – text with tex

## INRSTeX

“Extended Plain TeX for use with MLTeX.”

## pragmatex

Former name of ConTeXt. Based, besides others, on INRSTeX.

## ConTeXt MKI

Original ConTeXt with Dutch low level interface. “MK” stands for “Mark”, meaning “version”.

## ConTeXt MKII

ConTeXt with English low level interface. Works with any TeX-engine, as LaTeX does: TeX, e-TeX, pdfTeX, Aleph, XeTeX, .... For the end user, no difference to MKI.

## ConTeXt MKIV

Specially designed for LuaTeX. MKIII was “skipped” for “practical reasons”, as Hans Hagens says, and “MKii, MKvi, MKvi all have 4 chars (which is why I skipped the v, but who knows if MKv will show up some day)”

## ConTeXt MKVI

Latest experimental version of ConTeXt.

## 8. Other Formats

### 8.1. $\mathcal{A}\mathcal{M}\mathcal{S}\text{-}\mathsf{T}\mathsf{E}\mathsf{X}$

#### $\mathcal{A}\mathcal{M}\mathcal{S}\text{-}\mathsf{T}\mathsf{E}\mathsf{X}2.0$

A macro package provided by the American Mathematical Society. Version 2.0 from 1990. No information found for versions pre-2.0.

#### $\mathcal{L}\mathcal{A}\mathcal{M}\mathcal{S}\text{-}\mathsf{T}\mathsf{E}\mathsf{X}2.0$

“LamSTeX is an extension of AmSTeX, and thus almost completely compatible with plain TeX”, as the documentation says. See references for details.

#### $\mathcal{A}\mathcal{M}\mathcal{S}\text{-}\mathsf{T}\mathsf{E}\mathsf{X}2.1$

Version 2.1 released 1991.

#### $\mathcal{A}\mathcal{M}\mathcal{S}\text{-}\mathsf{T}\mathsf{E}\mathsf{X}2.2$

Latest version is 2.2 from 2001.

### 8.2. $\mathsf{BLUe}$

#### $\mathsf{BLUe}$

A macro package based on plainTeX. Shareware, last version on CTAN from June 1996.

### 8.3. $\mathsf{HPT}\mathsf{E}\mathsf{X}$

#### $\mathsf{HP}\mathsf{TeX}$

A format specially written for HP hardware, written 1984.

### 8.4. $\mathsf{Jade}\mathsf{TeX}$

#### $\mathsf{Jade}\mathsf{TeX}$

A macro package for processing Jade/OpenJade output, based on LaTeX.

### 8.5. $\mathsf{Lollipop}$

#### $\mathsf{Lollipop}\ 0.9$

First release, October 1992.

#### $\mathsf{Lollipop}\ 0.95$

Latest, unofficial, release, January 1993.

### 8.6. $\mathsf{Macro}\mathsf{TeX}$

#### $\mathsf{Macro}\mathsf{TeX}$

Information needed.

### 8.7. $\mathsf{MeX}$

#### $\mathsf{MeX}$

Information needed. There seems to be different formats that use the pdfTeX engine: mex, pdfmex, htmex and utf8mex.

### 8.8. $\mathsf{PHYS(E)}$

#### $\mathsf{PHYS(E)}$

Documentation says: “The TeX formats PHYSE and PHYS are extensions of the PLAIN format and should simplify the writing of physics papers.” Latest version I found is from 1986. PHYS is for german, PHYSE for english usage.

### 8.9. $\mathsf{PHYZZX}$

#### $\mathsf{PHYZZX}$

Documentation says: “PHYZZX is a macropackage which is designed to make typing papers destined for Physical Review or Nuclear Physics as simple as possible.” Created 1984, latest version I found is from 1988.

### 8.10. $\mathsf{Star}\mathsf{TeX}$ – $\mathsf{Starter's}\mathsf{TeX}$

#### $\mathsf{Star}\mathsf{TeX}$

A format designed to help students with short documents. Using html-like notation: <command> instead of command

### 8.11. $\mathsf{Texinfo}$

#### $\mathsf{Texinfo}$

The official documentation format of the GNU project. Uses TeX to provide documentations.

### 8.12. $\mathsf{T}\mathsf{E}\mathsf{Xsis}$

#### $\mathsf{T}\mathsf{E}\mathsf{Xsis}$

A plainTeX-based format for physicists. Latest version is 2.18 from 21 April 2001.

## 8.13. XML<sub>T</sub><sub>E</sub>X

### XML<sub>T</sub><sub>E</sub>X

A format (based on machines like pdf<sub>T</sub><sub>E</sub>X, Xe<sub>T</sub><sub>E</sub>X and maybe Lua<sub>T</sub><sub>E</sub>X) that converts XML input to DVI or PDF output. Can also be based on other formats when parsed at format-building time.

## 8.14. Y<sub>T</sub><sub>E</sub>X

### Y<sub>T</sub><sub>E</sub>X

A macro package developed at MIT. Pronounced “why-<sub>T</sub><sub>E</sub>X”, “upsilon-<sub>T</sub><sub>E</sub>X” or “oops-<sub>T</sub><sub>E</sub>X”. Tries to offer an easy structure for novices as well as a powerfull macro libraries for experienced users.

## 8.15. Zz<sub>T</sub><sub>E</sub>X

### Zz<sub>T</sub><sub>E</sub>X

“a macro package for producing books, jour- nals, and technical documentation”, named “after a rock group from Texas.” The author Paul C. Anagnostopoulos found LaTeX too unflexible. Appeared around 1992.

# 9. Distributions

## 9.1. <sub>T</sub><sub>E</sub>X live

### Web2C

An Implementation and Distribution of <sub>T</sub><sub>E</sub>X which translates the original WEB sources to a C code.

### em<sub>T</sub><sub>E</sub>X

Eberhard Mattes' <sub>T</sub><sub>E</sub>X Distribution for MS-DOS and OS2.

### te<sub>T</sub><sub>E</sub>X

Maintained by Thomas Esser (hence the te in te<sub>T</sub><sub>E</sub>X) from 1994 to May 2006.

### 4All<sub>T</sub><sub>E</sub>XCD

The (vague) past ... (?)

### fp<sub>T</sub><sub>E</sub>X

A free <sub>T</sub><sub>E</sub>X distribution for Win32 based on te<sub>T</sub><sub>E</sub>X, by Fabrice Popineau. Still active, provides up-to-date binaries for Windows. Special support for Japanese Typesetting.

### XEm<sub>T</sub><sub>E</sub>X

A <sub>T</sub><sub>E</sub>X distribution for Windows, based on fp<sub>T</sub><sub>E</sub>X with XEmacs/ Auc<sub>T</sub><sub>E</sub>X as IDE for (La)<sub>T</sub><sub>E</sub>X. Xem-<sub>T</sub><sub>E</sub>X was sponsored by the French government.

### <sub>T</sub><sub>E</sub>X live 1996 – 2007

First version 1996 (UNIX only, later also Windows binaries), and then a long story of ongoing work – see the documentation for a detailed history. Some of the binaries (still) identify themselves as \*<sub>T</sub><sub>E</sub>Xk. The “k” stands for “Karl” meaning that they were compiled with kpathsea.

### <sub>T</sub><sub>E</sub>X live2008

A new package manager and network installer are available. So installation via the net is possible as well as package updates. Missing packages are not installed on-the-fly. The last of the modern machines is added: Lua<sub>T</sub><sub>E</sub>X

### gw<sub>T</sub><sub>E</sub>X

A (re)distribution for Mac OS based on <sub>T</sub><sub>E</sub>X live (earlier on te<sub>T</sub><sub>E</sub>X) by Gerben Wierda. Provides <sub>T</sub><sub>E</sub>X-related packages for the i-Installer. Unsupported from 2007 on.

### <sub>T</sub><sub>E</sub>X live2009

Dropped Omega and Lambda. Aleph and Lamed are kept.

### <sub>T</sub><sub>E</sub>X live2010

Release of 2010.

### TLContrib

An extension to <sub>T</sub><sub>E</sub>X live that contains packages that <sub>T</sub><sub>E</sub>X live cannot hold because: not-free lizence, binary update, not on CTAN or intermediate release. Useable via the <sub>T</sub><sub>E</sub>X live manager.

### <sub>T</sub><sub>E</sub>X live2011

Latest release of <sub>T</sub><sub>E</sub>X live, available since July 2011.



## MacTeX

Once based on TeTeX, MacTeX is now TeX live-based. For Mac OS X only, it provides a native installer, the TeXShop editor and Mac-specific tools.

## 9.2. MiKTeX

### MiKTeX

MiKTeX is a TeX distribution originally for Windows only. Copyright by Christian Schenk goes back to 2001. Regarding the name, the author stated: “mik used to be my login name. It is an acronym for: Micro-kid. Hence the capital K in MiKTeX.”

### MiKTeX 2.6

Windows only. featuring pdftex 1.40.4, mpost 1.000

### MiKTeX 2.7

Windows only. featuring XeTeX 0.999.6, pdftex 1.40.9, mpost 1.005

### MiKTeX 2.8

Windows only. featuring XeTeX 0.9995.1, pdftex 1.40.10, mpost 1.005

### MiKTeX 2.9

Windows only (stable version). Beta version for GNU/Linux available. Featuring XeTeX 0.9997.4, pdftex 1.40.11, LuaTeX 0.60.2, mpost 1.211. Offers both LaTeX and ConTeXt (MK IV) formats.

## ProTeXt

A distribution based on MiKTeX (since 2004) with a comfortable install procedure, Editor etc. Provides an easy installation for a full (La)TeX environment.

## 9.3. TeX collection

### TeX Collection

A meta-distribution. Provided on DVD by the TUG, this distribution ships with TeX live, MacTeX and ProTeX as well as with a full CTAN snapshot.

## 9.4. standalone ConTeXt

### Standalone

standalone ConTeXt provides a distribution of latest (beta and stable) ConTeXt versions with binaries and formats. Efficient upgrading is possible as well as parallel use with another TeX distribution. Was renamed from “minimals” into standalone in 2011.

## 9.5. W32TeX

### W32TeX

A distribution to provide binaries for MS Windows, with special support for Japanese. First version (up to the changelog): 2009/08/02. Still up-to-date.

## 9.6. OzTeX

### OzTeX

A commercial distribution for Mac OS. No longer supported.

## 9.7. For Amiga

### Amiga-TeX

By Thomas Rockicki and Radical Eye Software. Commercial distribution for Amiga.

### pasTeX

A free distribution for Amiga. Distributed as 5 floppy disks (TeX) plus 2 floppy disks (Metafont). Available from the Aminet.

## 9.8. NTeX

### NTeX

A distribution for Linux and other Unix systems. Latest version is 2.3.2, released at 23-Aug-1998. No longer developed.

## 10. Pandora's Box

### 10.1. META\*

#### METAFONT

The program for creating the fonts originally used by TeX.

## Metafog

A program to convert metafont shapes to Type1 contours. Uses mathematically correct transformations instead of autotracing.

## MetaType1

A program to produce Type1 fonts from METAFONT source code.

## MetaPost

A graphic generating program written by John Hobby, inspired by METAFONT. MetaPost can produce PostScript graphics as well as SVG. Latest (experimental) version is 1.750 as of spring 2011.

## mptopdf

Actually a pdfTeX-generated format, this program can be used to compile MetaPost source code directly into PDF output. Metafun is supported, too.

## MFLua

A (so far) experimental implementation of METAFONT with Lua embedded for better extraction of information from METAFONT.

## Metappeal

"Metappeal is an extension to Plain MetaPost, providing a lightweight framework for consistent development in MetaPost."

## MegaPost

A planned extension of MetaPost "that will extend the range and precision of the internal data types."

## MetaFun

"MetaFun is Hans Hagen's extension to (or module for) the MetaPost language." A format for MetaPost that is useable with ConTeXt.

## 10.2. BibTeX

### BibTeX

A helper program to sort a bibliography list.

### NbibTeX

"NbibTeX helps authors take better advantage of BibTeX data" says the homepage.

### BibTeX8

The documentation says: "An 8-bit Implementation of BibTeX 0.99 with a Very Large Capacity"

### MLBibTeX

Mentioned in the kpathsea-manual. No idea what it is. BibTeX for MLTeX?

### BibTeXu

A Unicode-aware version of BibTeX

### jBibTeX

jBibTeX was developed by Shoichi Matsui around 1988. It is included in the pTeX distribution since 1995.

### Pybtex

A python implementation of BibTeX.

### pBibTeX

Kind of a successor of jBibTeX, pBibTeX is a Japanese-aware version of BibTeX supporting Japanese bibliography lists. Special support for Japanese (input/output) encodings and punctuation.

### upBibTeX

Can be found in the development repositories, but no documentation found.

### biber

A perl implementation of a BibTeX-like program, designed as backend for BibLaTeX. "biber" is an animal handling bibliographies. (german for "beaver", hence the beaver in the biber logo)

### BibLaTeX

A LaTeX package as frontend for biber (can also be used with BibTeXu/8).

## Librarian

A TeX file (useable with all formats) that typesets BibTeX-style bibliographies without the need of BibTeX. Therefore, it provides a format-independent typesetting of bibliographies.

## 10.3. (x)dvipdf(m)(x)

### dvipdf

A shellscrip from Ghostscript that uses dvips and gs for conversion.

### xdv2pdf

No idea so far what this is, but it is mentioned in the fontspec manual as possible driver for XeTeX.

### dvipdfm

Converts DVI files to PDF files. Does /not/ build on dvipdf, but is an independent implementation.

### dvipdfmx

Extended version of dvipdfm. Support for multi-byte encodings and more pdfTeX features. Still active. Combined work of dvipdfm-jpn and dvipdfm-kor.

### xdvipdfmx

Converts XDVI files produced by XeTeX to PDF files. Normally always executed after a XeTeX run, so the user won't notice that an xdvi document was created in between.

## 10.4. Fonts

### Bitmap fonts

Bitmap fonts contain the shape of the letters as a number of dots. If you zoom in, a bitmap letter will show pixels. Hence one needs a special version for every resolution.

### PostScript Type 1

Outline font. The shape of a letter is described as mathematical curves so the letter can be made arbitrarily large without getting pixelated.

### TrueType

Available on Windows and Mac OS. Outline font technology with quadratic B splines.

## FreeType

TrueType implementation for Unix.

## TrueType GX

“Graphis eXtension”. A font format only available for Mac OS.

## OpenType

Extension of the TrueType font format, adding support for PostScript font data. Developed by Microsoft and Adobe.

## AAT

“Apple Advanced Typography” fonts are successors of the GX fonts. Only available for Mac OS, too.

## 10.5. Work Flow – Under Construction!

### .tex

The .tex file. A plain text file that typically contains all of the document information.

### .pdf

The resulting, ready-compiled document is most often a PDF document. Production of DVI documents is also mostly possible, but seldom used.



# 11. Program Names

The following list tries to explain what happens if a programm is called by a given name. E. g. calling the command `latex` on the command line will start the PDF $\epsilon$ -T $\epsilon$ X engine<sup>2</sup> in DVI mode with the format L $\text{\AA}$ T $\epsilon$ X 2 $\epsilon$ . This will list the names used in the official T $\epsilon$ X live distribution (which should be the same in MiK $\text{\AA}$ T $\epsilon$ X) and only those which are not totally clear by the name itself.

program	meaning
plain formats	
<code>tex</code>	T $\epsilon$ X with the plain format
<code>aleph</code>	Aleph with the plain format
<code>eptex</code>	$\epsilon$ -pT $\epsilon$ X with the plain format
<code>dviluatex</code>	LuaT $\epsilon$ X with the plain format and DVI output
<code>csplain</code>	PDF $\epsilon$ -T $\epsilon$ X with the csplain format and DVI output
<code>eplain</code>	PDF $\epsilon$ -T $\epsilon$ X with the eplain format and DVI output
<code>etex</code>	PDF $\epsilon$ -T $\epsilon$ X with the plain format and DVI output
<code>luatex</code>	LuaT $\epsilon$ X with the plain format and PDF output
<code>mltex</code>	PDF $\epsilon$ -T $\epsilon$ X with MLT $\epsilon$ X extensions enabled, DVI output
<code>pdfcsplain</code>	PDF $\epsilon$ -T $\epsilon$ X with the csplain format and PDF output
<code>pdfetex</code>	PDF $\epsilon$ -T $\epsilon$ X with the plain format and PDF output
<code>pdftex</code>	PDF $\epsilon$ -T $\epsilon$ X with the plain format and PDF output
<code>ptex</code>	pT $\epsilon$ X with the plain format
<code>xetex</code>	X $\epsilon$ T $\epsilon$ X with the plain format
L $\text{\AA}$ T $\epsilon$ X 2 $\epsilon$	
<code>latex</code>	PDF $\epsilon$ -T $\epsilon$ X with the L $\text{\AA}$ T $\epsilon$ X 2 $\epsilon$ format and DVI output
<code>dvilualatex</code>	LuaT $\epsilon$ X with the L $\text{\AA}$ T $\epsilon$ X 2 $\epsilon$ format and DVI output
<code>lamed</code>	Aleph with the Lamed format
<code>lualatex</code>	LuaT $\epsilon$ X with the L $\text{\AA}$ T $\epsilon$ X 2 $\epsilon$ format and PDF output
<code>mllatex</code>	PDF $\epsilon$ -T $\epsilon$ X with MLT $\epsilon$ X extensions enabled, L $\text{\AA}$ T $\epsilon$ X 2 $\epsilon$ format and DVI output
<code>pdflatex</code>	PDF $\epsilon$ -T $\epsilon$ X with the L $\text{\AA}$ T $\epsilon$ X 2 $\epsilon$ format and PDF output
<code>platex</code>	$\epsilon$ -pT $\epsilon$ X with the pL $\text{\AA}$ T $\epsilon$ X format
<code>xelatex</code>	X $\epsilon$ T $\epsilon$ X with the L $\text{\AA}$ T $\epsilon$ X 2 $\epsilon$ format
ConT $\epsilon$ Xt	
<code>texexec</code>	PDF $\epsilon$ -T $\epsilon$ X with ConT $\epsilon$ Xt MKII format and PDF output
<code>texexec --interface = de</code>	dito, with german interface (only an example, more languages available)
<code>texexec --xtx</code>	X $\epsilon$ T $\epsilon$ X with ConT $\epsilon$ Xt MKII format
<code>context</code>	LuaT $\epsilon$ X with ConT $\epsilon$ Xt MKIV format and PDF output
<code>context --interface = de</code>	dito, with german interface (only an example)
other formats	
<code>amstex</code>	PDFT $\epsilon$ X with the $\mathcal{A}\mathcal{M}\mathcal{S}$ T $\epsilon$ X format and DVI output
<code>jadetex</code>	PDF $\epsilon$ -T $\epsilon$ X with the JadeT $\epsilon$ X format and DVI output
<code>mex</code>	PDF $\epsilon$ -T $\epsilon$ X with the MeX format and DVI output
<code>pdfjadetex</code>	PDF $\epsilon$ -T $\epsilon$ X with the JadeT $\epsilon$ X format and PDF output
<code>pdfmex</code>	PDF $\epsilon$ -T $\epsilon$ X with the MeX format and PDF output
<code>pdfxmltex</code>	PDF $\epsilon$ -T $\epsilon$ X with the XMLT $\epsilon$ X format
<code>texsis</code>	PDF $\epsilon$ -T $\epsilon$ X with the T $\epsilon$ Xsis format and DVI output
<code>utf8mex</code>	PDF $\epsilon$ -T $\epsilon$ X with the UTF8MeX format and DVI output

<sup>2</sup>Actually it's only called PDFT $\epsilon$ X now, but it is always the version that includes  $\epsilon$ -T $\epsilon$ X extensions. Here, always the full name is used for clearness.

xmltex

PDF $\epsilon$ -T $\text{\tiny E}$ X with the XMLT $\text{\tiny E}$ X format

metafont

mf

the METAFONT program

mp

the METAPOST program

mptopdf

PDF $\epsilon$ -T $\text{\tiny E}$ X with the mptopdf format and PDF output

# Part III.

# Appendix

## A. References

The references are in order of occurrence in the above document. i. e. if you want information about Lua $\TeX$ , it will be below e. g.  $\epsilon\TeX$ . Everything that is not listed as "book" is freely available on the internet. (TUGboat articles will become freely accessible about one year after publication.)

### Books

D.E. Knuth, D. Bibby, and I. Makai. *The  $\TeX$ book*  
Addison-Wesley Reading, MA, 1986.

F. Mittelbach, M. Goossens, J. Braams, D. Carlisle, C. Rowley, C. Detig, and J. Schrod. *The  $\LaTeX$  companion*.  
Addison-Wesley, 2004.

### Overview Articles / Pages

Arthur Reutenauer. *A Brief History of  $\TeX$* . Talk at EuroBach $\TeX$  2007.  
<http://www.gust.org.pl/bachotex/EuroBachTeX2007/presentations/bhot.pdf/view>

*A Brief History of  $\LaTeX$*   
<http://www.xent.com/FoRK-archive/feb98/0307.html>

Hans Hagen: *16 years of Con $\TeX$ t*. Article in TUGboat Vol. 32, Number 1, 2011.

Short Article About Omega And Aleph  
<http://www.tex.ac.uk/cgi-bin/texfaq2html?label=omegaleph>

Interviews with Will Robertson, Hans Hagen et. al.  
<http://www.tug.org/interviews>

The levels of  $\TeX$  – explains shortly the differences between engines, distributions, front ends etc.  
<http://tug.org/levels.html>

Things with " $\TeX$ " in the name – a page with a similar aim as this document, and many interesting links  
<http://www.tex.ac.uk/cgi-bin/texfaq2html?label=textthings>

## Archives

CTAN – Comprehensive T<sub>E</sub>X Archive Network:

<http://www.ctan.org>

Historic Archive of T<sub>E</sub>X Distributions:

<ftp://ftp.tug.org/historic>

## Engines

ANT project page

<http://ant.berlios.de>

HeX project page

<http://luispedro.org/software/hex>

Yasuki S AITO. Report on JTEX: A Japanese TEX. TUGboat 8 (1987), no. 2, 103–116.

<http://www.tug.org/TUGboat/Articles/tb08-2/tb18saito.pdf>

p<sub>T</sub>E<sub>X</sub> page

<http://ascii.asciimw.jp/pb/ptex/>

p<sub>T</sub>E<sub>X</sub> sources and documentation

<http://dante.ctan.org/tex-archive/help/Catalogue/entries/ptex.html>

enc<sub>T</sub>E<sub>X</sub> page

<http://www.olsak.net/enctex.html>

ML<sub>T</sub>E<sub>X</sub> source (CH file)

<http://www.tex.ac.uk/tex-archive/systems/generic/mltex/mltex.ch>

pdf<sub>T</sub>E<sub>X</sub> project page

<http://tug.org/applications/pdftex/>

$\mathcal{N}\mathcal{T}\mathcal{S}$  project page

<http://nts.tug.org>

V<sub>T</sub>E<sub>X</sub> – official homepage of micropress-inc

<http://www.micropress-inc.com/>

X<sub>Ǝ</sub><sub>T</sub>E<sub>X</sub> project page

<http://tug.org/XeTeX/>

ε<sub>X</sub><sub>T</sub>E<sub>X</sub> project page

<http://www.extex.org>

ee<sub>T</sub>E<sub>X</sub> project page

<http://tex.aanhet.net/eetex>

Lua<sub>T</sub>E<sub>X</sub> project page

<http://www.luatex.org>

i<sub>T</sub>E<sub>X</sub>—Document formatting in an ereader world. TUGboat 32 (2011), no. 2, 158–163.

i<sub>T</sub>E<sub>X</sub> announcement by Don Knuth at the TUG 2010

<http://river-valley.tv/tug-2010/an-earthshaking-announcement>



## Formats

Eplain homepage

<http://www.tug.org/eplain/>

EC plain on CTAN

<http://www.ctan.org/tex-archive/macros/ec-plain>

L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X project page

<http://www.latex-project.org>

A<sub>M</sub>S<sub>E</sub>T<sub>E</sub>X: Documentation on CTAN

<http://www.ctan.org/tex-archive/macros/amstex/doc/>

L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X2.2 – mail from Philipp Stephani on LuaLaTeX-dev list (last paragraph)

<http://tug.org/pipermail/lualatex-dev/2011-January/001033.html>

L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X3 project

<http://www.latex-project.org/latex3.html>

ConT<sub>E</sub>Xt wiki

<http://wiki.contextgarden.net>

A<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X: Discussion in TUGboat Vol. 16 (1995), No. 3, p. 269ff.

<http://www.tug.org/TUGboat/Articles/tb16-3/tb48swif.pdf>

BLUe on CTAN

<http://www.ctan.org/tex-archive/macros/blu>

A<sub>M</sub>S-<sub>T</sub>E<sub>X</sub> on CTAN

<http://www.ctan.org/tex-archive/macros/amstex>

INRST<sub>E</sub>X on CTAN

<http://www.ctan.org/tex-archive/macros/inrstex>

L<sub>A</sub>M<sub>S</sub>T<sub>E</sub>X: Short description

<http://www.tex.ac.uk/tex-archive/digests/texline/no13/lamstex>

HP T<sub>E</sub>X on CTAN

<http://www.ctan.org/tex-archive/macros/hptex>

JadeT<sub>E</sub>X project page

<http://jadetex.sourceforge.net>

PHYSE and PHYS on CTAN

<http://ctan.org/tex-archive/macros/physe>

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StarT<sub>E</sub>X on CTAN

<http://www.ctan.org/tex-archive/macros/startex>

Texinfo project page

<http://www.gnu.org/software/texinfo>

T<sub>E</sub>Xsis project page

<http://www.texsis.org>

XMLT<sub>E</sub>X manual

<http://www.dcarlisle.demon.co.uk/xmltex/manual.html>

YT<sub>E</sub>X on CTAN

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## Distributions

fpT<sub>E</sub>X: Announcment at TUG 1999

<http://www.tug.org/tug99/program/node39.html>

T<sub>E</sub>X live development history

<http://tug.org/texlive/doc/texlive-en/texlive-en.html>

gwT<sub>E</sub>X project page

<http://ii2.sourceforge.net/tex-index.html>

Brief History of gwT<sub>E</sub>X

<http://www.tug.org/twg/mactex/award/2007/gerben/aboutgwtex.html>

TLContrib project page

<http://tlcontrib.metatex.org/>

MacT<sub>E</sub>X project page

<http://www.tug.org/mactex>

MiKTeX project page

<http://miktex.org/>

Christian Schenk about the name of MiKTeX (mailing list archive)

[http://sourceforge.net/mailarchive/message.php?msg\\_id=26826076](http://sourceforge.net/mailarchive/message.php?msg_id=26826076)

ProT<sub>E</sub>Xt project page

<http://www.tug.org/protext>

T<sub>E</sub>XCollection page

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ConT<sub>E</sub>Xt minimalis on ConT<sub>E</sub>Xt garden wiki

[http://wiki.contextgarden.net/ConTeXt\\_Minimalis](http://wiki.contextgarden.net/ConTeXt_Minimalis)

Win32 project page

<http://w32tex.org/>

OzT<sub>E</sub>X project page

<http://www.trevorrow.com/oztex>

T<sub>E</sub>X on Amiga

[http://serpens.de/~zza/amigafaq/AmigaFAQg\\_49.html](http://serpens.de/~zza/amigafaq/AmigaFAQg_49.html)

N<sub>T</sub><sub>E</sub>X project page

<http://www.langbein.org/software/ntex>

## Fonts

Type1 Fonts specifications

[http://partners.adobe.com/public/developer/en/font/T1\\_SPEC.PDF](http://partners.adobe.com/public/developer/en/font/T1_SPEC.PDF)

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<http://freetype.org/index2.html>

OpenType specifications

<http://www.microsoft.com/typography/otspec/default.htm>

## Everything Else

MetaPost developments in TUGboat Vol. 29 (2008), No. 3, p. 380ff.

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dvipdfmx project page

<http://project.ktug.or.kr/dvipdfmx/>

## B. List of Contributors

I have to thank some people for helping me to improve this document. Of course I thank all the people providing the above-mentioned programs and references.

- Paul Isambert, for usefull discussions and testing.
- Heiko Oberdiek, for solving a bug that broke the document with Acrobat Reader.
- Peter Dyballa, for detailed historic information.
- Mojca Miklavc, for many information, especially on ConT<sub>E</sub>Xt-related stuff.
- Hironori Kitagawa, for information about Japanese-specific programs.
- Many people that stumbled upon my questions on different mailinglist, mostly texhax.