

A new user interface for the **figchild** package

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2022/10/30

This document describes a new user interface for the **figchild** package.

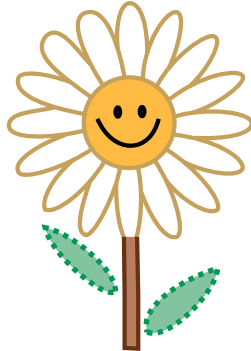
The new user interface can be used with `\usepackage[v2]{figchild}`. Note the package option `v2`.

In this case, the macros defined in the file **figchild.sty** take one optional argument which accepts a list of *TikZ* keys.

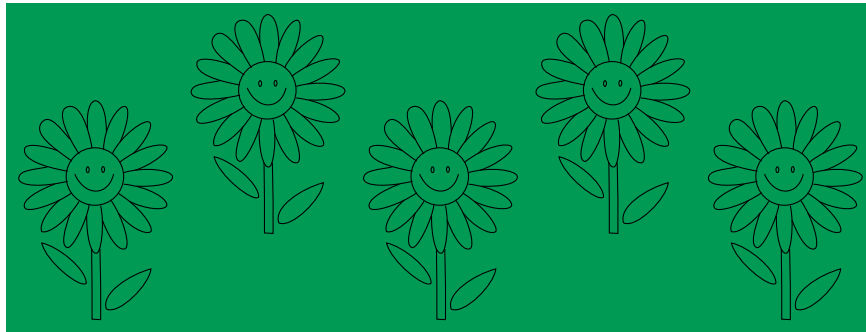
With the old interface, a scale, color and line width have to be given as mandatory arguments. With the new interface, this looks for example as below:



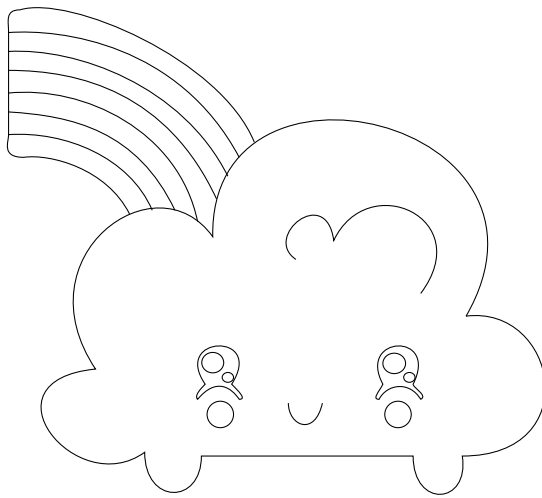
The new interface allows to give different styles for different parts of the figure, as in the example below:



With the old interface, a **figchild** figure was already a **tikzpicture** on its own. This makes it inconvenient to make a picture with several **figchild** figures. With the new interface, a **figchild** figure is not a **tikzpicture** on its own thus it is easier to make a figure such as below:

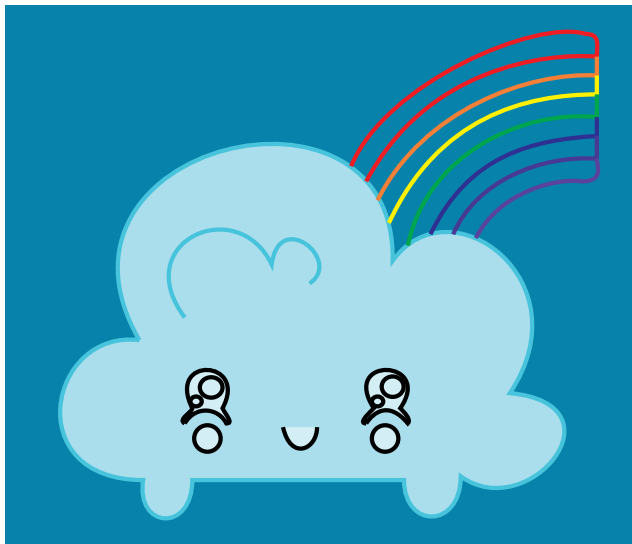


With the new syntax, it is also very easy to perform transformations on a figure, for example the figure below is mirrored:



Below are 3 more examples of the benefits described above. Note that for `\fcChristmasTree`, the sequence in the code was changed such that the tree is drawn before the christmas balls.





Below are some remarks on the code in the .sty file:

1. In the code for `\fcChristmasTree` was the line
`\draw[draw=#2, line width=#3pt];`
 Either some drawing instruction was missing or this line can be removed.
2. In the .sty file the macros `\imagewidthh`, `\imagescaleh` and `\version` were defined. Hence, a user cannot use these variable names anymore because this will for example give the error
LaTeX Error: Command `\version` already defined..
 This can be solved for example by putting `figchild@` in front of these names, such as in the new version of the .sty file. The `\version` command does not need to be defined in the .sty file but only in the manual.