TUG Board of Directors meeting

Dedham 13–14 July, 1991

Kees van der Laan

The following are loosely formulated issues which were agreed upon. For more preciseness the reader is referred to the (approved) minutes.

1 Mission statement

The TeX Users Group provides leadership

- to encourage and expand the use of TeX, Metafont and related systems
- to ensure the integrity and portability of TeX, METAFONT, and related systems
- to foster innovation in high-quality electronic document preparation.

2 Reciprocal membership

Long awaited (since Paris 89 on my agenda) and finally adopted. The agreement has to be detailed and worked out with Ron. (Operational!)

3 TUG a member

A T-shirt can be earned when TUGging a member. Notify the office of the member(s) you gained.

4 Misrepresentations of TeX.

A person who points out some possible misrepresentations of TeX for the first time earns $16,-.

5 Openness BoD meetings

Face-to-face board meetings are open for members. Similarly, face-to-face executive committee meetings are open to BoD members.

6 Copyrighting

TUG does not hold copyrights. The copyright remains with the author(s). TUG will seek for an appropriate form of the new general public license.

7 Interim executives

Malcolm Clark is next year's interim president. Other interim officers are: Christina Thiele (vice-president and secretary), Allen Dyer (treasurer).

8 Board structure

The new BoD will consist of 6 special vice presidents (the current 5 and the newly invited Japanese delegate), 15 elected members and the elected president. Board elections will take place in odd-numbered years for a two-year term. Presidental elections (by the full membership) will take place in even-numbered years for a two-year term. Vice-president, secretary and treasurer to be board members, will be selected by the board for a one-year term. Business is conducted by face-to-face meetings as well as via e-mail.

9 LaTeX 3 project

A fund for the LaTeX 3 project will be raised. Results of the project are envisioned for mid 1993.

10 Future of TeX

No consensus about the future of TeX exists.

11 Committees

Most committees are active and plan to report in the near future. The (real) DEK scholarship committee was nominated and the operational procedures were adopted. Members of the committee are: Chris Rowley (chair), David Salomon, Nico Poppelier, and the last winner Linda Williams.

12 Next annual meeting/conference

It is planned at Portland, Oregon, TeX in context, July 27 to 30, 1992. Program coordinator is Mimi Lafrenz.

13 Budget

Of course budget issues and the 'office' were discussed as well. Again a deficit, and the office will shrink. Ron Whitney has the status of Technical director/business manager.

Visit AMS and TUG office

Kees van der Laan

July, 91

1 AMS (RI)

I was hosted by Regina Girouard. Of course I met Barbara Beeton as well, had some lunch with them accompanied by Ron Whitney. Regina gave an excellent survey of what AMS is up to, showed me around (really impressive the warehouse, AMS stocks every publication!) and introduced me among others to Ralph Youngen, William Woolf, and Michael Downes.

AMS is located at two places: main division at Rhode Island, and the reviews division at Ann Arbor, Michigan. (I also met Patrick Ion at the conference who works at the Ann Arbor division.) In total roughly 210 people are employed; 160 in Providence and 50 in Ann Arbor.

Headquarters comprise among others the departments: Publication division (acquisitions and translations), Production and Computer Services division (editorial services, composition, printing, technical support, etc.), and Marketing and Distribution division.

AMS organizes meetings, acts as publishing house for math, provides on-line and CD-ROM (math) reviews with MathSCi browse facilities, and supplies TEX support to the community at large.

AMS runs their complete production (90K pages/year) cost-effectively via TEX as formatter. No SGML as such is used, but the SGML spirit can be found in the macro packages. The keyboarding is organized in two steps: first the typing (done mostly by full-timers who work at home), without too much worrying about the correctness of TEX (it will be proofread by others) and second the fine-tuning (by more advance typists/programmers). A nice and cost-effective example of the separation of concerns principle.

AMS accepts copy submitted in AMS-LATEX or AMS-TEX. AMS-LATEX is LATEX oriented with AMS-TEX extensions added. (This is different from Spivak's LAMS-TEX: plain TEX compatible extended with AMS-TEX and LATEX functionality.) It is also possible to submit manuscripts, and the typing etc. taken care of by AMS.

Note that AMS has put their packages into the public domain as well as their fonts. They can be obtained via FTP, email or surface mail. The following FTP session gave me the read.me file

```
ftp e-math.ams.com
Name (e-mat.ams.com:cgl): anonymous
*get /ams/read.me
*exit
```

1.1 Further information

Technical Support Department
American Mathematical Society
P.O. Box 6248
Providence RI 02940
Phone: 800-321-4ams (321-4267)
or 401-455-4080
Internet: `tech-support@math.ams.com`

1.2 Recieved documents

- Youngen, R. (1991): *Typesetting with TEX at the AMS* (4p.). (A nice survey of why and what for AMS is using TEX.)
- *Computers and Mathematics. Notices AMS*, March 1989. (Discusses TEX, LATEX and AMS-TEX, summarizing also the relative advantages. Since the publication of this note AMS-LATEX has been released, and Spivak has provided LAMS-TEX. Of course these are not dealt with.)
- *A look inside the AMS*. (A nice brochure of what AMS is all about.)
- *Think about publishing with the AMS.* (Another nice brochure about the merits of publishing with AMS: effective marketing, extensive promotion, worldwide distribution, better sales, longer life of book, royalties, support worthwhile noncommercial activities for the benefit of the scientific community at large (for example the TeX project)).
- *Guidelines for preparing electronic manuscripts:* AMS-TEX (booklet, 52p)
  AMS-LATEX (booklet, 58p)
  (Both very well-done. I have not seen of yet guidelines of similar quality! Simply the best available up till now. Much experience to learn from.)
- *AMS-LATEX User's Guide.* Version 1.1 (1990).
- *Providence Network.* June 1991. (The ethernet structure with the FTP addresses of all connected machines.)

- Note. I received earlier by snail: AMS-TEX User Guide and the AMS-fonts publications, as well as the files (old? floppy disks 1.4Mbyte).

2 TUG Office

A modest office with a niche for every person. The 'warehouse' is very simple, just a couple of bookcases. For archive material there is hardly place. The disk copier had just arrived, and the floppy-disk niche for PD software distribution was just created. I bought the TEXbook, final version in hard cover and some back issues of TUGboat, as well as 'The cats' T-shirt. Ron Whitney (business-manager/technical director) and Karen Butler (membership issues, handling sales) are full-timers. Cliff(ord) Alper is part-timer (handling/organizing courses). Paula Donovan (bookkeeping) again a full-timer. Theresa and Charlotte have left the office. I enjoyed talking with Ron about the future of TUG (office) and the role of the various LUGs. My vision is that Russia (CyrTuG) will be the important issue to deal with in the 90-ies, and of course that education is paramount.

TEXniques in Siberia[1]

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Abstract

This article summarizes the problems of giving a LATEX course in Siberia. It concludes with an overview concerning the future of TEX inside the USSR.

1 Introduction

My visit to Siberia in 1983 led to a long standing friendship with Siberian scientists. Mutual visits have since occurred frequently. During a Russian high-school computercamp at Ob Lake in 1989, which I attended with eight Dutch students,I surprised my Siberian hosts with the power of TEX. In Novosibirsk TEX was mainly known because it was written by Donald Knuth from Stanford University with which Novosibirsk University has an exchange program.

In November 1990 Dr. Anatoli Urvantsev[2] visited the Netherlands. During his visit he attended a meeting of the Dutch TeX Users Group (NTG), where he again became attracted to the power of TEX. Together we discussed the possibilities of TEX and especially the use of TEX in Siberia.

Urvantsev is working in the science city Akademgorodok, 30 kilometers South of the "Chicago" of the USSR: Novosibirsk. The level of Science is rather high, illustrated by the fact that Akademgorodok host about 100 international, USSR and regional conferences a year. Quick, high-quality publishing of proceedings is difficult and we agreed that TEX or LATEX could simplify matters. So mutually we decided to set up a LATEX course.

2 Why LATEX?

In 1987 I started to use TEX. I wrote my own macros and concluded that in a way I was writing my own kind of LATEX. I was forced to explore LATEX upon request of my institute, which was introducing LATEX as the **document preparation tool**. To train our seven secretaries in the use of the program i set up a three-day course, held in the middle of nowhere (still in the Netherlands) to guarantee that we weren't disturbed by daily work, phone calls, etc. The result of this training was a cook-book [2], full of examples, which is still in use.

During that time I also used LATEX to edit my own books [3]. The editing of an astronomical yearbook proved to me that LATEX is 99% powerful enough.

So I answered the request of initiating TEX in Siberia by offering an 18 hour LATEX course based on my earlier experience. This time I really went to the middle of nowhere.

3 Course

3.1 Material

Since I am not a millionaire, it was impossible to buy books for the course, I had to prepare my own course material. This was based on the earlier-mentioned cook-book [2], important pages of Lamport's book [1] and the LATEX manual [4]. Why re-inventing the wheel? I visited the USSR already ten times so I know about possible limitations: language problems, equipment etc. It's easy to give a course somewhere in the Netherlands, everything you want or need is available. Or you bring it yourself and charge them for it. Bringing all the things you need to Siberia is impossible nor can you charge them. That they create their own cook-book, example book is a rather stimulating result. I deny that I reinvented the wheel, it was an exclusive

[1] Presented at EuroTEX '91, Paris.
[2] Computing Center, Prospekt Lavrentiev 6, 630090 Novosibirsk

course adapted to my clients and based on a lot of experience. As mentioned earlier due to my job at the Institute I know rather well what scientists want to do with TEX or LATEX.

ArborText was kind enough to provide the latest versions of μTEX and AMSTEX for cyrillic fonts. During the course we used the built-in previewer. In this situation it was not wise to wait two days before starting exercises. The previewer is also a good teaching-aid. Again as a result of the course we produced a Siberian LATEX cook-book [5].

I also prepared 40 exercises, we made them all [3] through which I tried to test the knowledge and understanding of my students. Considering the language problem, **teaching by example** is the best approach. Appendix A gives an overview of the topics of the exercises.

3.2 Equipment

During the course we used 6 AT with 30 Mbyte hard disks. Imagine the fun of installing all the 45 ArborText diskettes. I felt like a disc-jockey. Urvantsev confessed it was a hard job to arrange for all the PC's. His colleagues couldn't believe the amount of effort he put in to organize the course, seminar. Later on we also used a HP-Laserjet IIP, but in fact we only used it to produce the course-certificates.

3.3 Students

The most important part of a course are the students. Urvantsev selected 13 students originating from different parts of the scientific community: a publishing house, computing center and university. Although I asked that students would be selected on the basis of their knowledge of English, their level of English was poor. So I simplified my English and, with the help of a Dutch friend,[4] I survived. Of course it's rather easy to visualize things in TEX. A remarkable fact was that 11 of the 13 students were female. The oldest student was over 50.

Figure 1: The author (top row, second left) and his students in the conference-room of the Vice-President of the Siberian Division of Academy of Sciences of the USSR (photo: Maaike van Koldam).

I presented the course in six lessons of three hours, and each with a tea-break (made in a "Samovar") according to Russian traditions .

It was an advantage that nobody had a really good knowledge of document preparation. Some of them knew about Chiwriter and only one knew about Ventura. It seemed that Soviets adored Norton, so we used the Norton Commander to perform our needs.

[3] A result I never expected

[4] She graduated from Groningen University and speaks Russian fluently

4 Topics

As mentioned earlier I used Urban's manual as the main text of the course. Table 4 shows the set-up of the course. Chapters are referring to Urban's manual [4].

lesson 1	Chapter 1 & 2
	Introduction & Getting Started
2	Chapter 3
	Control Sequences
3	Chapter 4
	begin and end environments
4	Chapter 5, partly Chapter 6
	Putting It Together
5	Chapter 6,7 & 8
	Tables and Figures,
	Cross-References,
	Equation Formatting
6	Chapter 8
	Equation Formatting

Table 1: Course setup, each part is 3 hours

Based on my earlier experience I used examples relevant to my students work. In the case of the aforementioned astronomy secretaries I used astronomical examples. And for the simple text I used phrases from the gossip journals. Since there are no such magazines in the USSR, I either used the examples of Urban's manual or invented them myself. We also used some examples from the LATEX manual composed by Samarin. This booklet (in Russian) was brought along by one of the students. Nobody in the Computing Center knew about this booklet. It was also useful to explain commands. As mentioned earlier, the lack of knowledge of English was sometimes a problem.

Also I used my own experience and the experience of "my ladies" in the course. At my institute I am the local TEX answering machine so I have a good impression of what the users of TEX or LATEX want to do. I tried to introduce commands through examples which are frequently used in making documents. The following example illustrates that:

```
\newlength{\novo}
\setlength{\novo}{5cm}
\hangindent=\novo \noindent But last
week, humour turned to alarm when the
group .....

\settowidth{\novo}{novosibirsk}
\hangindent=\novo \noindent But last
week, humour turned to alarm when the
group .....

\addtolength{\novo}{3cm}
\hangindent=\novo \noindent But last
week, humour turned to alarm when the
group .....
```

Another practical example is the use of `\@` in tabular-environment. And because the array-environment is a special form of the tabular-environment it's rather useful in the array-environment too.

```
\begin{tabular}{lr@{,}l}
              & \multicolumn{2}{c}{p}\\
              & \multicolumn{2}{r}{p}\\
apple, 1 kilo & 2&50 \\
coffee, 250 gram & 10&09 \\
bread & 0&25 \\
\end{tabular}
```

In illustrating `\newenvironment` I used a too simple example. After the complaints of my students I gave an example using `\newenvironment` to define the head of a complicated, often used table. The default question when using lists is how to change the default labels.

Error recovery etc. (Chapter 9 of Urban's manual), was addressed during each of the lessons. The best way to do it: make and recover your errors yourself.

5 Cyrillic

I intended to use AMSTEX to do the cyrillic things but unfortunately one of the distribution disks was damaged. So my colleagues from Groningen sent me some files by email and also a local hacker helped me create cyrillic fonts. Dimitri Vulis supplied programs to do the encoding from the Russian keyboard to TEX.

6 CyrTUG

To stimulate TEX it's necessary to first have an organisation, like CyrTUG. In the Soviet Union having enthusiastic people is not enough — you have to organise. Otherwise Novosibirsk is knowing about what is going in Leningrad our vice-versa. In Western-Europe, in general, everybody knows about everybody. In the Soviet Union it's not the case. The end of May CyrTUG is founded: a logical and necessary step. Keep them informed and communicate with them.

Acknowledgements: I want to thank my Siberian host Urvantsev for supporting my stay, Maaike van Koldam for helping me to survive, Betsy Dale from ArborText for supplying μTEX, the Dutch TEX Usersgroup (NTG) and the colleagues and secretaries at my institute for providing examples and problems every day.

References

[1] Leslie LAMPORT, *LATEX user's guide and reference manual*, Addison-Wesley, Reading, Mass., 1986.

[2] Theo JURRIENS et. al., *LATEX kookboek*, 1988.

[3] Theo JURRIENS, *Hemelwijzer 1989*, De Feniks Pers, Meppel, 1988.

[4] Michael URBAN, *An Introduction to LaTeX* TeX Users Group, P.O. Box 9506, Providence, RI 02940, U.S.A, 1986.

[5] Theo JURRIENS et. al., *A Siberian LaTeX cookbook*, 1991.

A Exercises

- simple text, illustrating the meaning of `\par`, blank lines and spaces,
- `\indent` and `\noindent` ,
- dashes, the use of ~ and overfull boxes and how to hyphenate ,
- special characters, control words and - symbols,
- preamble, changing sizes, `\newlength` ,
- type faces and type sizes,
- two column, `\raggedright`,
- `\begin{center}` , `\begin{quotation}` etc,
- floats ,
- lists ,
- `\newcommand` and `\newenvironment` ,
- the different styles ,
- footnotes,
- title-page,
- page-numbering and page-style,
- table of contents, list of tables etc,
- `\include`,
- `\ref` and `\label`
- bibliography and `\cite`
- tabbing and tabular,
- a lot of math,
- letters,
- cyrillic .