Les Cahiers GUTenberg
Contents of Thematic Issue 41
(October 2001)

PIERRE FOURNIER, Éditorial : METAPOST le
sessin sous T\TeX/L\LaTeX{} [Editorial: METAPOST,
designing with T\TeX/L\LaTeX{}]; pp. 3–4

After presenting PSTricks as a set of tools designed to
help integrate graphics into L\LaTeX{} documents, a subject
explored in Cahier issue no. 16, the editor introduces the
current Cahier with a similar object, METAPOST.

This issue of the Cahiers includes not only a trans-
lation (done in collaboration with Jean-Côme Charpentier)
of the original METAPOST manual, but also two ad-
ditional contributions, one philosophical, the other prac-
tical. To better appreciate its value, Denis Roegel has
a short piece which positions METAPOST in the more
general context of graphic design software. The graph
package, an extension to METAPOST, is also presented.
The translations for the texts on both METAPOST and
graph were authorised by John Hobby, the creator of
METAPOST. The last article, by Fabrice Popineau, is
a hands-on demonstration of METAPOST in action in a
L\LaTeX{} document, complete with verbatim code samples.

The editor hopes that the flow of the articles,
from theory to application, will allow users to begin
incorporating METAPOST into their own documents.
Further information and help, along with real samples,
can be found on various websites. Two such are cited:

\begin{itemize}
\item \url{http://www.math.jussieu.fr/~zoonek/LaTeX/Metapost/metapost.html}
\item \url{http://melusine.eu.org/syracuse/metapost}
\end{itemize}

Indeed, the editor suggests that the end of the year
provides an excellent excuse to apply METAPOST to
one’s greeting cards!

DENIS ROEGEL, METAPOST, l’intelligence
graphique [METAPOST, graphical intelligence];
pp. 5–16

In this article, we position METAPOST with re-
spect to various types of drawings. We argue in favor
of a text-based format and we develop the concept
of “graphical intelligence.” We illustrate how this
intelligence appears in an example constructing a
graph. [Author’s abstract (edited)]

JOHN HOBBY, Un manuel de l’utilisateur pour
METAPOST [A User’s manual for METAPOST];
pp. 17–139

The METAPOST system implements a picture-
drawing language very much like Knuth’s META-
FONT except that it outputs PostScript commands
instead of run-length-encoded bitmaps. METAPOST
is a powerful language for producing figures for
documents to be printed on PostScript printers. It
provides easy access to all the features of PostScript
and its facilities for integrating text and graphics.

This document serves as an introductory user’s manual.\footnote{This manual originally appeared in English, A User’s
manual for METAPOST. The French translation was done
by Pierre Fournier and Jean-Côme Charpentier.}

John Hobby, Tracer les graphes avec METAPOST
[Drawing graphs with METAPOST]; pp. 140–166

This paper\footnote{This document originally appeared in English, Drawing
Graphs With METAPOST. The French translation was done
by Pierre Fournier and Jean-Côme Charpentier.}
describes a graph-drawing package that has been implemented as an extension to the
METAPOST graphics language. METAPOST has
a powerful macro facility for implementing such
extensions. There are also some new language
features that support the graph macros. Existing
features for generating and manipulating pictures
allow the user to do things that would be difficult
to achieve in a standalone graph package.

FABRICE POPINEAU, METAPOST pratique
[METAPOST, a practical exercise]; pp. 167–175

In this article, I will explain how to use META-
POST in practice. This program is very different
from the usual drawing programs, but it fits very
well into a T\TeX-based typesetting system.

[Author’s abstract (edited)]

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Articles from Cahiers issues can be found in PDF
format at the following site:

\url{http://www.gutenberg.eu.org/pub/gut/publications}

[Compiled by Christina Thiele]