What is lexing

• Computer languages have a mandate structure.
• You can avoid errors by checking the input.
• Editors can help by coloring reserved words, concepts, etc.
• Consistency in coloring different languages makes sense.

When did we start

• We wrote our first editor in the 90's.
• An extension quickly followed when we moved to TEX: TEXEDIT.
• When MODULA was no longer fashionable, we moved on to PERL: TEXWORK (quick demo).
• When we ran into SCITE, we started using that.
• I provided syntax highlighting for TEX and METAPOST (support for multiple formats, etc.).
Breskens 2012

Lexing sources

Side effect of MKIV

• SCITE got LPEG based lexing (external lexing).

• I already had already written some lexers for the pretty printers.

• So I gave it a go and made some more advanced lexers.

• These ship with CONTEXT: TEX, XML, PDF, LUA, CLD, METAPOST, text.

Characteristics

• The TEX lexer supports nested lexing of LUA and METAPOST.

• Integrated spell checking is provided.

• Unfortunately there is no lexing for SCITE on MACOSX (not that I care too much nowadays).

• It is a pitty that we have no access to SCITE internal as with the regular LUA interface.

• On my good old machine huge files lex somewhat slow (at the end).
The future

• I will improve the current lexers.
• An SQL lexer will be added at some point.
• I might make an HTML/CSS variant that supports nested LMX.