Apostolos Syropoulos, Diagrams with pgfplots; pp. 1–12

Most authors of science papers and books need to create plots and diagrams to display scientific data. The problem of course is which tool to use for this task. In general, people prefer to use a tool from a suite of tools which is familiar to them. The package pgfplots is the ideal package for people who use \LaTeX to prepare their documents. This paper describes the basic use of the package, i.e., how to create a simple diagram and how to place points and text on it. In addition, it presents some specialized features and how one can create bar charts and pie charts. (Article in Greek with English abstract.)

Dimitrios Filippou, Typesetting elements and other... chemicals; pp. 13–33

The International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) has produced several guidelines for the nomenclature of chemicals, and also for the appearance of chemical elements, compounds, physical/chemical variables, units, etc. \TeX was made for typesetting mathematical formulæ. Nonetheless, with some effort, \TeX’s machine can be tweaked for typesetting chemical formulæ as well. Packages like chemmacros, mhchem, chemfig and xymtex, give with \LaTeX (and even with plain \TeX) excellent results for documents with chemical symbols. (Article in Greek with English abstract.)

Dimitrios Filippou, \TeXniques: Slanted black math symbols and other issues of unicode-math; pp. 35–37

In this regular column, it is shown how to obtain slanted (or italic) black math symbols with \XeTeX and unicode-math, as well as some particular issues in the use of the same package. (Article in Greek.)

Dimitrios Filippou, Book presentations; pp. 39–40

The following books are presented:
(a) Keith Houston, Shady Characters: Ampersands, Interrobangs and Other Typographical Curiosities, 2nd edition, Penguin, UK 2015; and
(b) George Grätzer, More Math into \LaTeX, 5th edition, Springer, Cham, Switzerland. (Article in Greek.)

[Received from Dimitrios Filippou and Apostolos Syropoulos.]

Don Knuth awarded Trotter Prize

Bart Childs, Rick Furuta

The Trotter Prize & Endowed Lecture Series on Information, Complexity and Inference is presented by the College of Science in collaboration with the Dwight Look College of Engineering at Texas A&M University (science.tamu.edu). It seeks to illuminate connections between science and religion.

Donald Knuth, Professor Emeritus of The Art of Computer Programming at Stanford University, and Michael Duff, Emeritus Professor of Theoretical Physics at Imperial College London, were awarded the prize April 17, 2018. Professor Knuth’s lecture was entitled Translating the Bible into Music. Professor Duff’s lecture was entitled The Best of All Possible Worlds.

A lively Q&A session was held the next day with the awardees in the Hawking Auditorium with titles “All Questions Answered” and “The Universe and Other General Questions”, respectively.

Don’s talk was about his composing Fantasia Apocalyptica. Don’s home page (www-cs-faculty.stanford.edu/~knuth) is a good source for additional information about this work as well as his 80th birthday party.

Richard Furuta and I hosted the Knuth family for a \TeXas barbecue at a well-known local restaurant, C&J’s Barbecue. A good time was had by all. We also learned that Don “rarely passes up a chance to have peach cobbler.” Don was accompanied by Jill and her sister and family. Doug Hensley, Professor of Mathematics, and my friend Barbara Schwartz also joined us. Barbara took the picture.

Rick and I were TUG officers 1985–89 and served as site coordinators for distributions of \TeX systems.

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