exactphilosophy.net

avantgarde

TEX and me (6 Dec 2025)

I have been using LATEX for my diploma thesis, physics papers, my dissertation, and, of course, for this website and its derived articles and books, since 2005 using specifically pdflatex instead of dvips before that.

Besides the general beauty and simplicity of the original LATEX, I especially love the 'Computer Modern' fonts that I also use here, with artifical bleeding using \pdfpkmode to get a weight similar to when originally printed on paper.

But as of 2025, it seems that LATEX would gravitate towards LuaLATEX into the future, where things get more complicated.

- **exactphilosophy.net**

  This covers the pages of the core website, the pdf articles, as well as the envisaged series of pocket books.

  Since pdflatex will likely still be usable for decades, if necessary using or emulating older computers, plus its output should remain usable for print and even limited support for accessible pdfs would be available, there is no immediate blocker in sight. Plan B would be the third point here.

- **ELEMENTAL**

  This covers the pocket book and potentially using the Jackwrite/Stoicheion pair of fonts for further books or promotion on various channels.

  The book or books would be primarily on paper, electronically published only to be able to give a copy to the Swiss National Library, where a tagged pdf might be desirable, or maybe not on a time scale of centuries.

  The fonts require XeLATEX or LuaLATEX and it is not clear how long each of these, including the LuaLATEX Node or HarfBuzz renderers, will be supported. Expecially the most likely candidate, LuaLATEX with Node renderer, does out-of-the-box not handle either font correctly, while for practically all other contemporary usages there is no problem at all.

  I estimate that it is worth to go the extra mile to get the book to render with LuaLATEX/Node, plus also make sure that the other two would be possible as plans B+C (LuaLATEX/HarfBuzz is slow, XeLATEX frozen).

- **Post Computer Modern**

  I would like to create an OpenType version of 'Computer Modern' for use with the newer LATEX formats and for general usage, also to give this website a bit more visibility ahead, if the effort is reasonable in any way.

  github.com/exactphilosophy-net/post-computer-modern