The Euromath System –
the WYSIWYG structured XML editor,
browser, . . .

J. Chlebíková, J. Guričan
M. Nagy, I. Odrobina
FMFI, Comenius University
Bratislava
Introduction

The research of electronic documents has several basic goals:

- the document can be used for multiple purposes with different applications, for example: various kinds of printed material, WWW, database applications, communication with external applications,

- a long life-time,

- easily interchangeable across different computer platforms and networks.

To fulfil the previous $\implies$ the markup of documents was developed
Multipurpose documents ⇒ the separation of the presentation and the logical structure of a document (plain \TeX \& \LaTeX classes)


SGML is a complex standard – large companies and a few research institutes.

The most known DTD – HTML.DTD. Bad things – fixed grammar, unstructured approach – more the presentation as the logical structure
XML (Extensive Markup Language) – younger brother of SGML (1998) — the new language of WWW:

- international standard for information exchange and reusability of documents,

- metalanguage allowing to define a new markup languages – Document Type Definition (DTD),

- Unicode support.

*XML is good idea — but how to create XML documents comfortable way?*
Structured editors

– the most comfortable tool for editing XML documents,

– the author does not have to be familiar with the logical structure of the document,

– the user is guided according to the logical structure of the edited document:

  • add a new element,

  • move or copy complete logical parts of the document,

  • change an element to an element of another type,

  • create or delete some additional structure around an element,

  • …
WYSIWYG structured editors

– the clearly separation of the logical and the presentation structure of a document

• the layout of a document is produced automatically,

• several different presentations can be defined for one logical structure,

• automatically update of the numbering of theorems, footnotes, cross-references, etc.

The author of the document only has to take care of the content of the document — the layout is produced automatically — the same philosophy as \LaTeX classes.
Commercial: Adobe FrameMaker + SGML/XML

An example of free available WYSIWYG structured editors: Thot, Amaya, Euromath System, . . .

*Thot* – an open experimental authoring system developed by the Opera project, no support for XML.

*Amaya* – W3C test-bed browser and authoring tool for HTML documents developed on top of the Thot technology, support for MathML and CSS.

*Euromath System* – an XML authoring tool and browser based on Thot.
Historical remarks about ES

- First version of the Euromath System (1992) – developed within the Euromath Project led by the European Mathematical Trust. The goal: *homogeneous computer working environments for mathematicians*.

- Euromath System – originally based on the commercial SGML structured editor Grif (Unix).

- At present, Euromath System is based on XML and Thot → a public domain software, more platforms (Linux, Unix).

Due to the conceptual proximity of both editors, the re-implementation from Grif to Thot was possible.
The principal tasks of the re-implementation:

- *There is no direct support of XML in Thot* – the internal languages of Thot: S (the logical structure), P (the presentation) and T (the translation).

**First task:** the translation DTD $\Rightarrow$ S, P and T, a new tool $\text{DTD2SPT}$ – from DTD (and a feature file) are automatically generated:

- S-file describes the logical structure and follows directly from DTD,
- P-file is a standard non-WYSIWYG XML presentation,
- T-file for saving documents in XML format according given DTD.
● Thot uses the binary PIV format for saving documents – directly through automatically generated T-file for every DTD.

● The support for Unicode.

● Euromath System is not only structured editor – www browser and Euromath applications (Personal File system, $\TeX$ support) were added

What offers the last version of the Euromath System?
Euromath System

Euromath System =
Euromath editor + Euromath applications

Euromath editor:

- the same basic editing functions as non-structural text editors, the possibility to change a layout of user’s text, . . .
- simple WYSIWYG creating of tables,
- incorporation graphics of various formats,
- WYSIWYG structured editor based on standardized XML format: the default templates – for DTD correspond to \LaTeX{} classes and for the basic moduls of a standard document type as paragraphs, tables, mathematics, . . .
Advantages of structural approach in Euromath System:

- *The structure and the layout of the document is given, the author of the document has only to take care of the content of the document.*
  - editing accordingly the relevant DTD (given or own)
  - adding a new element (or changing attributes) is checked by the system
  - given DTD similar as LaTeX document classes (‘article.dtd’, ‘letter.dtd’, ‘slide.dtd’, . . .)

- *For one document class (DTD) several different presentations can be defined.*
  - one document = (f.e.) private letter, memorandum, fax, . . .
  - default XML presentation
  - user’s private presentations (P-language)
• The individual logical elements of the document can be displayed in several windows.

• Automatic housekeeping by the system.
  – similarly as in \LaTeX,
  – cross-references – hypertext-nodes,
  – cross-references available also between documents.

• Export to other formats.
  – important for communication with other systems,
  – standard format like \LaTeX,
  – user’s private export (T-language).

All menus are case-sensitive – the author is not supposed to be familiar with the document structure.
Euromath applications:

– extend the possibilities of the Euromath System as a structured editor — provide tools to help mathematicians in several ways.

*Personal File System:*

- PFS is a front-end for the Zentrall-Blatt Math database,

- PFS connects the Euromath System with an electronic version of the database created by Zentralblatt für Mathematik (either on-line or from the CD-ROMs),

- Founded information are translated into XML and displayed in the Euromath System as part of the standard ‘article’ document (in particular, mathematical formulae are displayed in WYSIWYG mode).
Euromath System – WWW-browser:

- the possibility to retrieve documents across networks,

- Euromath System – an ideal tool for viewing remote XML files with known template,

- formulae – impossible to describe in HTML, can be described in XML = displayed WYSIWYG in the Euromath System.

DTD2SPT – the translator from DTD to internal languages of Thot.

L2S – the translator from the \LaTeX{} to XML:

- to open \LaTeX{} files,

- the interactive translation between \LaTeX{} and WYSIWYG XML format of the mathematical expressions.
Euromath System – tries to be related to $\LaTeX$

- **import $\LaTeX$ ($\LaTeX$) files** – document classes into related DTD, translation from ‘structural’ $\LaTeX$ to XML,

- **insert a mathematical formulae as a $\LaTeX$ string** and switching between $\LaTeX$ and WYSIWYG XML mode,

- **export** – translation from XML to $\LaTeX$ – adding the translation rules for logical elements and attributes in available T-language,

- similarity in styles.
Concluding remarks

XML – the standard for publishing, for full-text databases and WWW

The Euromath system is at the forefront in exploiting the benefits of XML for scientific documents and also the typesetting qualities of the T\(\textsf{E}\)X system.

The latest (free) version of the Euromath System is available for UNIX (X-windows systems) based on SUN platform and Linux.