
Editorial

As we move into the third volume of EP-odd it is pleasing to report a marked increase in the number of papers submitted to the journal. From the editorial side we are making strenuous efforts to speed the flow of papers through the refereeing process and to provide detailed feedback to authors on any rewriting that may be necessary.

So far all papers accepted for the journal have arrived with us in some machine readable form or other. Although we are happy to accept a plain ASCII file with artwork supplied separately, it has been very helpful to find that many authors are prepared to originate their papers using one or other of our approved authoring systems. It seems a good time to give details of how the various macro sets for these systems may be obtained and to give some further guidelines to ease the amount of work that we have to do before sending the papers on to the publisher.

Macro sets for the EP-odd document style have been set up for use with *troff*, \TeX , and \LaTeX . Any or all of these are obtainable from Nottingham via electronic mail, as follows: Send an electronic mail message to `ep-server@cs.nott.ac.uk` containing the single word `help` (in either upper or lower case). Your letter will be replied to using an automatic mail response program and the reply will describe how to obtain either an index of everything published in EP-odd so far, or any of the macro sets for authoring a paper in the EP-odd layout style. For example, you will find that the EP-odd index can be obtained by e-mailing another letter to the server consisting of the single line `index EPodd`. The automatic response program seems to be working well but if there are problems then an e-mail letter detailing these can be sent to `epodd@cs.nott.ac.uk`. If all else fails a traditional hand-written letter to the Editor-in-Chief, in an immaculate calligraphic hand, will work wonders!

When using any of the approved text-processing systems for your EP-odd paper it helps us greatly if you have made some attempt to use the appropriate EP-odd macros rather than relying on standard macros, such as the *ms* set for *troff* or the 'article' style for \LaTeX . The overriding reason for this is that EP-odd uses a line length of 127 mm (5 inches) on a printed area which is about that of International A5 paper. Most other macro sets are set up for a paper size corresponding roughly to International A4 or US letter. The reformatting of plain text down to EP-odd's smaller page size rarely causes difficulty, but items such as program listings, tables or line diagrams can be very time consuming to alter. It is far better that the author(s) devise these from the outset with the correct page area and line length in mind.

If *troff* and the EP-odd macro set (*mep*) are used in creating the draft of a paper then the full range of pre-processors is supported namely *eqn*, *pic*, *grap*, *chem*, *refer*, *tbl* and so on. Equally \TeX and \LaTeX have very good support for equations and tables, with \LaTeX also offering a facility for simple line diagrams. For more complex diagrams, in a \TeX or \LaTeX environment, the use of TPIC is recommended. Remember that the final output form of all papers which appear in EP-odd is POSTSCRIPT. Consequently, half tones or other complicated illustrations can be supplied as POSTSCRIPT. If the time taken to image such illustrations is very high (e.g for screen dumps), making it impractical to

incorporate the POSTSCRIPT with the text of the paper, then the illustrations can be supplied as separate POSTSCRIPT files with gaps of the correct size being left in the text to allow a ‘paste up’ of the illustrations at a later stage. On the other hand, if it *is* desired to integrate POSTSCRIPT material with the rest of the text then please do *not* supply some ‘home brew’ utility of your own devising to bring this about. The widely available *psfig* utility should be used (this works with *t_roff*, T_EX and L^AT_EX; details are available from the Nottingham EP server — see above).

In extreme cases, where exotic fonts or other complex POSTSCRIPT material is needed, we have in the past accepted a paper as a POSTSCRIPT master ready for typesetting (but note that the authors are then under an obligation to do all the copy-editing and pagination themselves, as instructed by the publishers, and to reproduce *exactly* the required EP-odd page layout).

We leave you, in some haste, to make sure that all the material for the next issue gets to Chichester hard on the heels of this one. All being well it will include a brief note from Don Knuth and another right-to-left Hebrew *tour de force* from Dan Berry.

DAVID BRAILSFORD AND RICHARD FURUTA