

The cedram journal production system

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cedram

- A French project to develop tools to help the production of academic math journals.
- A partnership between
 - CNRS, Ministry of research (funds),
 - the mathematical community and learned societies (orientations),
 - Cellule MathDoc (staff, metadata & Web expertise),
 - independant high quality research journals (AFST, AIF, AMBP, JTNB, ...).
- Up and running at www.cedram.org since March 2006.

Challenges

- Simple user interface (standard \LaTeX / \BibTeX input files).
- No metadata duplication.
- Paper, electronic, whatever view of a publication always in sync (*one process*).
- No 'house style' imposed to the participating journals.

Principles

- 1 Any metadata is input at most once in the system, in the relevant file.
- 2 Anything that is not deterministically determined by a given file —should stay away from that file.
- 3 Anything that can be computed —*should* be computed!
- 4 Do not reinvent the wheel, do not invent exotic formats that no one will master.
- 5 Stay pragmatic but avoid bottle-necks that would impact versatility of future use or quality of the output.

Concept

A journal
is a set of volumes,
made of issues,
made of articles,
plus various other material, mostly constant.

Core system

The production environment attaches to each level a set of files.

cedram.cls variant of `amsart.cls` (with add-ons from `smfart`, `smfthm`, `smfbib`): the core of the system.

Defines the input format, provides the general architecture for storing metadata, and many hooks to allow variable layouts.

Three modes of operations:

- Volume (builds a whole issue).
- Article (for each article).
- Special (for non-article material like TOCs).

Journal

A journal is defined by a `.clo` file (loaded at the end of `cedram.cls`) and a set of `.tex` inputs or specials:

cedram-CG.clo Journal-wide constants (title, ISSN, layout).

CG-front.tex Front matter inputs (title page, copyright page, addresses, scientific committee. . .).

CG-Sommaire.tex TOC template: a special loaded by the previous file.

CG-back.tex Back matter inputs (subscription info. . .).

CG-couverture.tex The cover template of an issue.

Issue

A journal issue is defined by a \LaTeX file with class `cedram` and options `JACRO,Volume`.

CG_46-47.tex The issue file defines:

- Numbers (year, month, volume, issue).
- First article's page number.
- Special issue title, if required.
- The ordered list of articles.
- Extras (editorial statements, ads. . .).

Article

An article is a directory containing all necessary data (images, inputs, bibliography) called from one master file bearing the same basename as the directory.

The article master file declares all article metadata, the journal and main language as options to `cedram.cls`.

Volume info and page numbers are *not* declared: they will be inherited from the issue where the article ultimately appears.

`devroye/devroye.tex` Article master file (language, title, author, abstracts, text, biblio, etc.).

`devroye/input.tex` \TeX inputs.

`devroye/devroye.bib` Bib \TeX file.

`devroye/img1.pdf` Illustration.

Automatisation devices—articles

The core functionalities provided by `cedram.cls` in article mode are:

- A bunch of options for various outputs. Screen version (with first page added, `hyperref` activated) is forced when preparing the final version.
- Automatic load of a `.cfg` file at `\begin{document}`.
- The `lastpage` trick.
- Write a \TeX line to an auxiliary file with all data pertaining to the article that could be used in a TOC.
- Write to an XML auxiliary file all metadata pertaining to the article that could be used elsewhere.

Compiling the article file produces the article PDF for the Web.

Automatisation devices—volumes

The core functionalities provided by `cedram.cls` in volume mode are:

- A bunch of options for various outputs (Cover, offprints. . .).
- Automatic write of a `.cfg` file for each included article.
- Compile each included article or special in a subprocess (`write18`) and include it in the volume PDF.
- Store the list of articles and assemble a volume TOC file from all article generated lines.
- Write a volume XML header and assemble a volume XML file from all article generated snippets.

Compiling the volume file produces a single PDF made of all inner pages of that volume.

Page numbers

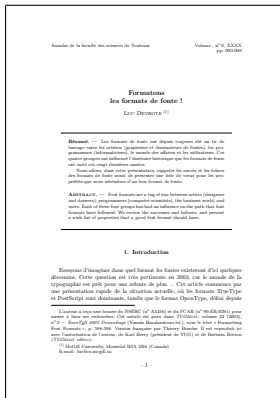
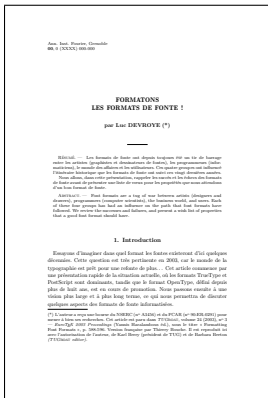
A page number is essentially a by-product of a completed issue, except the first page of an issue, it is set nowhere.

The trick is as simple as:

- 1 Initiate the volume's page counter before loading the first article.
- 2 Write the issue info and current volume's page number to the article's .cfg file.
- 3 Compile the article file twice so that all metadata, including issue info and page numbers are in final form.
- 4 Include the pages of the just generated article PDF (omitting the Web first page) in the volume PDF.
- 5 `\cleardoublepage`.
- 6 Start again.

Layout versatility

Same input, varying presentation (1).



Annales de l'institut Fourier

Annales de la faculté des sciences
de Toulouse (mathématiques)

Layout versatility

Same input, varying presentation (2).



Cahiers GUTenberg layout features

- Same page format.
- Utopia with Fourier (maths and typo extras) as main font.
- Small body size, but generously leaded for good running text experience.
- LMTT for typewriter style, no sans serif.
- Some graphical design elements like crop marks and oversized page numbers (typographer's private jokes?). Also headings downstairs.
- Wide margins with room for a second alignment for oversized floats.
- Dynamical placement of floats in the quest for lively double pages!

Demo

Everything I said can be demonstrated!

Thanks!