

Frequently Asked Questions

about PPCH_TEX

Version: October 29, 2001

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`pragma@wxs.nl`

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\TeX aborts with a message concerning memory shortage, stack overflow or whatever.

The user interface of PPCH \TeX as well as its command interpreter needs more stacksize than \TeX offers by default. Depending on the complexity of graphics, \TeX also needs more memory (P Γ \TeX) or string space (PSTRICKS).

This problem can be solved by increasing some compile and/or runtime constants. Some \TeX implementations need a remake of the binary, others can be tuned using commandline flags or adapting the initialization file.

When running pdftex, we use the next set of constants. These also suit CON \TeX T, which is probably the most memory hungry package around.

main_memory	=	2000000	trie_size	=	64000
extra_mem_top	=	0	hyph_size	=	1000
extra_mem_bot	=	0	buf_size	=	5000
font_mem_size	=	200000	nest_size	=	250
font_max	=	500	max_in_open	=	15
hash_extra	=	40000	param_size	=	1000
pool_size	=	500000	save_size	=	5000
string_vacancies	=	25000	stack_size	=	1000
max_strings	=	50000			
pool_free	=	475000			

Hans Hagen

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How do I prepare `teTeX` for `PPCHTeX`?

To use `PPCHTeX` with `teTeX` 0.4 you have to compile the `teTeX` sources because the precompiled binaries have a parameter stack size of 60. (This problem will disappear with the upcoming `teTeX` 0.9 coming based on the new `web2c` 7.0. With this version you will be able to change memory parameters during run-time). You can get this per ftp from:

```
sunsite.informatik.rwth-aachen.de  
/pub/comp/tex/teTeX/distrib/sources/teTeX-src-*.tar.gz
```

Edit the file `../teTeX-src-*/kpse-2.6/web2c/tex/tex.ch` to suit your needs. For `PPCHTeX` a parameter stack of 200 will work, you may also consider editing the parameters mentioned in another part of the faq.

Read the installation instructions carefully (make sure all the needed programs for compilation are installed) and do a `make world`. Compilation will take quite some time (about 45 minutes on a 486 DX4 with 40MB running Linux).

Dirk Kuypers

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When I run PPCH_TE_X in L_AT_EX, T_EX runs out of dimension registers.

There are 256 *dimensions* available in T_EX. L_AT_EX and its style files however allocate quite some of them. This means that P_IC_TE_X, which uses over 100 *dimensions* itself, can hardly be run along many style files.

The solution is simple: use the generic CONTEXT module m-pictex. This small module loads P_IC_TE_X in a more efficient way, using *skips* instead of *dimensions* when possible.

Hans Hagen

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How do I run PPCH_TE_X in CON_TE_XT?

PPCH_TE_X obeys the filename rules of CON_TE_XT. This means that it can be loaded with:

```
\usemodules [pictex,chemic]
```

or

```
\usemodules [pstricks,chemic]
```

Like CON_TE_XT this package supports more than one interface, like dutch and german. Of course one needs to use the loading command that belongs to the interface in use.

Hans Hagen

CON_TE_XT

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How do I run PPCT_EX in L^AT_EX?

You can basically run PPCT_EX in L^AT_EX like you do in PLAIN TeX. But instead of `\input` file you should say:

```
\usepackage{m-pictex}  
\usepackage{m-ch-en}
```

The file `m-pictex.tex` automatically loads the files `pre-pic` and `post-pic` which are needed for P₁CT_EX when using L^AT_EX.

Tobias Burnus

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How do I run PPCHT_EX in PLAIN T_EX?

Just say:

```
\input m-pictex  
\input m-ch-en
```

Some additional modules are loaded automatically. In fact there is no difference between loading in PLAIN T_EX and L^AT_EX.

Hans Hagen

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Who can answer my questions (mailing list)?

At the address `ntg-ppchtex@ntg.nl` you can contact those who have subscribed to the PPCH_TE_X mailing list. In this list you can ask for support of other users. In order to receive their answers and questions you have to subscribe.

To subscribe to the PPCH_TE_X listserver send this message:

To: `majordomo@ntg.nl`
Subject: `'ignored'`
Body: `subscribe ntg-ppchtex`

To get additional information about the commands send a message with `help` in the body to the listserver address. If you want to unsubscribe this list, send a mail to the listserver with the command `unsubscribe ntg-ppchtex` in the body. Both commands request a confirmation. The listserver will send you a mail and you have to confirm it.

Tobias Burnus

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When I run $\text{PPCHT}_{\text{E}}\text{X}$ in $\text{L}_{\text{A}}\text{T}_{\text{E}}\text{X}$, $\text{T}_{\text{E}}\text{X}$ runs out of dimension registers.

How do I run $\text{PPCHT}_{\text{E}}\text{X}$ in $\text{CON}_{\text{T}}\text{E}_{\text{X}}\text{T}$?

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