From edmac to reledmac and reledpar

History and expectations for critical editions with LaTeX

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1. What is a critical edition?

2. From edmac to ledmac and ledpar

3. From ledmac and ledpar to reledmac and reledpar

4. Summary of six years of work (2017/03/09)

5. Limits et expectations

Section 1

What is a critical edition?

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  - ▶ (Un)voluntary changes when copying a work from Antiquity or Middle Age
  - ▶ Many drafts for the same works (for modern writers)
  - ▶ For books after the invention of printing, divergences between the different prints (e.g. a novel published in a newspaper thereafter in a book)

Function of the editor

- Analyze the witnesses of the text

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- Compare them et find their mutual relationships

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- Maybe, do normalization (mainly orthographic)

Around the edited text

- ▶ An introduction, which justifies the choices of the editor

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- A *textual apparatus* showing

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- A *textual apparatus* showing
    - The corrections or the proposals of correction from the editor
    - The main textual variations
    - The problem of witnesses reading
    - All needed remarks about the transmission of a precise part of the text (e.g. corrections in a manuscript)

Frequent complements to a critical edition

▶ *Sources apparatus*

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- Notes about history or philology

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- Bibliography

Typographical consequences

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▶ Need notes which refer to one (or more) word on a page, on a precise line

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- ▶ Need many layers for the footnotes or endnotes
- ▶ Need notes which refer to one (or more) word on a page, on a precise line
- ▶ Need, sometime, to have a translation in parallel

(Fictional) example

1   The little cat died. It failed from the tower. Why is it
2   always a little cat that dies and never a pope that fails
3   from the tower?

---

1 cat] A: dog   1 died] B: passed away   2 always] C: *om.*   3 tower] AD: *add.* to the street

Section 2

From edmac to ledmac and ledpar

edmac

- For PlainTeX

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- ▶ For PlainTₑX
- ▶ John Lavignino and Dominik Wujastyk (1988-1989)
- ▶ Establish the bases
  - ▶ Lines numbering (with configuration)
  - ▶ Critical notes on multiple layers
- ▶ In 1994, thirteen works published with edmac

edmac

code 1: Minimal example with edmac

```
1  \beginnumbering
2  \pstart
3  \text{lemma}\Afootnote{note}\
4  \pend
5  \endnumbering
```

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⇒ The basis is here

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⇒ The basis is here
⇒ Later, completed by edstanza (poetry) and edtab (tables), also for PlainTEX

ledmac

- ▶ 2003: Peter Wilson ports edmac and related to LaTeX ⇒ ledmac

ledmac

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- "A presumptuous attempt to port EDMAC, TABMAC and EDSTANZA to LaTeX"

ledmac

- 2003: Peter Wilson ports **edmac** and related to $\LaTeX$ $\Rightarrow$ **ledmac**
- "A presumptuous attempt to port EDMAC, TABMAC and EDSTANZA to LaTeX"
- I did never understand this subtitle

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- Solves name conflicts (`\label`→`\edlabel`)
- Adds tools for indexation
- Adds "familiar" footnotes (with footnote mark) on multiple layers

ledmac

code 2: Minimal example with ledmac

```
1  \beginnumbering
2  \pstart
3  \edtext{lemma}{\Afootnote{note}}
4  \pend
5  \endnumbering
```

ledpar

- 2004: Peter Wilson creates ledpar

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- Allows to typeset two critical texts in parallel

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    - Two pages in parallel

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- Allows to typeset two critical texts in parallel
  - Two columns in parallel
  - Two pages in parallel
- Most frequent case: a text with its translation

ledpar

code 3: Example of ledpar use

```latex
\begin{pages}
  \begin{Leftside}
    \beginnumbering
    \pstart
    A left page.
    The paragraph is longer than on the right page.
    The package will do the synchronization.
    \pend
    \pstart
    An other paragraph on the left side.
    \pend
    \endnumbering
  \end{Leftside}
  \begin{Rightside}
    \beginnumbering
    \pstart
    A paragraph on the right side.
    \pend
    \pstart
    An other paragraph on the right side.
    \pend
    \endnumbering
  \end{Rightside}
\end{pages}
\Pages
```

ledarab

- ▶ 2003: Peter Wilson creates ledarab

ledarab

- 2003: Peter Wilson creates ledarab
- Is based on arabtex, but is compatible with ledmac features

Section 3

From ledmac and ledpar to reledmac and reledpar

How I became the maintainers of ledmac and ledpar

- ▶ 2003-2005: Peter Wilson maintains ledmac / ledpar

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- ▶ I integrate it to ledpar
- ▶ I propose it to the CTAN
- ⇒ I discover the LPPL and the maintainer system

Maintainer work

1. I open a Github repository

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Maintainer work

1. I open a Github repository
2. Many asks are send to me
3. In particular, some asks to easily customize the note displaying

eledmac and eledpar

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- ⇒ Add some entrance points to the commands, called "hooks"

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  - Redundant code in ledmac (note layers)
  - Hacks to customize displaying
    - Complex to be understood by users
    - Many time, not mutually compatible
- ⇒ Add some entrance points to the commands, called "hooks"
- ⇒ The hooks can be easily configured in the preamble

eledmac and eledpar

code 4: Example of hooks with eledmac

```
1  \numberonlyfirstinline%On the footnote, typeset
   ↪   the line number only if it is the first note for
   ↪   this line
2  \symlinenum{$||$}%Double pipe if we don't typeset
   ↪   the line number
```

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- ▶ Users don't need anymore to override low level commands ("internal")
- ▶ But I need to add an argument to these commands, in order to allow to configure the hooks depending of note layer
- ⇒ It breaks the compatibility for the people who modified the commands
- ⇒ Need to change the name in order to avoid problem when upgrading TₑX distributions

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eledmac and eledpar

- eledmac and eledpar
- "e" for "extended"...
- ... but also for etoolbox

eledmac and eledpar

- Stop maintaining ledarab

eledmac and eledpar

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- Writings from right to left must be managed by modern engines: X∃TEX or LuaTEX

reledmac and reledpar

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- ▶ Sometime, settings are made with command call, sometime whith command redefinition (\renewcommand)
- ▶ Some commands defined in eledmac are redefined in eledpar (\renewcommand) ⇒ More risks of error

reledmac and reledpar

- More and more hooks, which names are, sometime, not consistent
- Sometime, settings are made with command call, sometime whith command redefinition (`\renewcommand`)
- Some commands defined in eledmac are redefined in eledpar (`\renewcommand`) ⇒ More risks of error
- The output routine (`\output`) is overwritten and not patched ⇒More risks of incompatibility

reledmac and reledpar

- Rereading all the code

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  Name starting with Xend applicable the critical endnotes
- reledmac and reledpar: "r" as renewed

Section 4

Summary of six years of work (2017/03/09)

Statistics

▶ More than six hundred improvements / fixed bugs

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- ▶ More than six hundred improvements / fixed bugs
- ▶ More than two hundred releases

Statistics

- ► More than six hundred improvements / fixed bugs
- ► More than two hundred releases
- ► More than eight thousand commits

Main improvements

- Documentation

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  - Make clear distinction between

Main improvements

▶ Documentation
  ▶ Make clear distinction between
    ▶ The documentation of the user interface

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- More explicit error messages when an user makes syntax errors

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- ...

Section 5

Limits et expectations

Personal limits

- Time limits (unsalaried work)

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Personal limits

- Time limits (unsalaried work)
- English is not my native language
- No knowledge of some subtleties of modern engines for right-to-left writing

Complexities linked to reledmac/reledpar working

- Split paragraphs to lines with \vsplit ⇒ Problem with texts "outer of a classical paragraph" (titles, lists, images, etc.)

Complexities linked to reledmac/reledpar working

▶ Split paragraphs to lines with \vsplit ⇒ Problem with texts "outer of a classical paragraph" (titles, lists, images, etc.)

▶ Shift between the time a text is read by TₑX and the time it is typeset (especially reledpar) ⇒ Constant vigilance!

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- ▶ Code duplication between internal left commands and internal right commands

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  ▶ Some commands for the left text apply also in the mode "single text/single column"
  ▶ But the commands for the right text apply only the right text
▶ Code duplication between internal left commands and internal right commands
▶ Binary conception for parallel typesetting $\Rightarrow$ Impossible to expect to typeset three or more texts in parallel without rewriting around 90 % of the code

Wishes

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- Create figures to explain internal working of reledmac / reledpar

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Wishes

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- Create more and more MWE in order to avoid involuntary compatibility breaks
- Imply more the users in the project
  - Documentation
  - Examples
  - Easy problems to solve (?)
- Find a founding for one year after my actual contract in order to improve parallel typesetting

Thank you very much to DANTE !