



A Short Introduction to PostScript

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A short introduction to PostScript © Peter Fischer

What is PostScript ?

- Postscript is a language to describe graphic objects (& text)
- It is a vector format
 - Shapes, characters,.. are defined in an *exact*, mathematical way
 → objects / characters can be scaled, magnified, rotated...
 without loss of quality
 - Other vector formats are, for instance: *pdf* (portable data format) and *svg* (scalable vector graphics)
- Postscript is a *programming* language
 - Complex graphics can be described quickly and efficiently
 - They can be *parameterized* and changed *easily*
- Postscript devices (printers) must be intelligent, because they must *interpret* the language
 - Otherwise, the host computer must do the translation. Most often using the (free) tool 'ghostscript'

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Why Use & Know About Postscript ?

- Simple manual generation of high quality graphics
- Graphics can be parameterized
- Automatic generation of graphics from within other programs
- Small files
- Exact dimensions
- Postscript is (still) common for LaTeX
- Sometimes, modification of available .ps or .eps files is required
 - Change a font
 - Modify colors or line width
 - Add water mark
- Many concepts are used in other languages (pdf, swift)
- Generating Graphics can be fun !

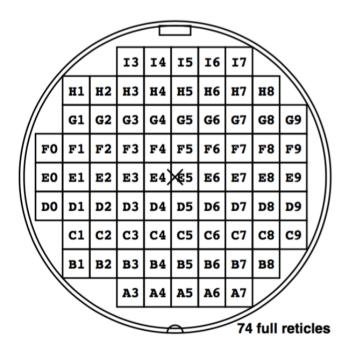


Arrangement of chips in a 'reticle':

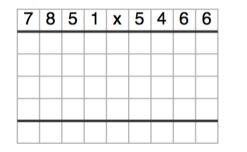
	SPADIC1.1 5000 x 6000	PETA6N 5100 x 6000	PETA6SE 5100 x 6000
PIXEL 4000 x 2144	PETA6P 5000 x 5200	PETA6P 5100 x 5200	PETA6P 5100 x 5200
	DCD_B 5000 x 3280	DCD_B 5100 x 3280	DCD_H 5100 x 3280
	DCD_B 5000 x 3280	DCD_B 5100 x 3280	DCD_H 5100 x 3280
	DCD_B 5000 x 3280	DCD_B 5100 x 3280	DCD_H 5100 x 3280

Reticle size is 19500 x 21440

Reticles on a wafer



Math exercises for your kids (with random generator):



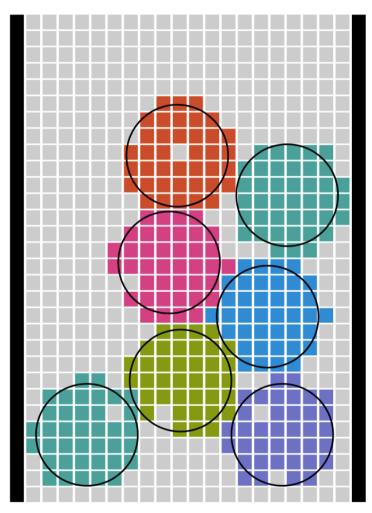
3	3	X	7	7	1

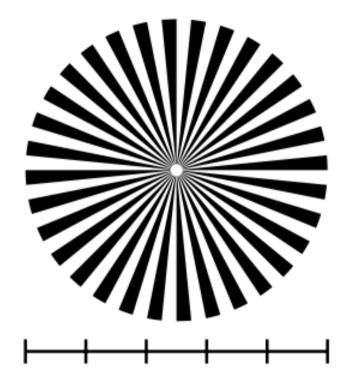
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More Examples

Illustration of a sensor readout

Siemensstern

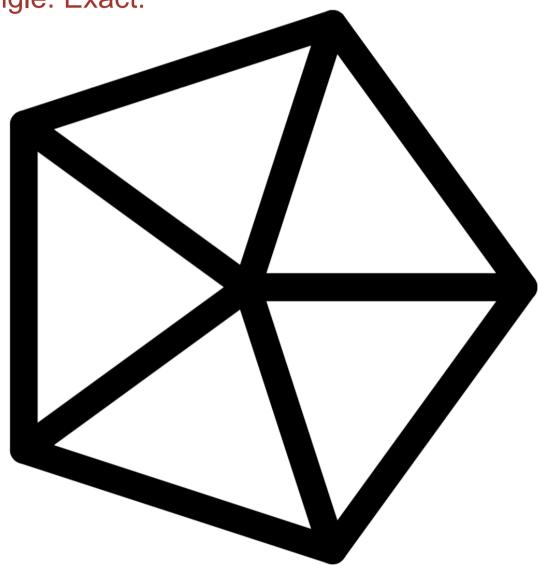






More Examples

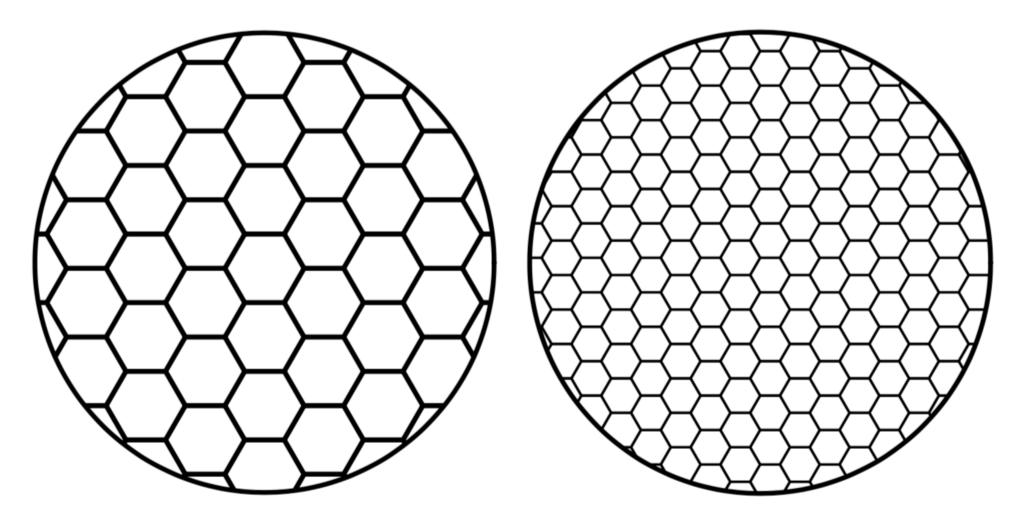
Any Angle. Exact:





More Examples

Exact Dimensions, exact clipping:



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What is the drawback?

- Postscript is used less and less (replaced by pdf)
- Importing .eps in other documents is often difficult
 - It is simple in LaTeX (pdfLaTeX requires .pdf, but conversion from .eps → .pdf is simple and robust)
- Conversions often lead to quality loss.

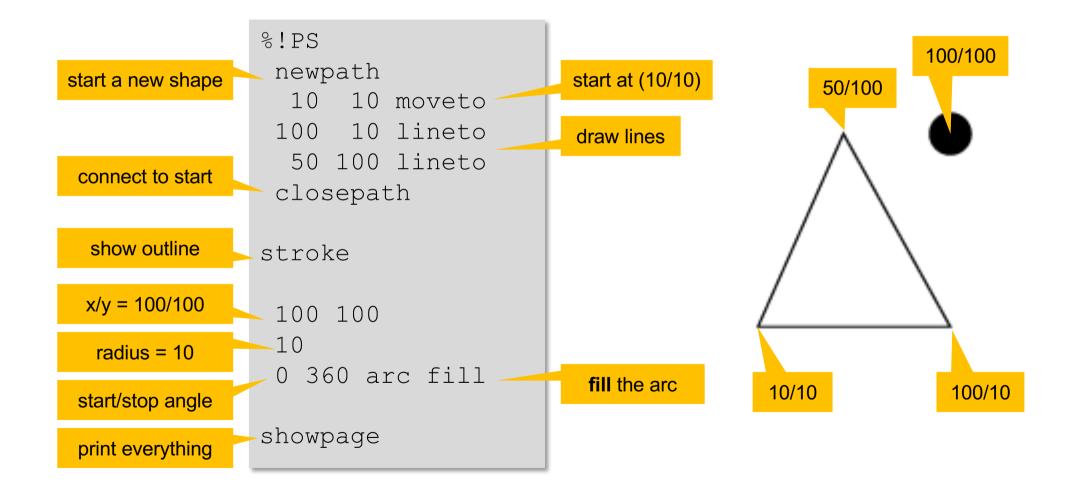
- Why not pdf?
 - pdf is *much* more complicated!
 - A 'minimal' pdf file is already lengthy
 - Hard to do 'by hand' because bytes need to be counted!
 - See the (short) intro to pdf later in the lecture...

Getting Information

- Postscript Language Reference Manual ('PLRM')
 - https://www.adobe.com/content/dam/acom/en/devnet/actionscri pt/articles/PLRM.pdf
- Language Tutorial and Cookbook (the 'Blue Book')
 - https://www-cdf.fnal.gov/offline/PostScript/BLUEBOOK.PDF
- Language Program Design (the 'Green Book'):
 - https://www-cdf.fnal.gov/offline/PostScript/GREENBK.PDF
- Many Web sites of good quality (see Lecture Page)

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Simple Example 1: Triangle + Circle



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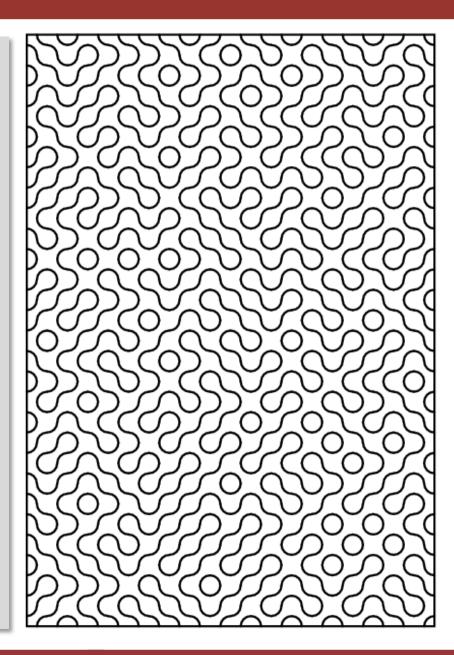
Viewing Postscript Files

- On Linux machines, files can be viewed with
 - gv (on the CIP Pool machines)
 - evince (on the CIP Pool machines)
 - ghostview, okkular, ShowView, GSView,...
 - ...there is always a viewer...
- On windows
 - Ghostview (must be installed, I do not know about new versions of Windows...)
- On MAC
 - Using Preview (for .eps).
 - ps files are converted to pdf automatically
- Always need GhostScript to interpret the language
 - GhostScript is also used to convert ps/eps \rightarrow pdf, png, jpg...

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Advanced Example 2: Truchet Pattern

%!PS-Adobe-3.0 EPSF-3.0 %%BoundingBox: 0 0 595 842 2.835 dup scale 5 4 translate 1 setlinecap 0 0 200 290 rectstroke 100 145 translate /W 10 def /W2 { W 2 div } bind def /DRAWUNIT { gsave translate rotate W2 neg W2 neg W2 0 90 arc stroke W2 W2 W2 180 270 arc stroke grestore } def -95 W 95 { /x exch def $-140 W 140 \{$ /y exch def rand 4 mod 90 mul x y DRAWUNIT } for } for showpage



File Structure

- File MUST start with %!PS (may add PS version number)
 - If forgotten, (most) printers will output (a lot of) ASCII stuff...
- PostScript is CaseSensitive!
- Blanks and Line breaks are irrelevant
- Comments
 - In-Line comments start with
 - & ... commented code here ...
 - Larger code blocks can be commented with
 - false {
 - ... commented code here ...
 - } if
- Files have extension .ps
- To actually print, the file must end with showpage



- .eps files contains some additional meta-information
- These 'encapsulated postscript files' have extension .eps
- eps type is announced in first line by EPSF text:

```
%!PS-Adobe-3.0 EPSF-3.0
%%BoundingBox: 0 0 595 842
...
```

All eps meta information is added as comment with '%%'

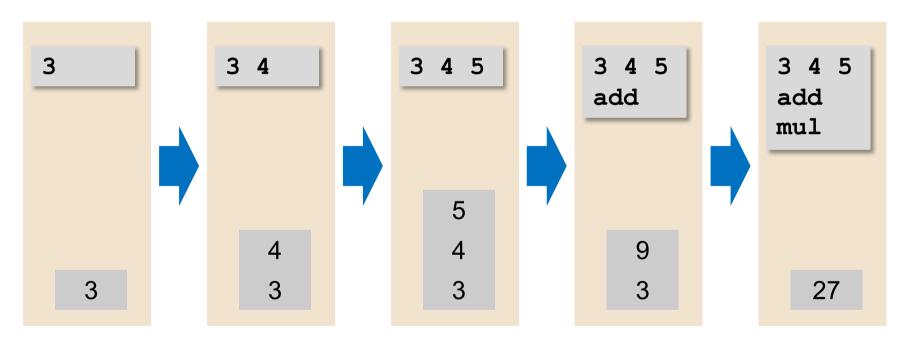
- Most important (and the only required) information: size of the viewing area = BoundingBox:
- parameters (in integer postscript units) are:

%%BoundingBox: x_botleft y_botleft x_topright y_topright

Best always use .eps !!!



- PostScript uses
 - a stack (Last In First out)
 - RPN (Reverse Polish Notation) = UPN (Umgekehrt Poln. Notation):
 Operands are put to stack **first**, operator is **last**
- Example 3 4 5 add mul \rightarrow (4+5) × 3

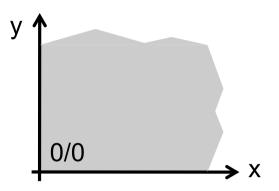


Operators can have 1 or more arguments

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Coordinate System, Lengths and Points

- Origin (0/0) is **BOTTOM LEFT**
- X is to the *RIGHT*
- Y is UPWARD



- I PostScript Unit = 1 Point = 1/72 inch = 0.353 mm
 - (1 inch = 1 Zoll = 2.54 cm exactly)
- Convert mm to point by multiplying with 72 / 25.4 = 2.835..
- By defining the command (see later...)

/mm { 2.835 mul } def

you can just write

15 mm

in your code!

Later we will use the scale command to change units...

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The Page / Sheet Size

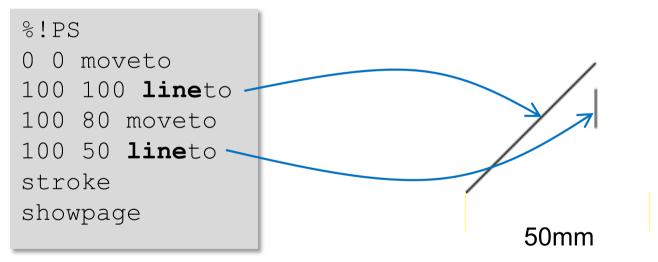
- 'sheet' size & orientation (in .ps) are undefined.
 - They depend on the 'viewer' or printer
 - (This is a drawback. This is better in .eps and .pdf!)
- The sheet size can be 'fixed' as a 'bounding box' using an eps command, see before...
 - %!PS-Adobe-3.0 EPSF-3.0
 - %%BoundingBox: llx lly urx ury

(**11x** = lower left x, ... using *integer postscript* units)

- A4 (portrait) paper has
 - width = 210 mm = 595.28... points
 - height = 297 mm = 841.89... points
 - %%BoundingBox: 0 0 595 842 % A4 portrait

Hello World

- Shapes / Outlines are defined as *paths*.
 A *path* is a sequence of straight lines / bends / gaps / ...
- x y moveto moves the ,pen' to coordinate [x y]
- x y lineto draws a line from the last point to [x y]
- stroke executes the path drawing

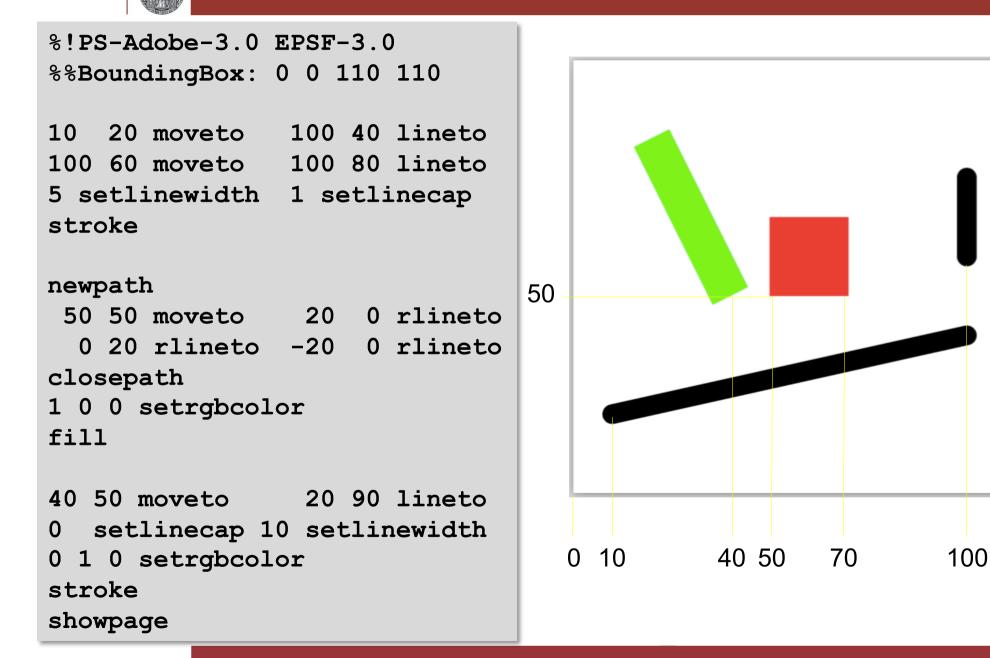


- Remember: 100 Units = 100 × 0.353 mm = 35.3 mm
- rmoveto and rlineto are relative to the last point
- Note: You **MUST** first move to 0 0!

Drawing and Filling Paths

- A path can be started with newpath
- The command closepath connects the last active point to the starting point (see Example 1 on slide 10)
- A path can be used for further operations (e.g. clipping,...)
- Using a path is not always necessary
- To draw a path (or sequence of moveto / lineto commands)
 - stroke draws the outline
 - the width of the line can be set with value setlinewidth
 - the shape of the line end can be set with value setlinecap
 - the shape of corners is set with value setlinejoin.
 - fill fills the inner part with the presently selected color
- x y w h rectstroke is a shortcut to draw a rectangle
- Color can be set with r g b setrgbcolor (r,g,b = 0.0 ... 1.0) or with g setgray (for gray values)

One More Example



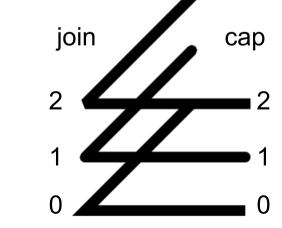
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Working in Linux on the CIP Pool

- Log in on one of the CIP Pools machines
 - chose a shell (I use Gnome)
- To work remote, use a browser and url https://physik1.kip.uni-heidelberg.de (or physik2 or physik3)
- Create a subdirectory with mkdir DIRNAME
- Move to the subdirectory with cd DIRNAME
- Edit files for instance with gedit filename.ps &
- View your file with evince filename.ps &



- Draw a line from (10,10) to (40, 10) to (20,30)
 - Change the width of the line
 - Play with shape of the line ends and the shape of the corners (use values 0...2 and a 'thick' line).
 - Can you find out the difference between cap = 0 and 2?
- Draw a square of 30 units size with its lower left corner at (50,10)
 - Use moveto and lineto
 - Use also newpath and closepath
 - Fill the square with green color



Mathematics

- PostScript knows several mathematical functions.
- Remember RPN: first operand(s), then operator
 - •x y sub $\rightarrow x y$. Also: add, mul, div, idiv, mod
 - •x abs $\rightarrow |x|$. Also: neg, round, floor
 - •x sin $\rightarrow sin(x)$. Also: cos, (no tan), ln, log, sqrt
 - •x y atan $\rightarrow \arctan(x/y)$ (in degrees)
- Angles are given (as floats) in *degrees* (i.e. 0...360)

Examples:

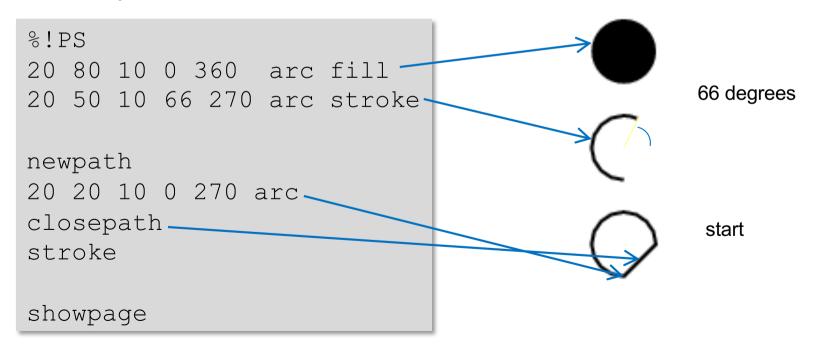
- $(2+3) \times 4 \rightarrow 2$ 3 add 4 mul
- 2 + 3 × 4 \rightarrow 2 3 4 mul add
- Sqrt (3 + 4) \rightarrow 3 4 add sqrt

(Random Numbers)

- Random (integer) numbers can be obtained with
 rand → random *integer* number
- A seed can be set with
 - value srand
- To obtain a different seed every time you 'run' (print) the postscript file, you can use a command that returns an integer time (in ms):
 - realtime \rightarrow integer time value on stack
 - realtime srand \rightarrow initialize with new value at each run

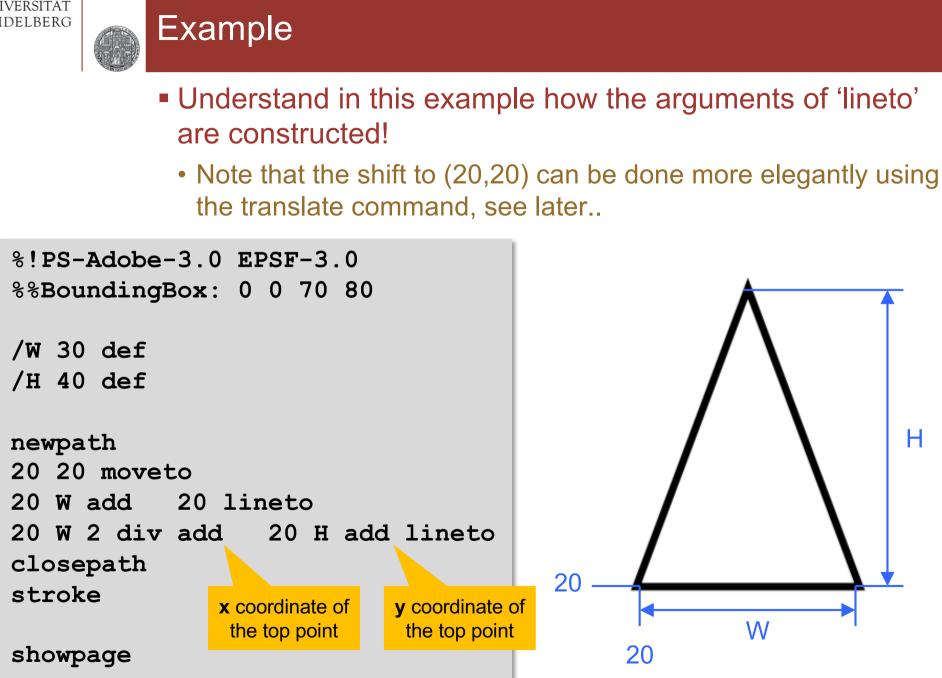
Drawing Arcs

- Arcs (parts of circles) are defined using
 x y radius phistart phistop arc
- Angles are in degrees, relative to x-axis
- arc turns counter clock wise, arcn turns clock wise
- They can be filled or stroked.
- Example:



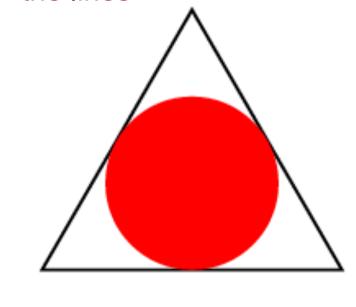
Defining Constants & Functions

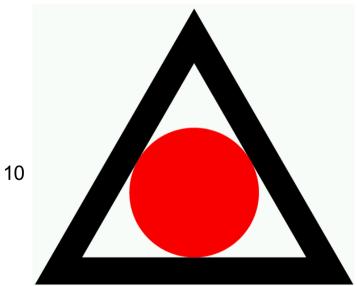
- Defining a 'fix' constant:
 - /name value def
 - Example: /PI 3.141 def
- Defining a 'calculated' constant:
 - /name commands def
 - Example: /TWO_PI PI 2 mul def
- (Constants can be called more efficiently with a double slash:
 //PI ... def)
- Defining a *function*:
 - •/name { commands } def
 - Example: /ADDFIVE { 5 add } def 3 ADDFIVE $\rightarrow 8$
- What happens?
 - The pair (name definition) is stored in a *dictionary* by def



Exercise 2

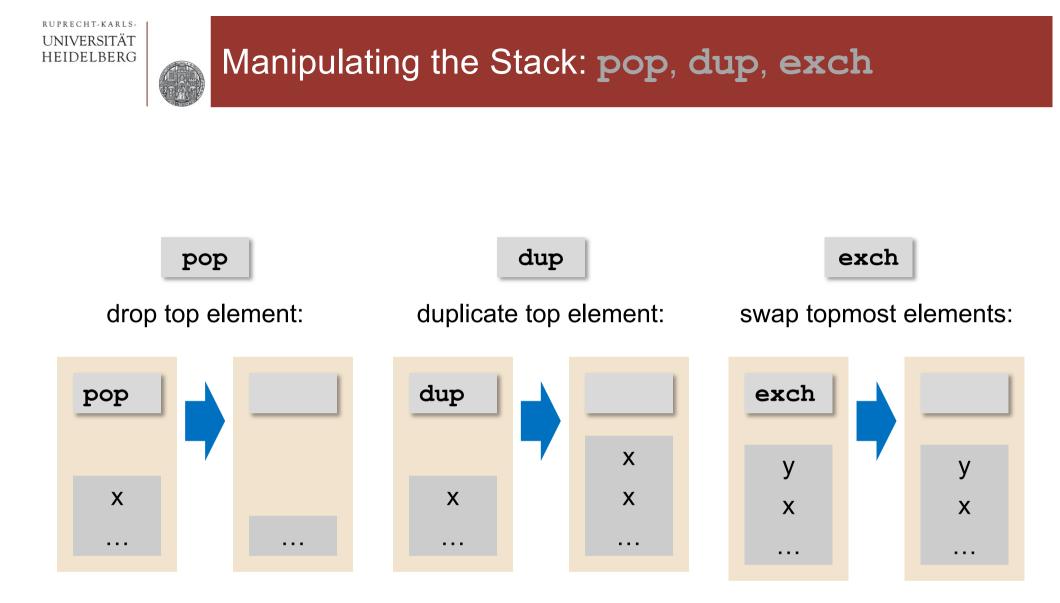
- Draw a triangle with equal sides
 - Start at (10,10), side length =100. Use a variable: /W 100 def
 - You have to do so some simple math for find the height H. Do it in postscript!
- Make the lines wide (for instance 10 points)
- Add a red, filled circle in the center which just touches the lines

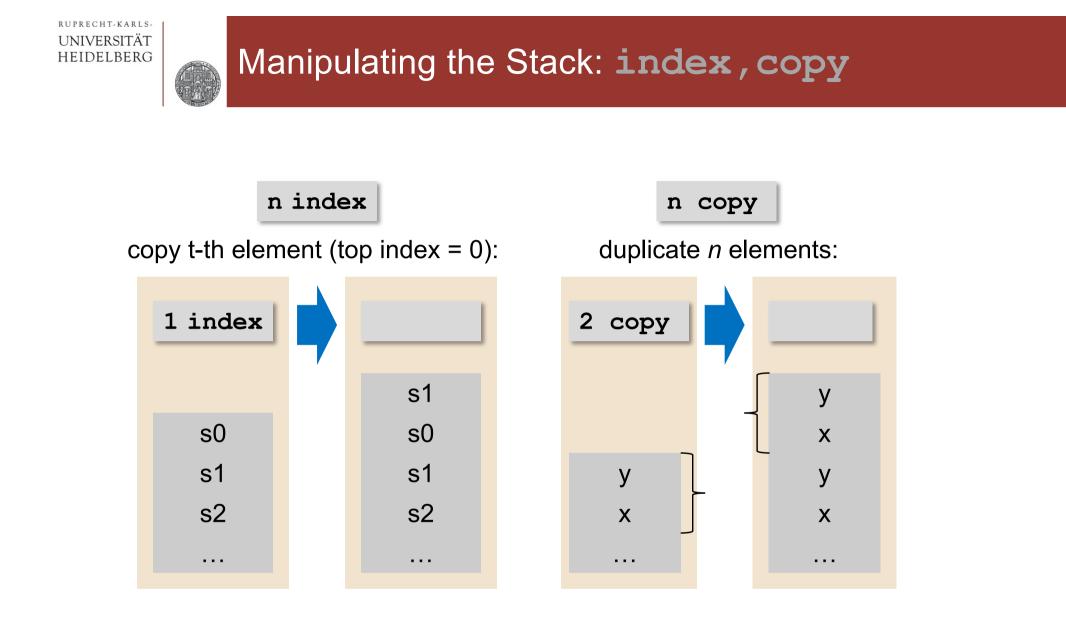




(10, 10)



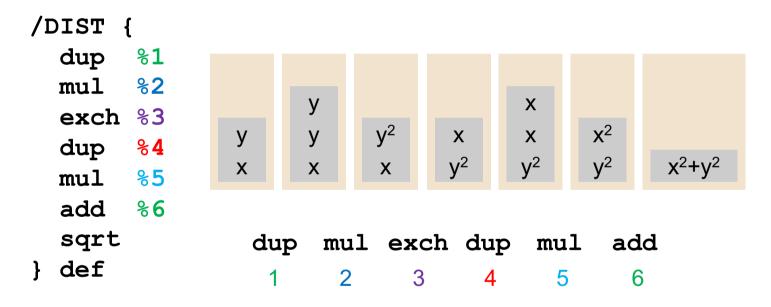




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Passing Values to Functions

- Parameters are passed on the stack
 - They can be used using stack manipulation commands
 - Example: Define $DIST(x,y) = sqrt(x^2+y^2)$.
 - Assume x,y on stack:



- Usage: 3.2 1.7 dist \rightarrow 3.6235
- Note: Functions can remove parameters or leave the stack intact. Stack over- / under-flows are very common mistakes!

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Defining and Assigning Local Variables

- Values on the stack can be assigned to local variables:
 - /NAME exch def
 - (assume x is on the stack, then x /NAME exch leads to /NAME x, so that the def works normally)
- Example: Define DIST(x,y) = sqrt(x²+y²)

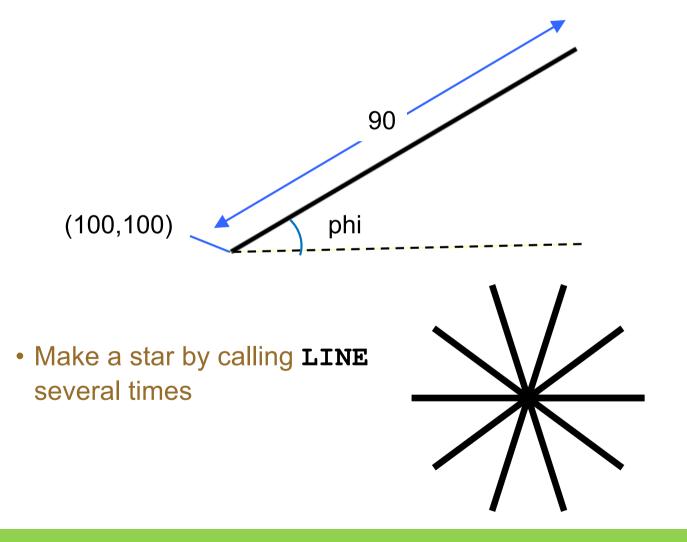
```
/DIST {
   /y exch def % topmost argument first!
   /x exch def % now the stack is empty!
   x x mul % on stack: x<sup>2</sup>
   y y mul % on stack: x<sup>2</sup> y<sup>2</sup>
   add
   sqrt
} def
```

 This is much less efficient, because names must be looked up in a 'Dictionary'. (Furthermore, the variables are global!)

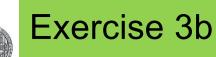




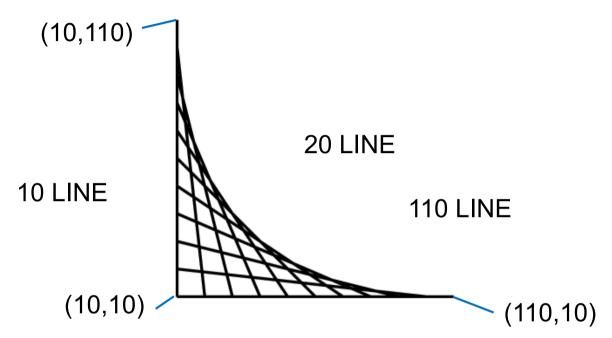
Define a function LINE which draws a line of length 90 in an angle phi (on stack), starting at 100/100:







Draw the following picture:

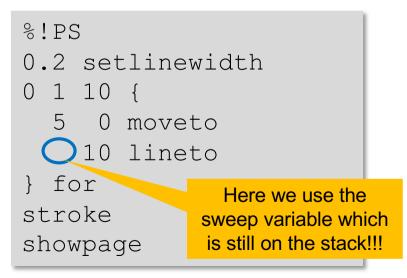


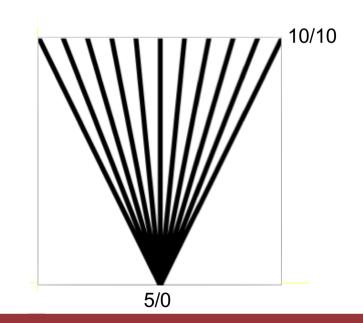
- First draw (a few) individual lines
- Next, define a function **LINE** which gets *one* value from the stack which indicates the *start of the line on the x-axis*.
- The drawing is then done by a sequence of LINE commands: 10 LINE 20 LINE 30 LINE ...

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- There are several possibilities for repeating code
- We only treat 'for' loops here: istart istep imax { ...commands... } for
 - The loop value is put on the stack in each iteration (istart, istart+istep, istart+2 istep, ..., *including* imax)
 - Then the commands are called They MUST consume (remove) the value from the stack
 - The loop variable can be assigned with /i exch def
- Example:

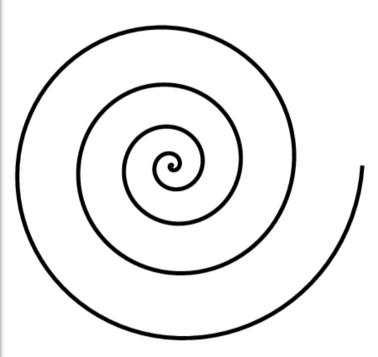




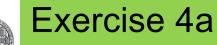
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Loops: Another Example

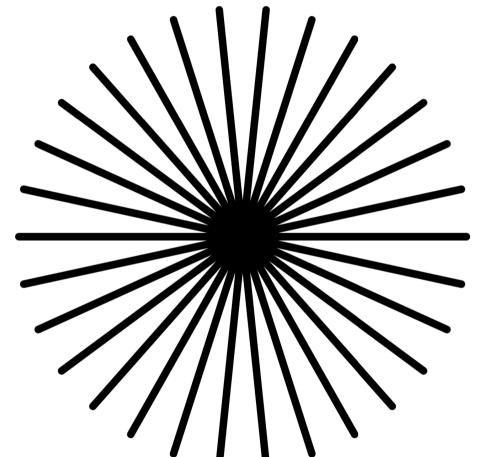
%!PS /X0 50 def % center position /Y0 50 def /RMAX 48 def % outer radius /NTURN 5 def % number of turns /PHIMAX 360 NTURN mul def % maximal angle X0 Y0 moveto % start in center 0 10 PHIMAX { /phi exch def % keep loop var. % (drop from stack!) phi PHIMAX div % get a value from 0 to 1 dup mul RMAX mul % square and scale dup % we need this for x and y phi cos mul X0 add % this is x exch % get radius on top of stack phi sin mul Y0 add % this is y % draw a line lineto } for stroke showpage







- Modify exercise 3a using a for-loop for calling LINE
- Play with the increment



Try to implement the loop without an extra LINE routine





- Modify exercise 3 using a for-loop for calling LINE
- Play with the increment
- Try to implement the loop without an extra LINE routine

Conditionals

- Conditional expression are possible
 - •boolval {...commands...} if
 - •boolval {...cmds (true)...} {...cmds (false)...} ifelse
- Boolean values can be

• true	%!PS
• false	/BOX { % Assume bool value on stack
•x y eq	<pre>{1 0 0} {0 0 1} ifelse setrgbcolor</pre>
•x y gt	0 0 10 10 rectstroke
•bool1 bool2 or	} def
•bool not	1 1 translate true BOX
•	12 0 translate false BOX
	showpage
	showpage

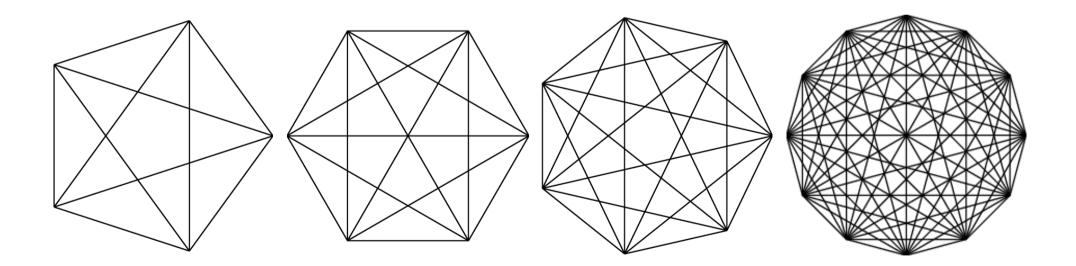
 Can be used to comment out larger parts of code





Exercise 5

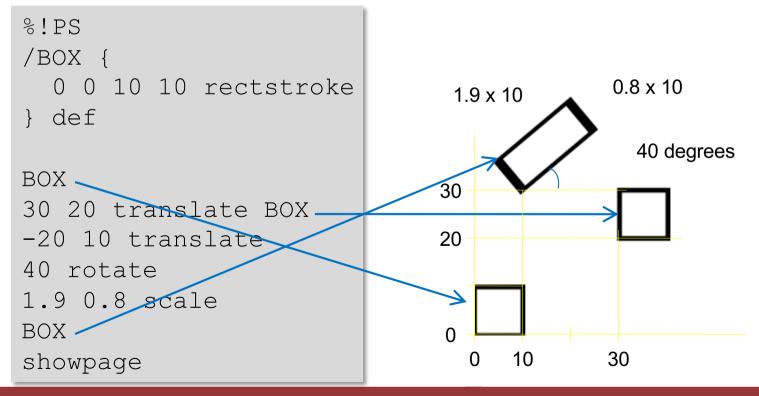
- This exercise is inspired by a problem in the 'Mathekalender' 2011 which offers a mathematics competition every year at http://www.mathekalender.de
- Draw an N-fold polygon with all inner connections...
 - Use two a double loop with 2 indices for the corners
 - Use a function to convert corner index to x/y (using trigonometry)



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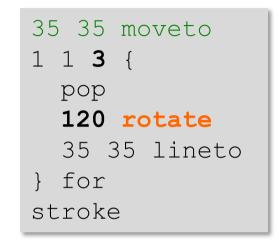
Translating and Scaling Things

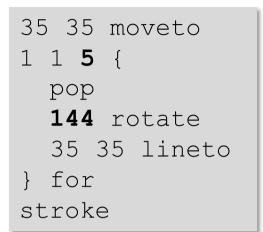
- The coordinate system can be translated, scaled and rotated at any time.
- New transformations are 'added on top'
 - •x y translate
 - x y scale % negative arguments are allowed \rightarrow flip
 - phi rotate % angle in degree, as always

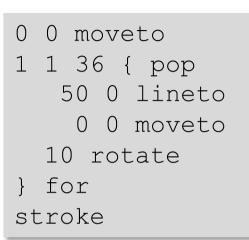


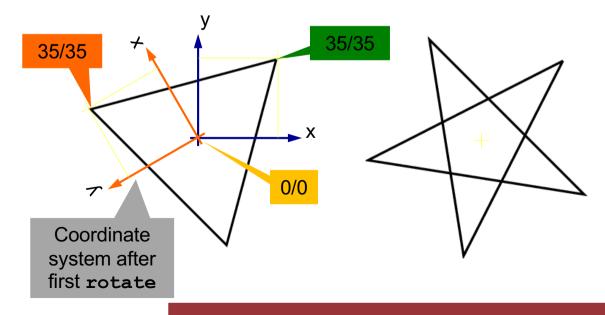
Applications of Coordinate Transformations

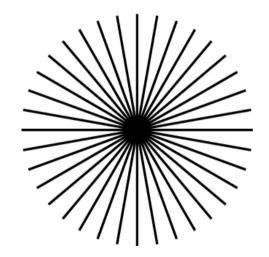
Coordinate Transformations can simplify code a lot:





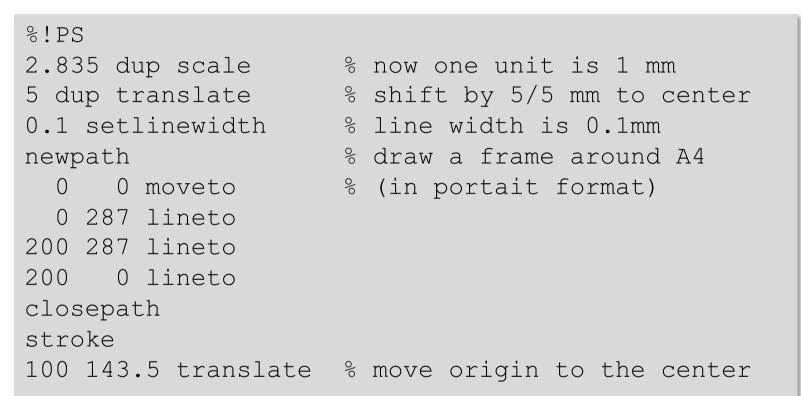






Converting Orientation and Units

With

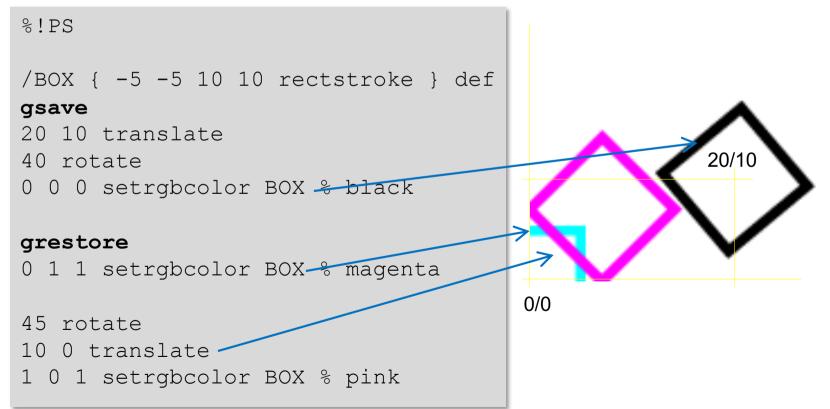


drawing can start in the center, in mm units.

• A frame is drawn around a A4 sheet.

Saving the Graphic State

- Temporary scaling / translating... operations often lead to 'corrupt' coordinate systems
- The graphics state can be remembered with gsave and restored with grestore
- Example:



Exercise 6

- Understand how the Truchet Pattern on page 9 works
- Copy the code and play around
 - Change the number of tiles
 - Change the size of the tiles
- Replace the rounded tile by a triangle



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Also: selectfont

Drawing Text

- Strings are delimited by (). Example: (text)
- Before drawing a font must be selected:
 - /name findfont put font 'name' to stack (height is 1 unit)

(Or currentfont)

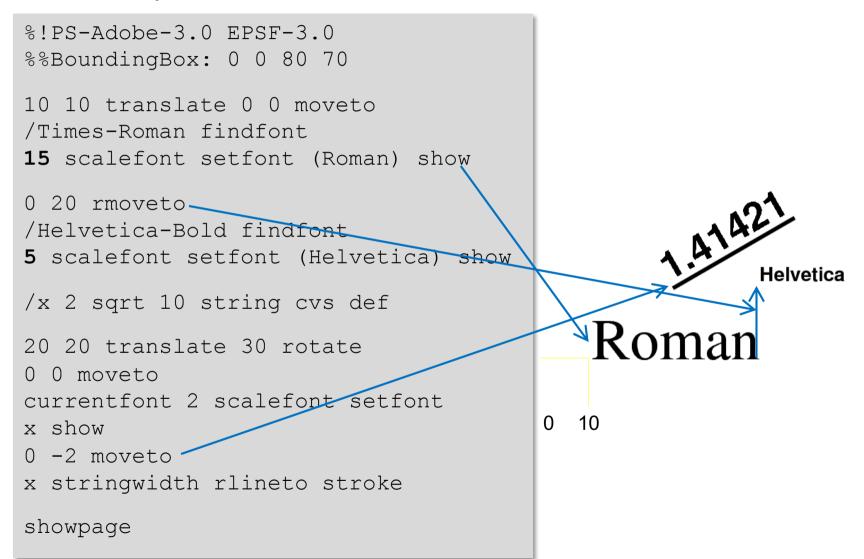
Some font names:

- Times-Roman
- Helvetica-Bold
- Courier
- value scalefont resize (multiply) font (leave on stack)
 setfont use it from now on (remove from stack)
- Show a string (which is on the stack): show
 - start at current point
 - current point moves to end of string!
- Convert a number to a string: value 10 string cvs
- Get width of a string: strval stringwidth (get x and y)
 - Note: y is always zero and must often be poped



Drawing Text: Example

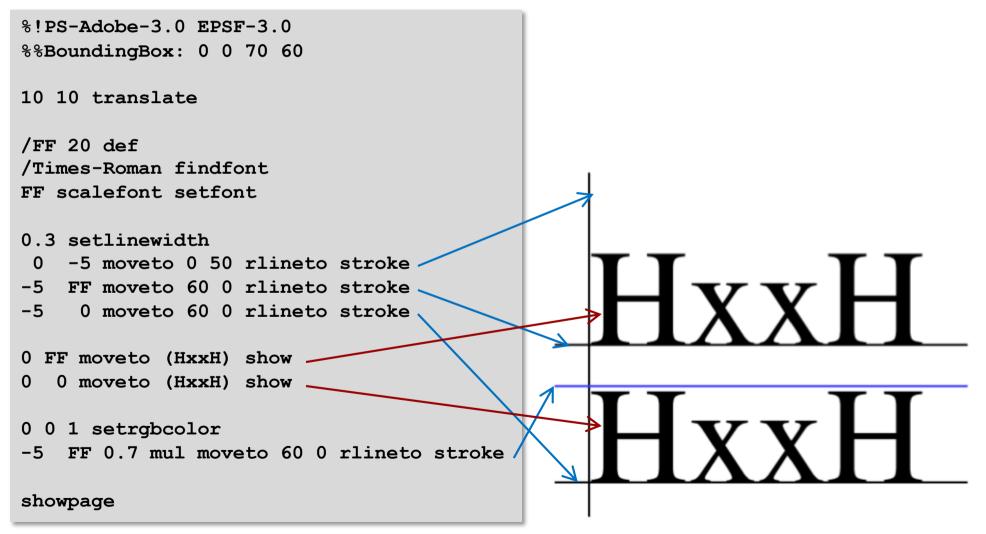
• Example:



(A Detail: Font Size)

Font height is from baseline to baseline

Character height is ~ 0.7 x font height (depending on font)

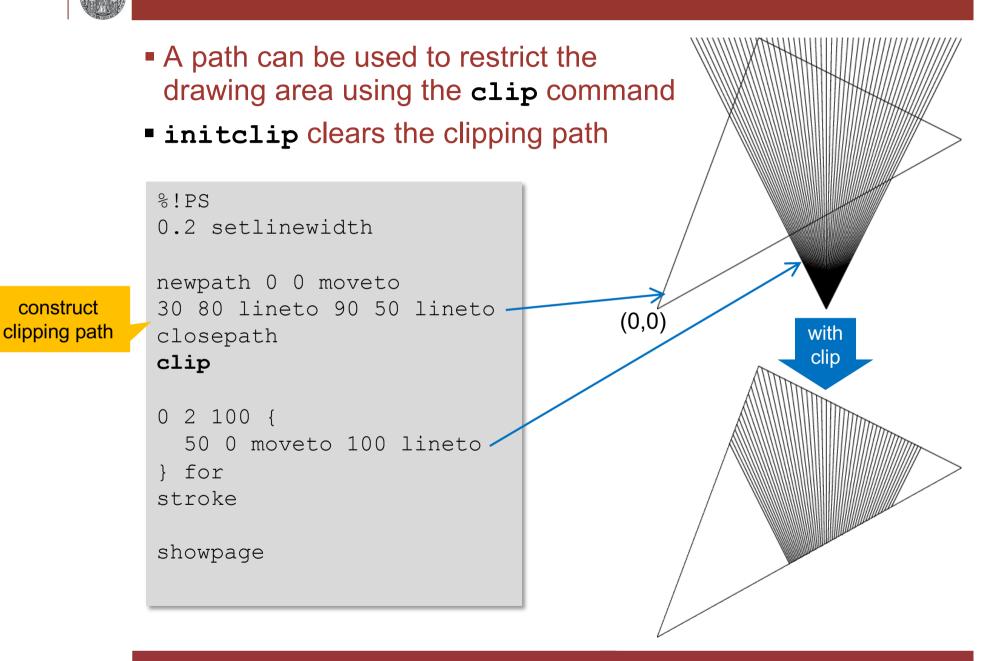


Exercise 7

- Draw a box from (10,10) to (50,30)
- Print some text centered in the box
 - Use stringwidth to get the x- and y size of the text
 - Unfortunately, the y size is zero and cannot be used! Use the font height you have chosen instead.

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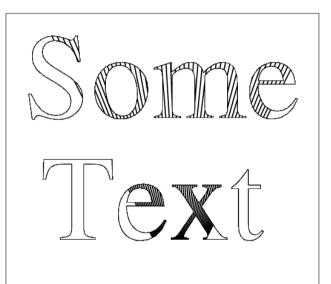
Advanced Topic: Clipping



(For fun: charpath)

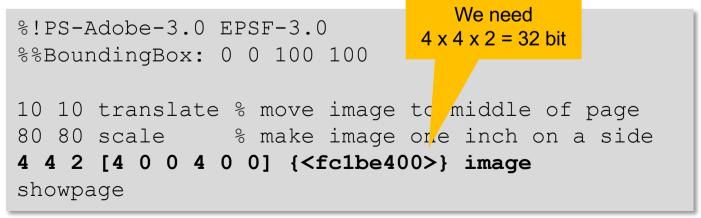
- The outline of characters can be converted to a path using the charpath command.
- Example using clip:

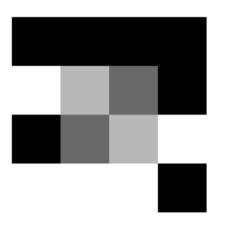
```
%!PS-Adobe-3.0 EPSF-3.0
%%BoundingBox: 0 0 90 80
0.3 setlinewidth
/Times-Roman findfont
35 scalefont setfont
 5 50 moveto (Some) false charpath
10 15 moveto (Text) false charpath
clip
0 2 100 {
  50 0 moveto
    100 lineto
} for
stroke
showpage
```



Advanced: Bit Maps

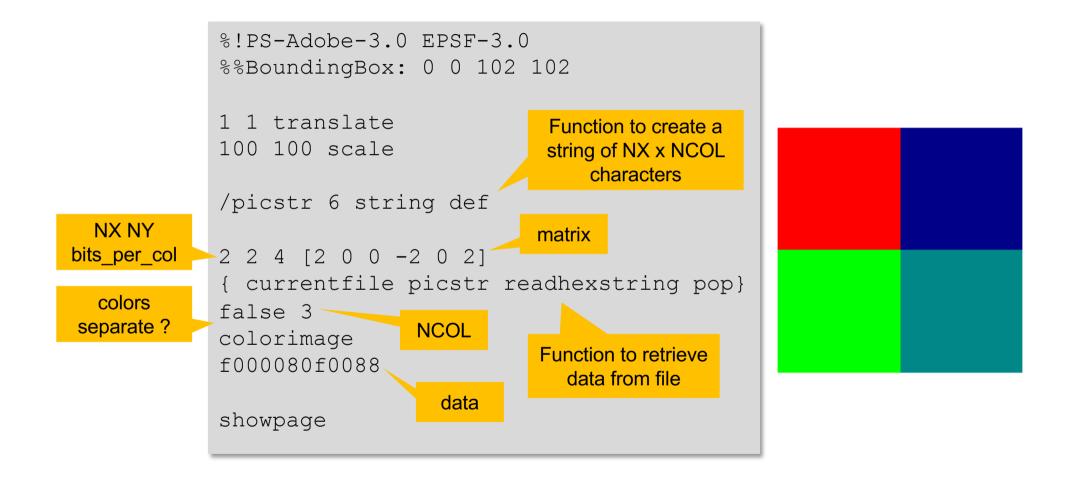
- The command image draws a bit map in a unit square
 - To change size: scale before in x- and y
- Parameters are:
 - Number of pixels in x
 - Number of pixels in y
 - Bits per pixel
 - A rotation matrix (not explained here..)
 - A function to get the values. Simplest case is a list of values
- Similar command is colorimage
 - It has some more parameters...





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(Example for colorimage)

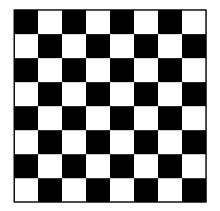


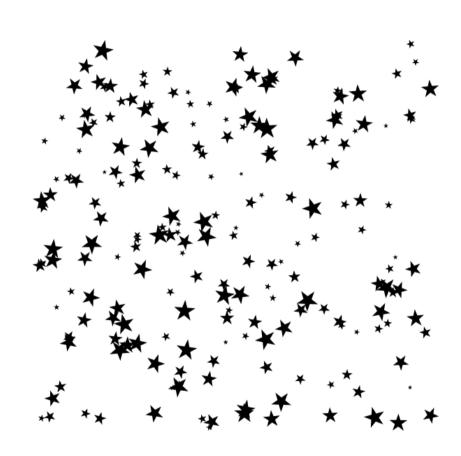
Homework

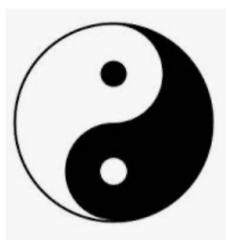
- Generate a Postscript Drawing with at least the following ingredients:
 - eps file with 10 x 10 cm² drawing size
 - Your name printed centered at the bottom
 - Several graphics elements
 - Several colors or gray levels
 - At least one loop
 - (as a minimum, repeat some element multiple times)

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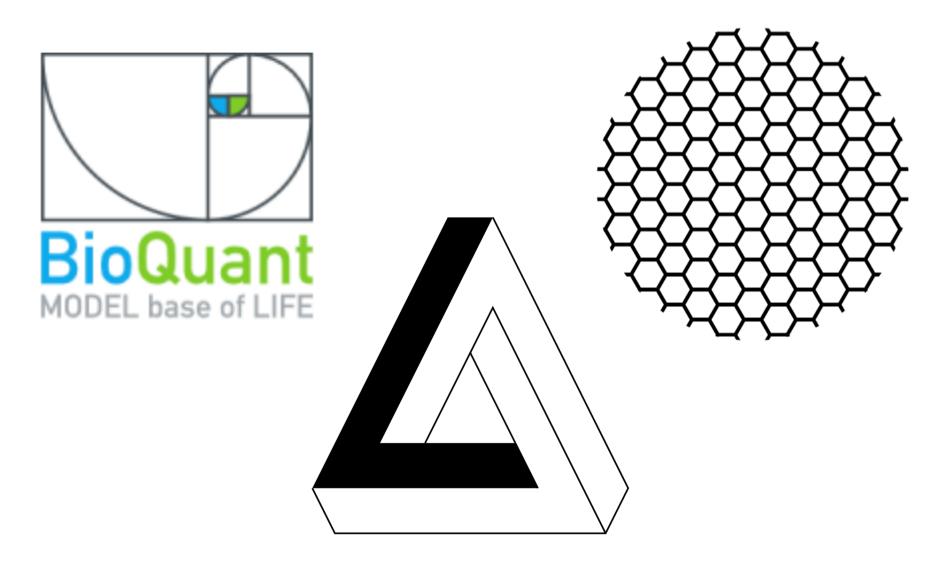
















More Inspirations



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More Inspirations

- Draw Pascal's Triangle (<u>https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pascalsches_Dreieck</u>)
- Put a marker (circle, triangle,..) at the position of on all numbers which are multiples of some modulus K
- Examples:

