



A Short Introduction to PostScript

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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'



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 !**



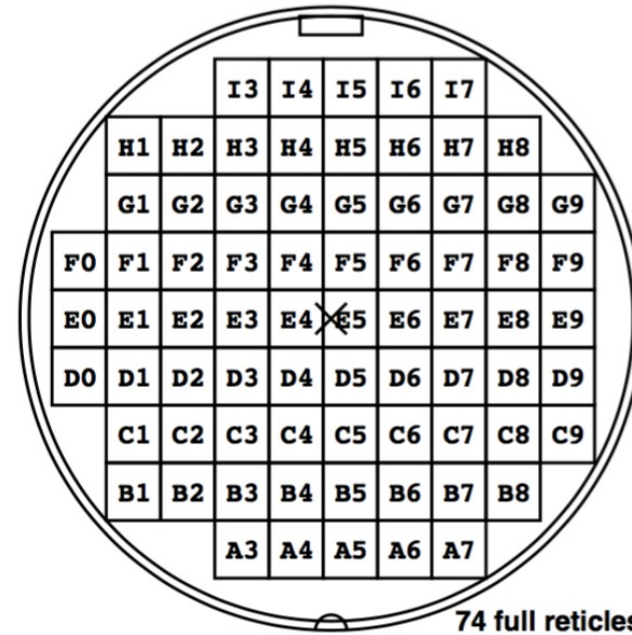
Examples

- Arrangement of chips in a 'reticle':

PIXEL 4000 x 21440	SPADIC1.1 5000 x 6000	PETA6N 5100 x 6000	PETA6SE 5100 x 6000
	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
	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



74 full reticles

- Math exercises for your kids (with random generator):

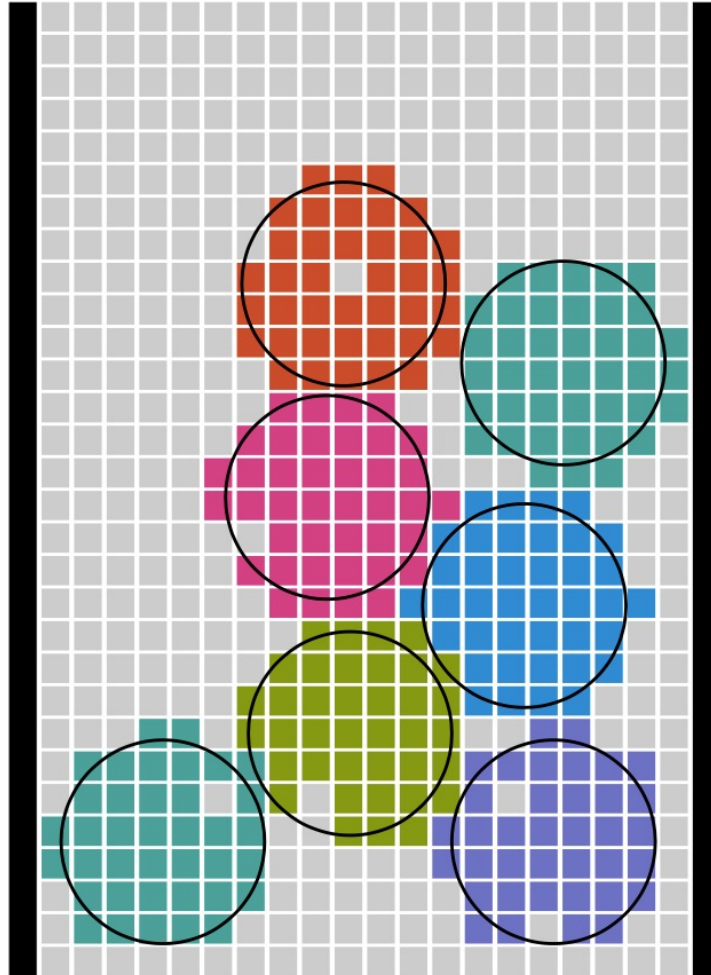
7	8	5	1	x	5	4	6	6

3	3	x	7	7	1

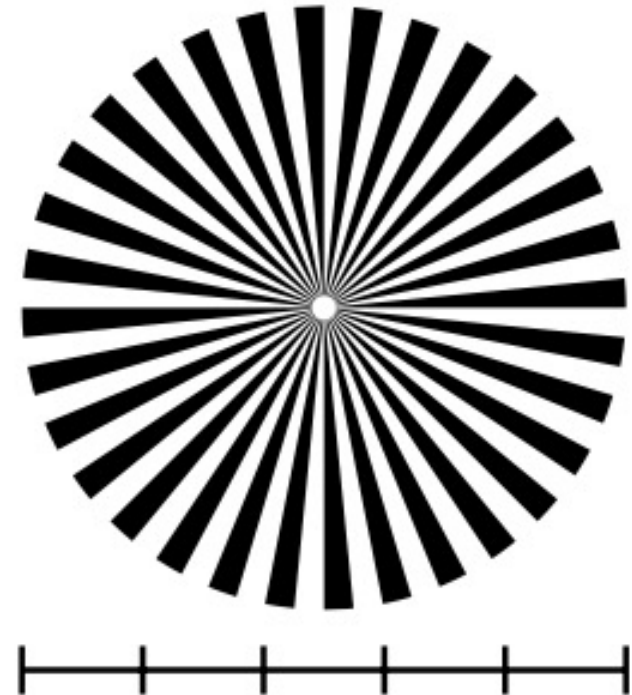


More Examples

- Illustration of a sensor readout



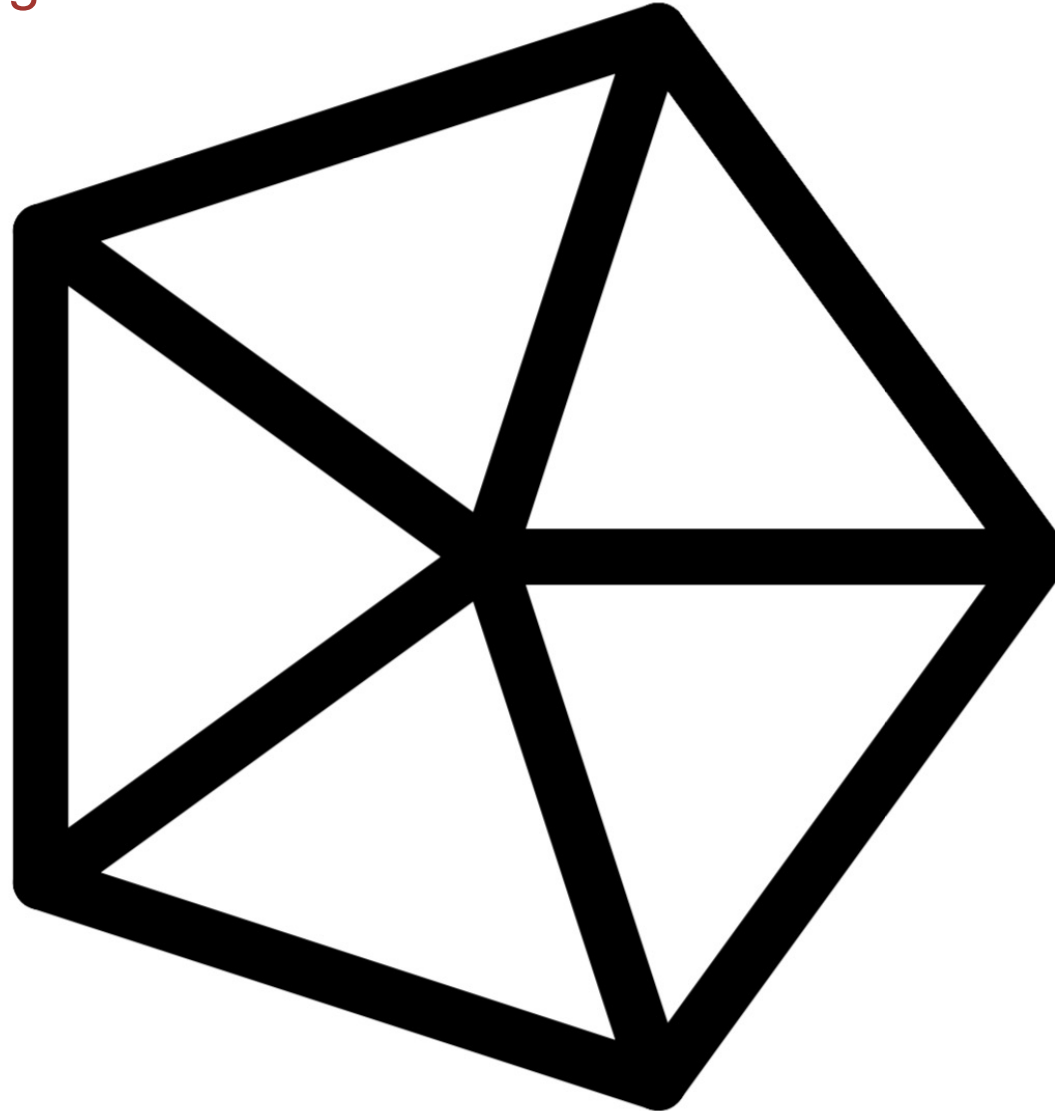
Siemensstern





More Examples

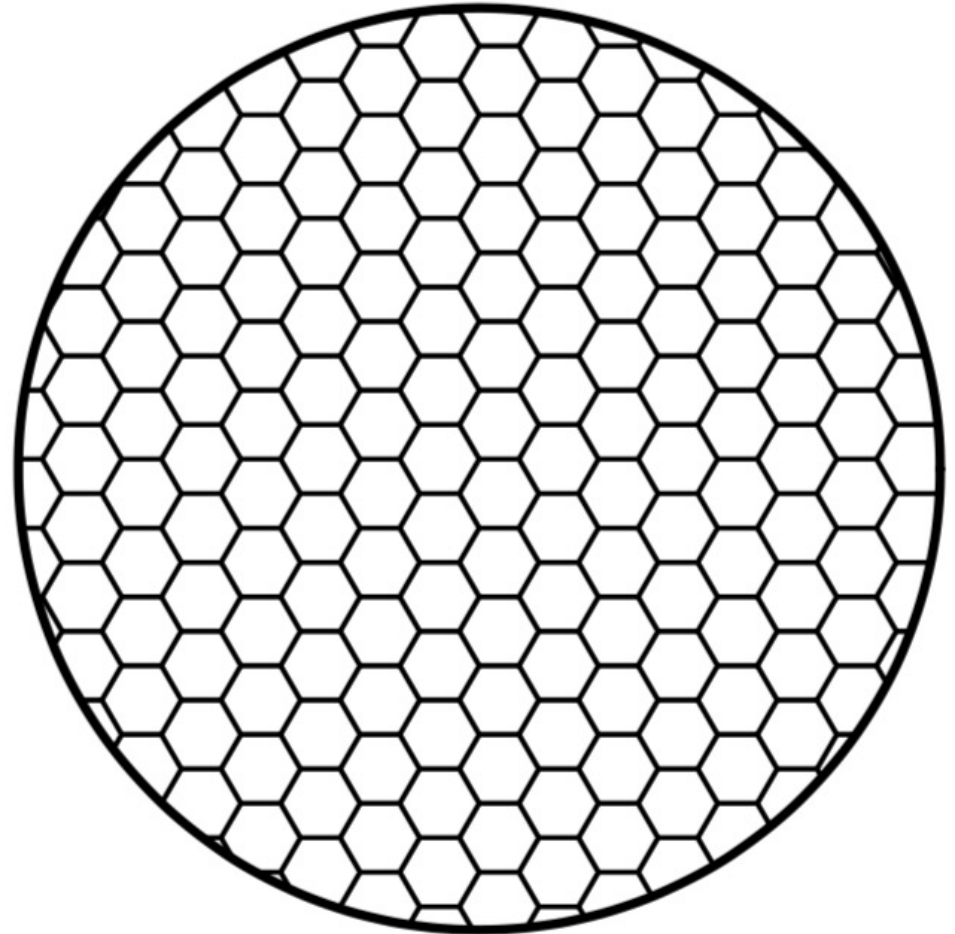
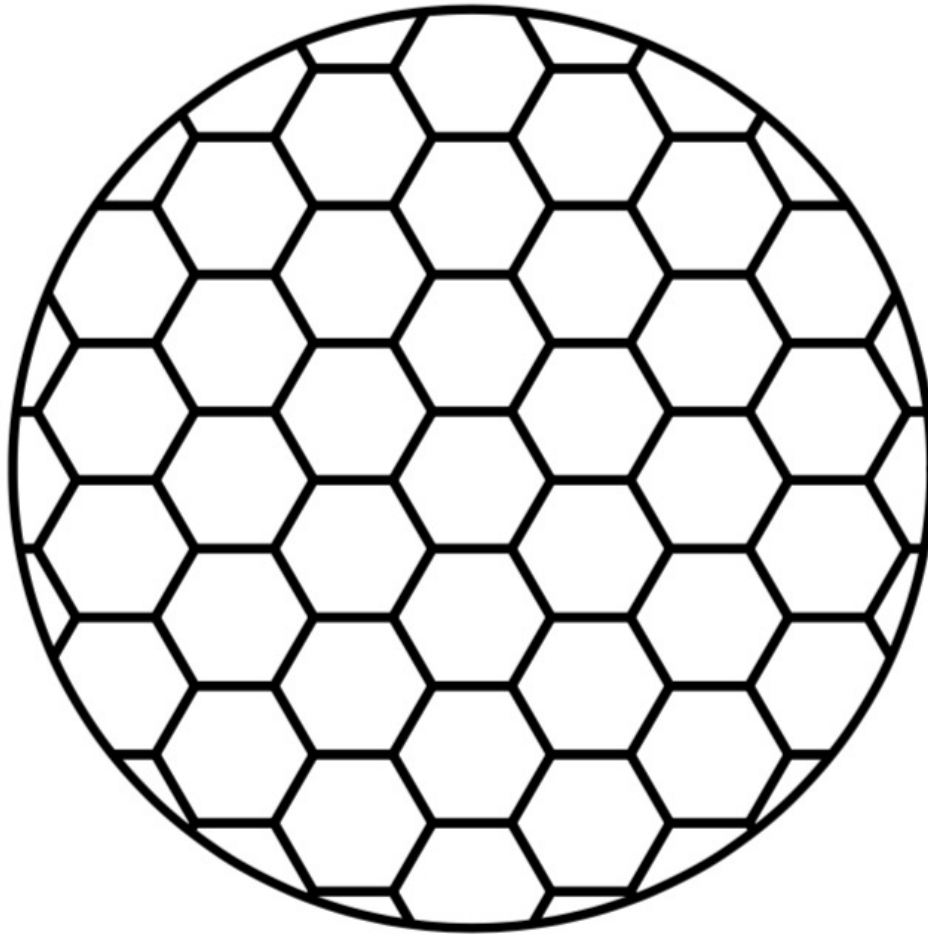
- Any Angle. Exact:





More Examples

- Exact Dimensions, exact clipping:





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/jp/print/postscript/pdfs/PLRM.pdf>
 - Very complete, 'easy to read', 800 pages

- Language Tutorial and Cookbook (the 'Blue Book')
 - <https://cupdf.com/document/postscript-language-bluebook.html?page=10>
 - (no pdf found any more...)

- Language Program Design (the 'Green Book'):
 - (no pdf found any more...)

- Many Web sites of good quality (see Lecture Page)



Caveat

- These slides have grown over the years to my own ‘reference manual’ to PostScript:
- When I forget syntax details, I find here all I need to do my drawings..

- This is too much detailed information for a start...
 - There are many slides with titles in parenthesis which I will skip
 - ...mostly....



Simple Example 1: Triangle + Circle

```
%!PS
newpath
 10 10 moveto
100 10 lineto
 50 100 lineto
closepath

stroke

100 100
 10
0 360 arc fill

showpage
```

start a new shape

start at (10/10)

draw lines

connect to start

show outline

x/y = 100/100

radius = 10

start/stop angle

fill the arc

10/10

50/100

100/100

100/10



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 → pdf, png, jpg...



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

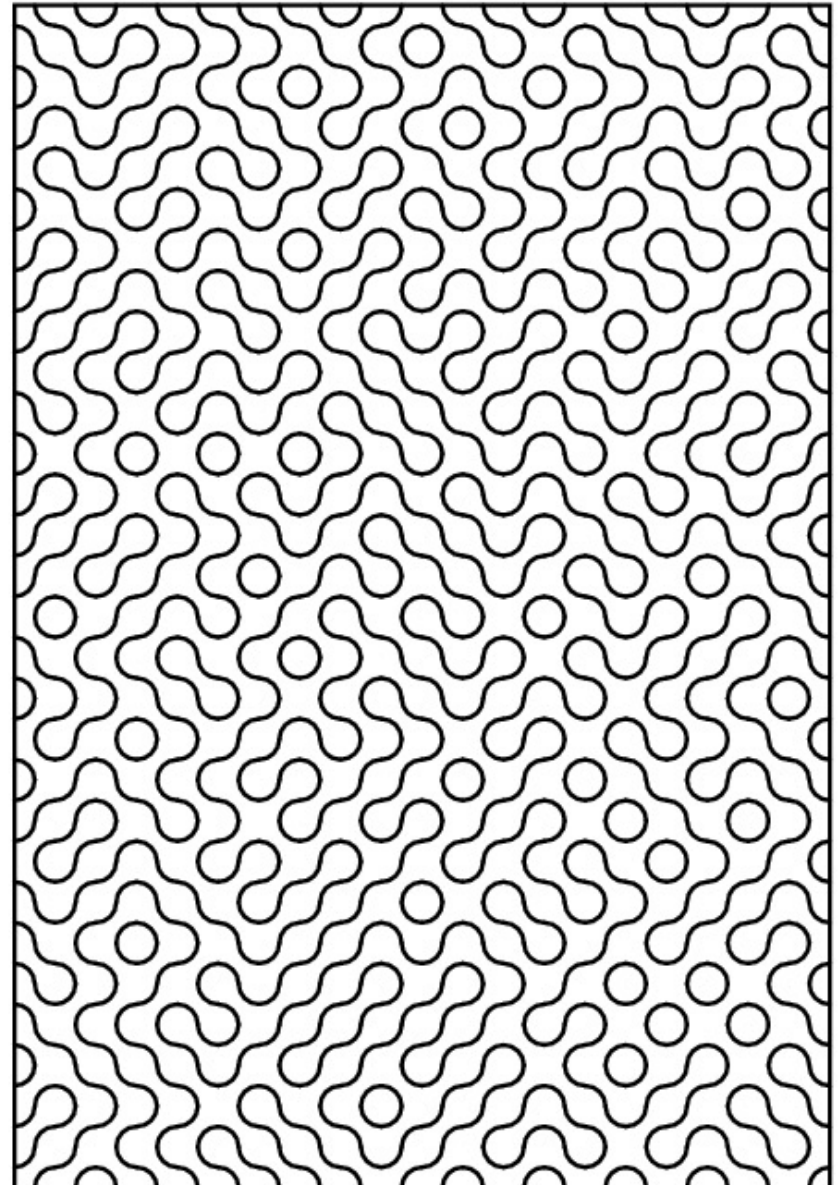
/W 10 def /W2 { W 2 div } bind def

/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

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

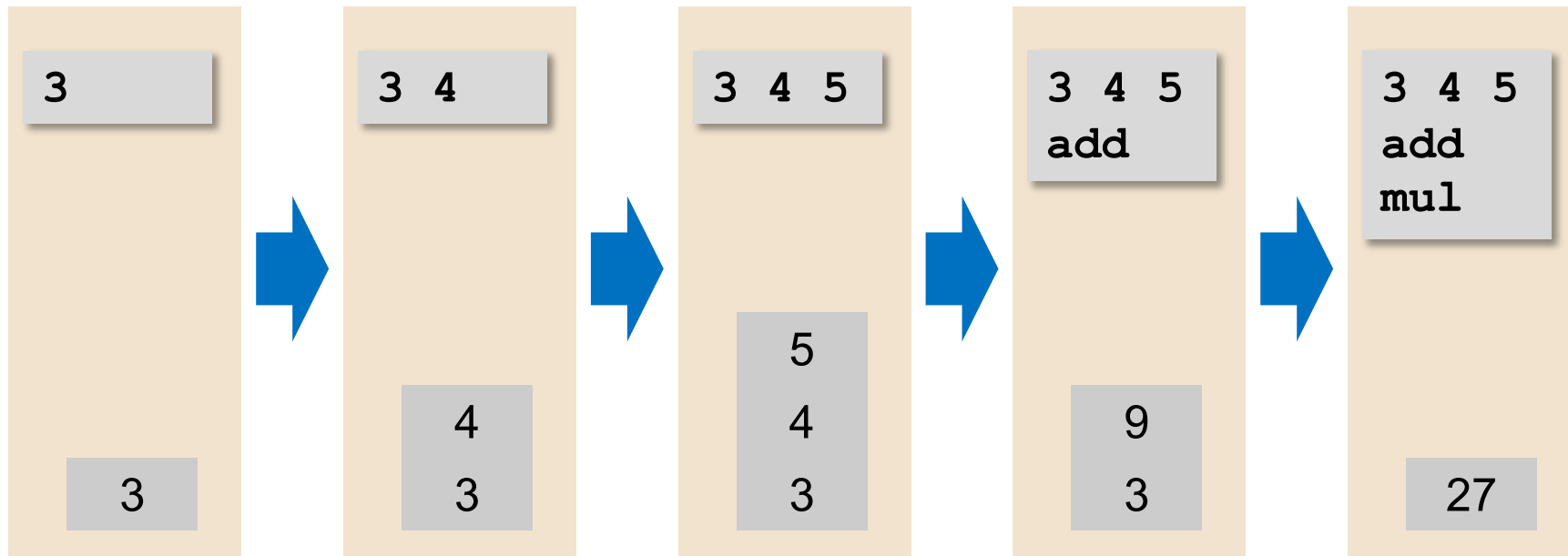
```
%!PS-Adobe-3.0 EPSF-3.0  
%%BoundingBox: 0 0 595 842  
...
```

- 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 !!!**



The Stack

- 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` $\rightarrow (4+5) \times 3$

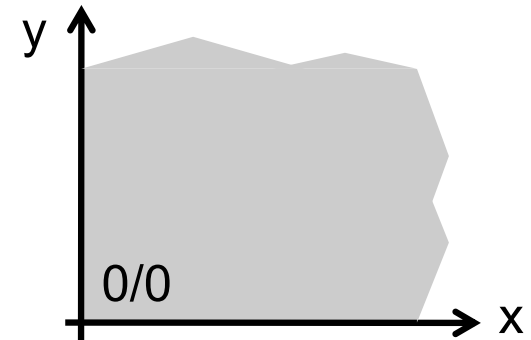


- Operators can have *1 or more* arguments



Coordinate System, Lengths and Points

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



- 1 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...



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

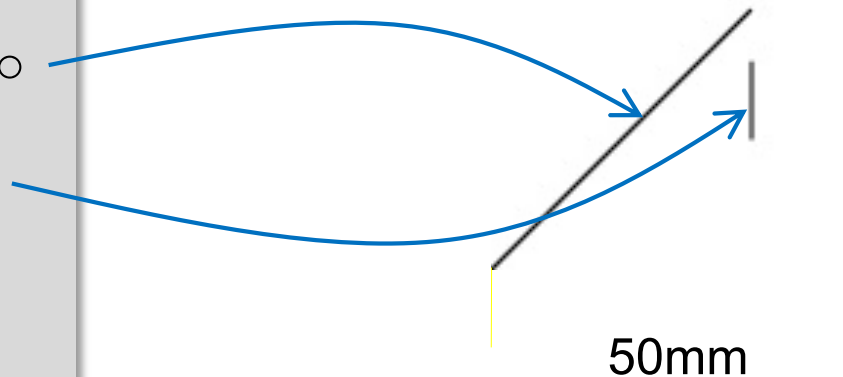
- A4 (portrait) paper has
 - width = 210 mm = 595.28... points
 - height = 297 mm = 841.89... points
 - `%%BoundingBox: 0 0 595 842 % A4 portrait`



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

```
%!PS
0 0 moveto
100 100 lineto
100 80 moveto
100 50 lineto
stroke
showpage
```



- Remember: 100 Units = $100 \times 0.353 \text{ mm} = 35.3 \text{ mm}$
- **rmoveto** and **rlineto** are *relative* to the *last* point
- Note: You **MUST** first move to *somex somey*!



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)



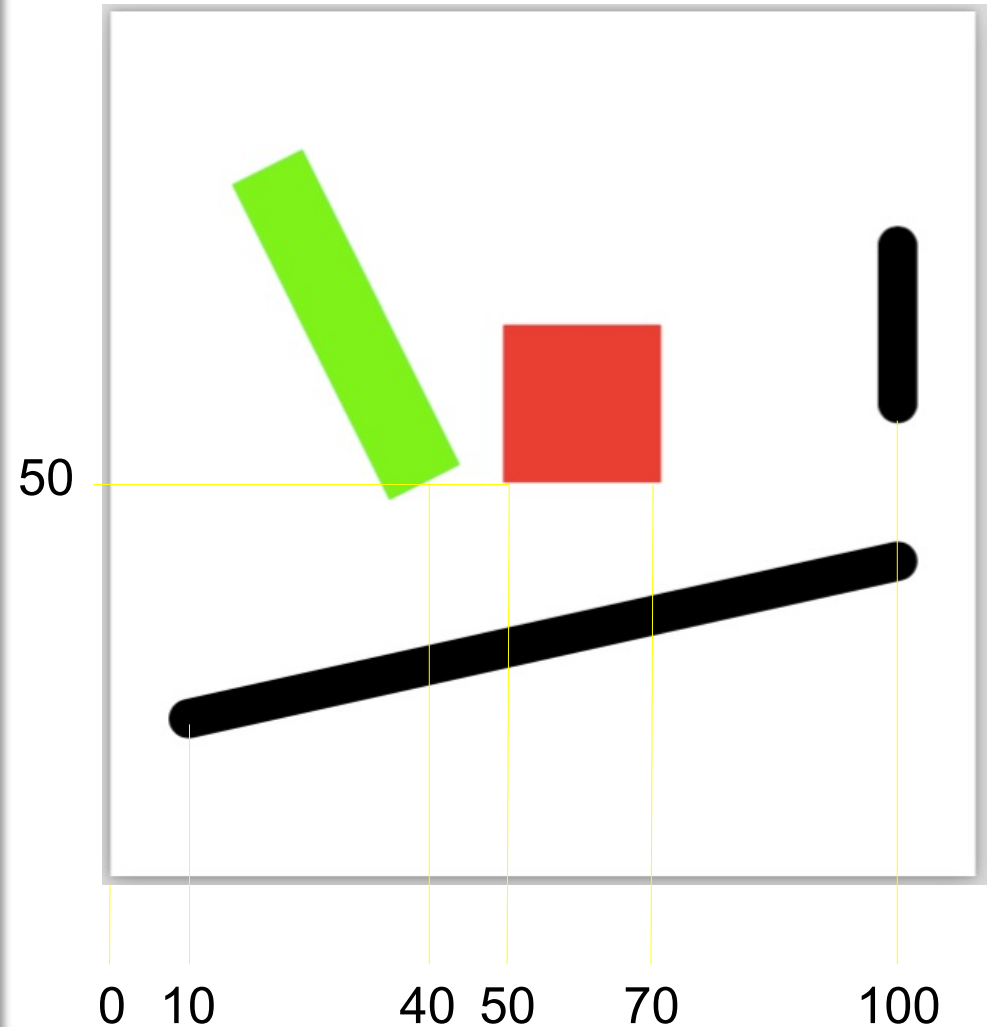
One More Example

```
%!PS-Adobe-3.0 EPSF-3.0
%%BoundingBox: 0 0 110 110

10 20 moveto      100 40 lineto
100 60 moveto     100 80 lineto
5 setlinewidth    1 setlinecap
stroke

newpath
  50 50 moveto    20 0 rlineto
  0 20 rlineto   -20 0 rlineto
closepath
1 0 0 setrgbcolor
fill

40 50 moveto      20 90 lineto
0 setlinecap 10 setlinewidth
0 1 0 setrgbcolor
stroke
showpage
```





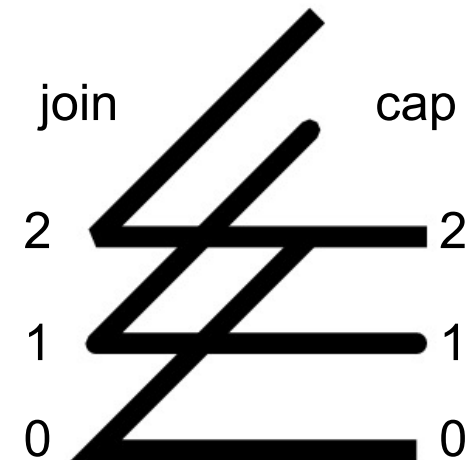
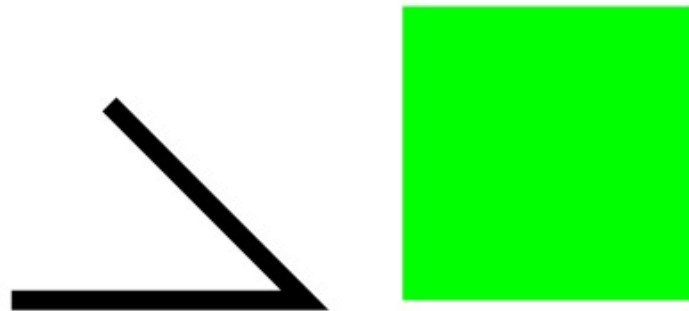
Working in Linux on the CIP Pool

- 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.eps &`
- View your file with `evince filename.eps &`



Exercise 1

- 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` → $x - y$. Also: `add`, `mul`, `div`, `idiv`, `mod`
 - `x neg` → $-x$
 - `x abs` → $|x|$. Also: `round`, `floor`
 - `x sin` → $\sin(x)$. Also: `cos`, (no `tan`), `ln`, `log`, `sqrt`
 - `x y atan` → $\arctan(x/y)$, 4 quadrants. **Note** 2 arguments!
- Angles are given (as floats) in *degrees* (i.e. 0...360)
- Examples:
 - $(2 + 3) \times 4$ → `2 3 add 4 mul`
 - $2 + 3 \times 4$ → `2 3 4 mul add`
 - $\text{Sqrt}(3 + 4)$ → `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** → *integer* time value on stack
 - **realtime srand** → initialize with new value at each run



Drawing Arcs

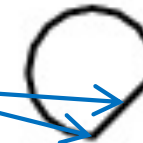
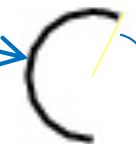
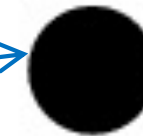
- Arcs (parts of circles) are defined using **x y radius phistart phistop arc**
- Angles are in degrees, relative to *x-axis*
- **arc** turns *counter clock wise*, **arcn** turns *clock wise*
- They can be **filled or stroked**.
- Example:

```

%!PS
20 80 10 0 360 arc fill
20 50 10 66 270 arc stroke

newpath
20 20 10 0 270 arc
closepath
stroke

showpage
    
```



66 degrees

start



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`
- Defining a *function* (executed when called):
 - `/name { commands } def`
 - Example: `/ADDFIVE { 5 add } def`
`3 ADDFIVE → 8`
- What happens?
 - The pair (name definition) is stored in a *dictionary* by `def`
 - (There are several different dictionaries for different tasks...)



Example

- Understand in this example how the arguments of 'lineto' are constructed!
 - Note that the shift to (20,20) can be done more elegantly using the **translate** command, see later..

```

%!PS-Adobe-3.0 EPSF-3.0
%%BoundingBox: 0 0 70 80

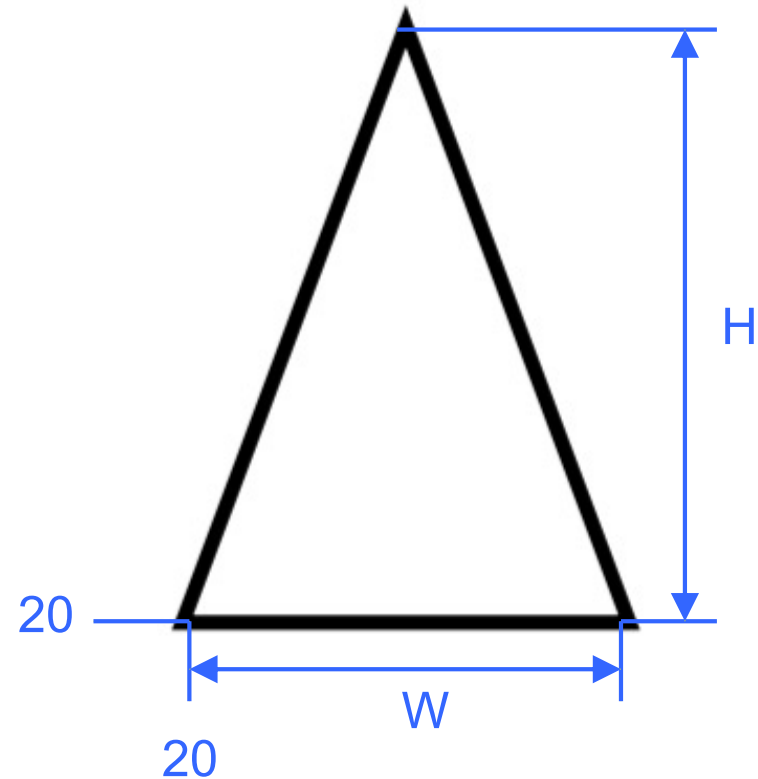
/W 30 def
/H 40 def

newpath
20 20 moveto
20 W add 20 lineto
20 W 2 div add 20 H add lineto
closepath
stroke

showpage
    
```

x coordinate of
the top point

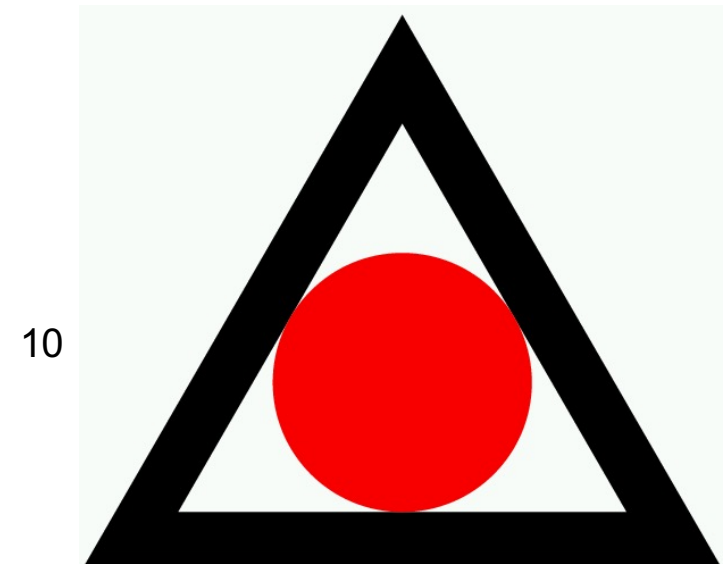
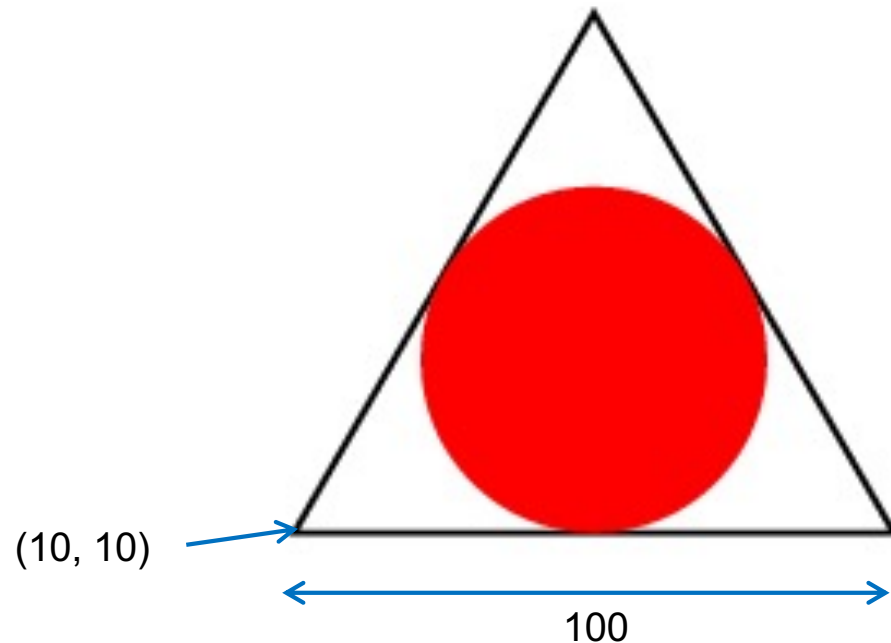
y coordinate of
the top point





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

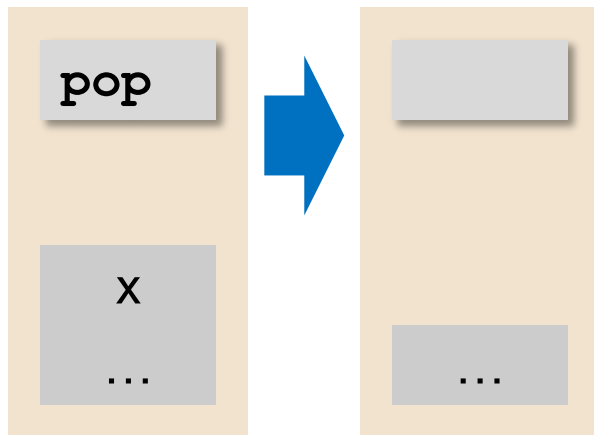




Manipulating the Stack: `pop`, `dup`, `exch`

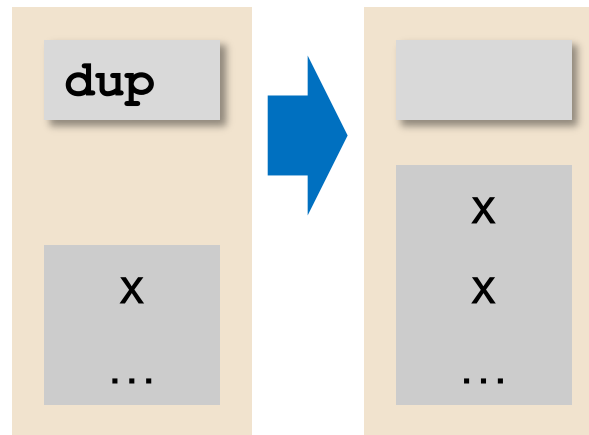
`pop`

drop top element:



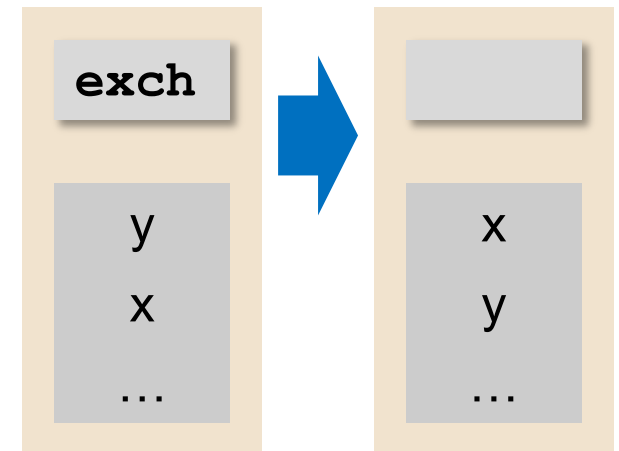
`dup`

duplicate top element:



`exch`

swap topmost elements:

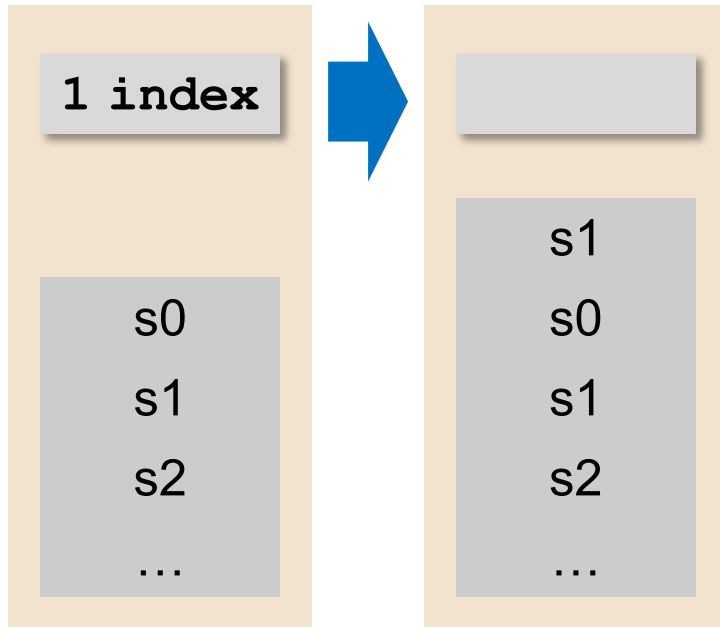




Manipulating the Stack: `index`, `copy`

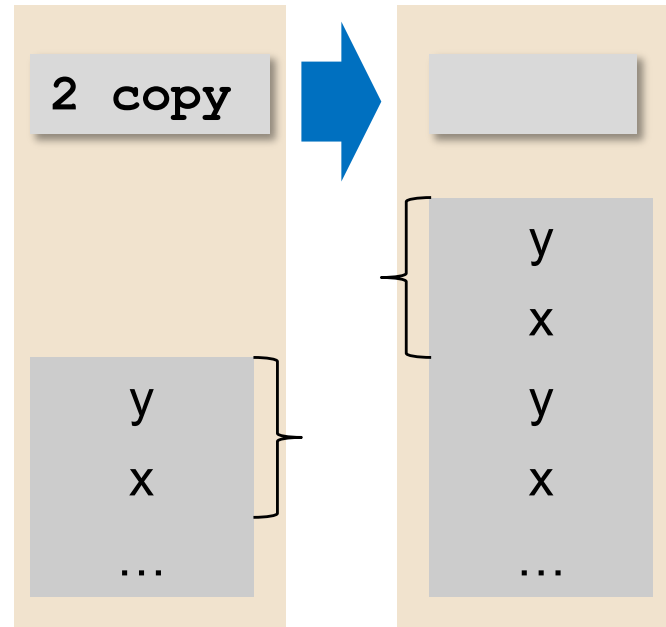
`n index`

copy t -th element (top index = 0):



`n copy`

duplicate n elements:





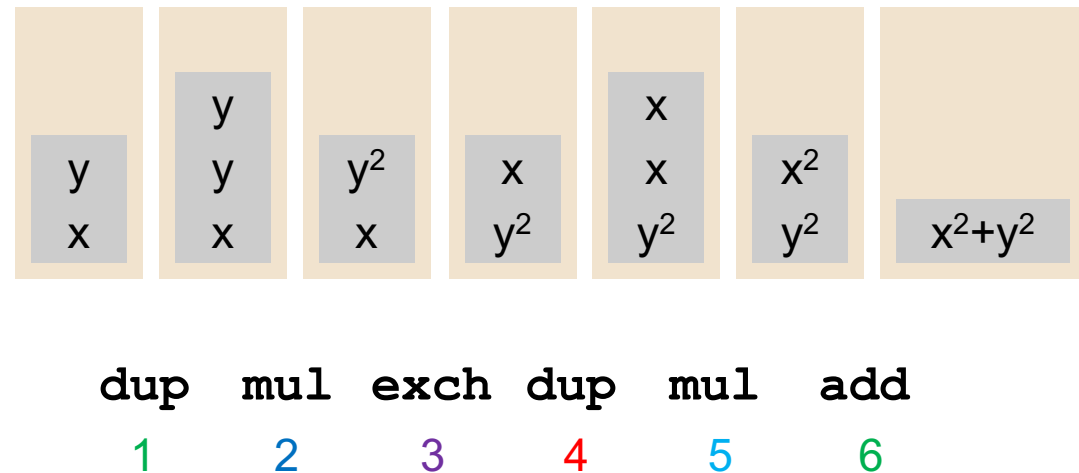
Passing Values to Functions

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

```

/DIST {
  dup %1
  mul %2
  exch %3
  dup %4
  mul %5
  add %6
  sqrt
} def

```



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



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 $\text{DIST}(x,y) = \sqrt{x^2+y^2}$

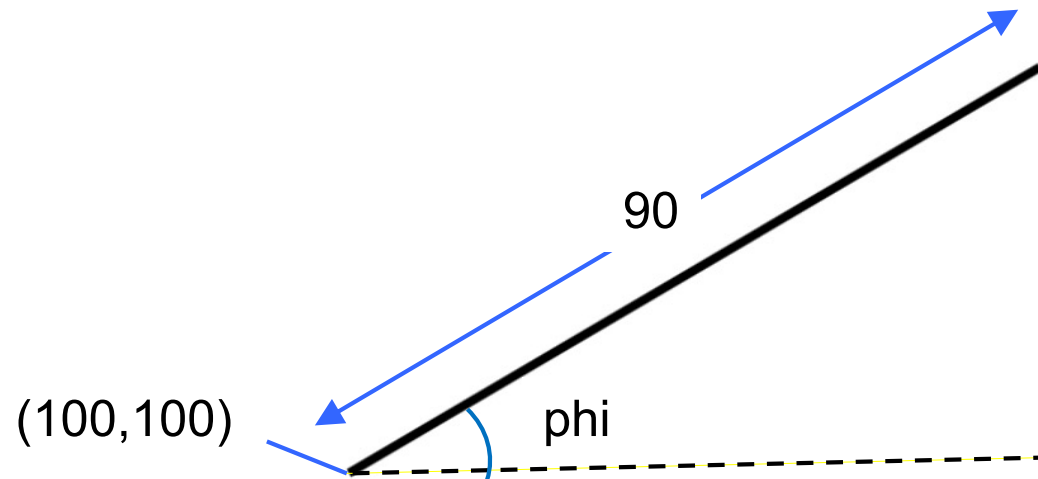
```
/DIST {  
  /y exch def % topmost argument first!  
  /x exch def % now the stack is empty!  
  x x mul % on stack: x2  
  y y mul % on stack: x2 y2  
  add  
  sqrt  
} def
```

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

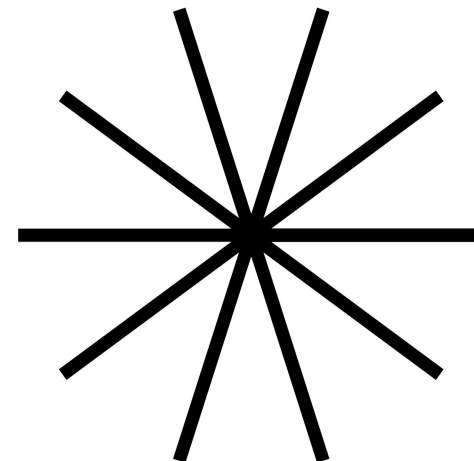


Exercise 3a

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



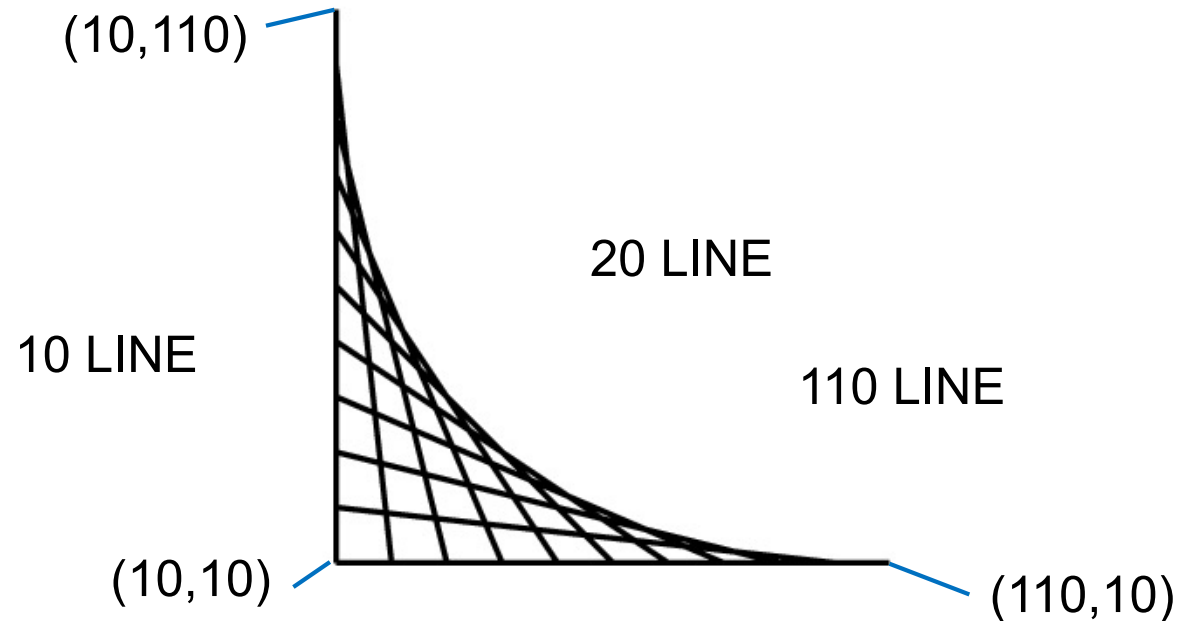
- Make a star by calling **LINE** several times





(Exercise 3b)

- Draw the following picture:



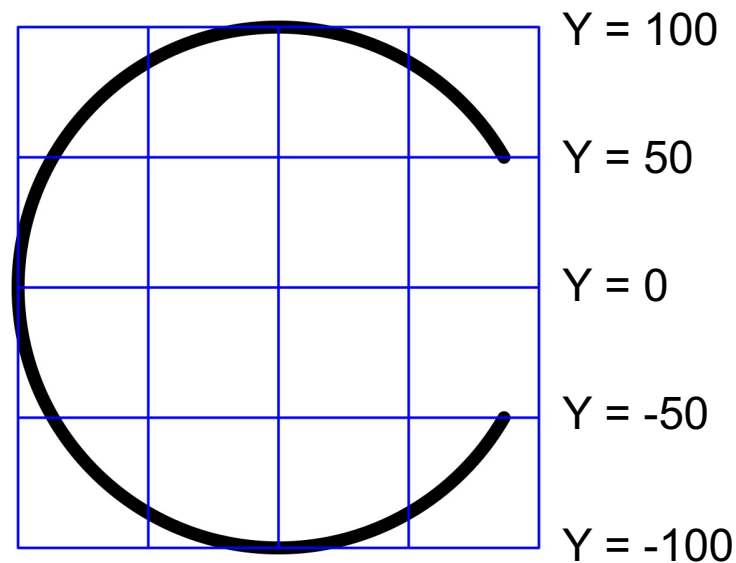
- First draw (a few) individual lines
- Next, define a function **LINE** which gets *one* value from the stack which indicates the *start of the line on the x-axis*.
- The drawing is then done by a sequence of **LINE** commands:
10 LINE 20 LINE 30 LINE ...



Exercise 3c

- There is no standard Arcus Cosine function available..
- In the internet, you find:

$$\arccos x = \pi/2 - \arctan (x / \sqrt{1 - x^2})$$
- Define a function!
 - Remember that Postscript uses degrees, not radian
- Try it out:
 Draw a circle of radius 100 which ends exactly at $y=50$





Repeat

- Do something several times:
- `count { ...commands... } repeat`

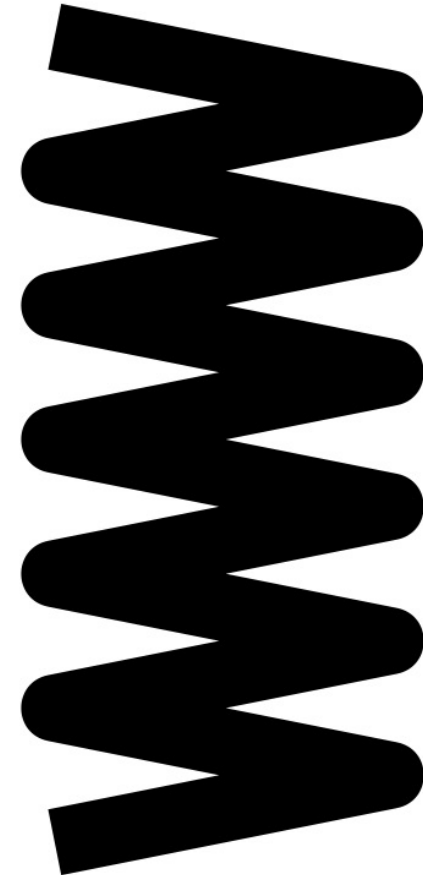
```
%!PS-Adobe-3.0 EPSF-3.0
%%BoundingBox: 0 0 7 14

1 setlinejoin
1 1 moveto

6
{5 1 rlineto -5 1 rlineto}
repeat

stroke

showpage
```





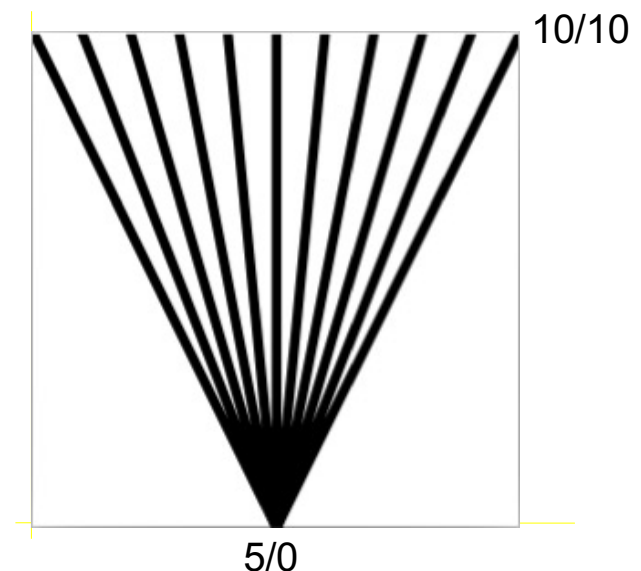
Loops

- If we want to do something different in each loop, we need a loop counter
- `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:**

```

%!PS
0.2 setlinewidth
0 1 10 {
  5 0 moveto
  10 lineto
} for
stroke
showpage
    
```

Here we use the sweep variable which is still on the stack!!!



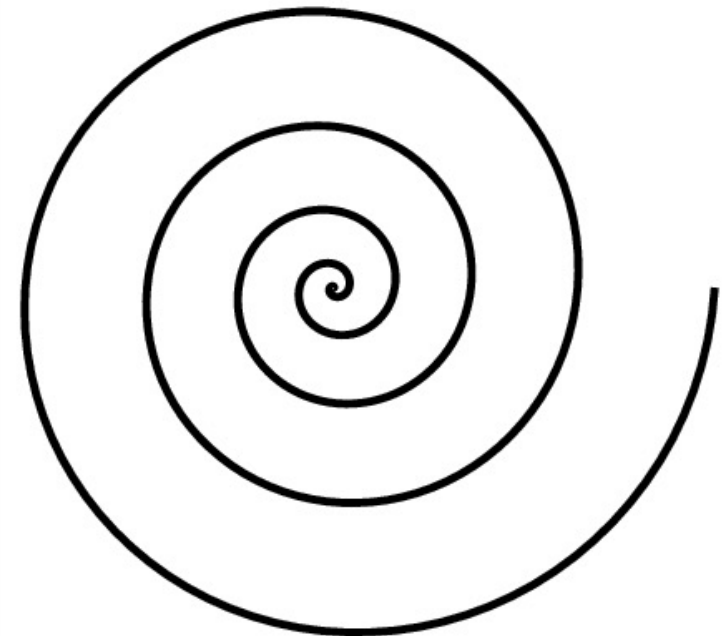


Loops: Another Example

```
%!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

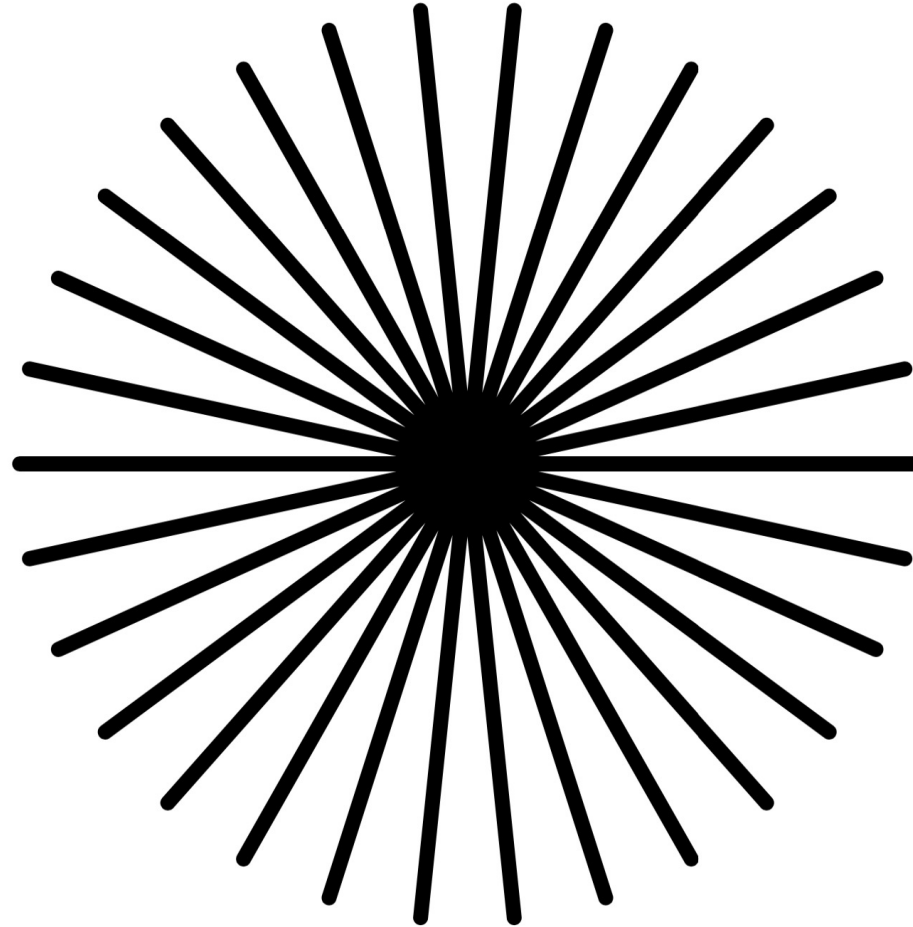
X0 Y0 moveto        % start in center
0 10 PHIMAX {
  /phi exch def     % keep loop var.
                    % (drop from stack!)
  phi PHIMAX div    % get a value from 0 to 1
  dup mul RMAX mul  % square and scale
  dup               % we need this for x and y
  phi cos mul X0 add % this is x
  exch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





Exercise 4a

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

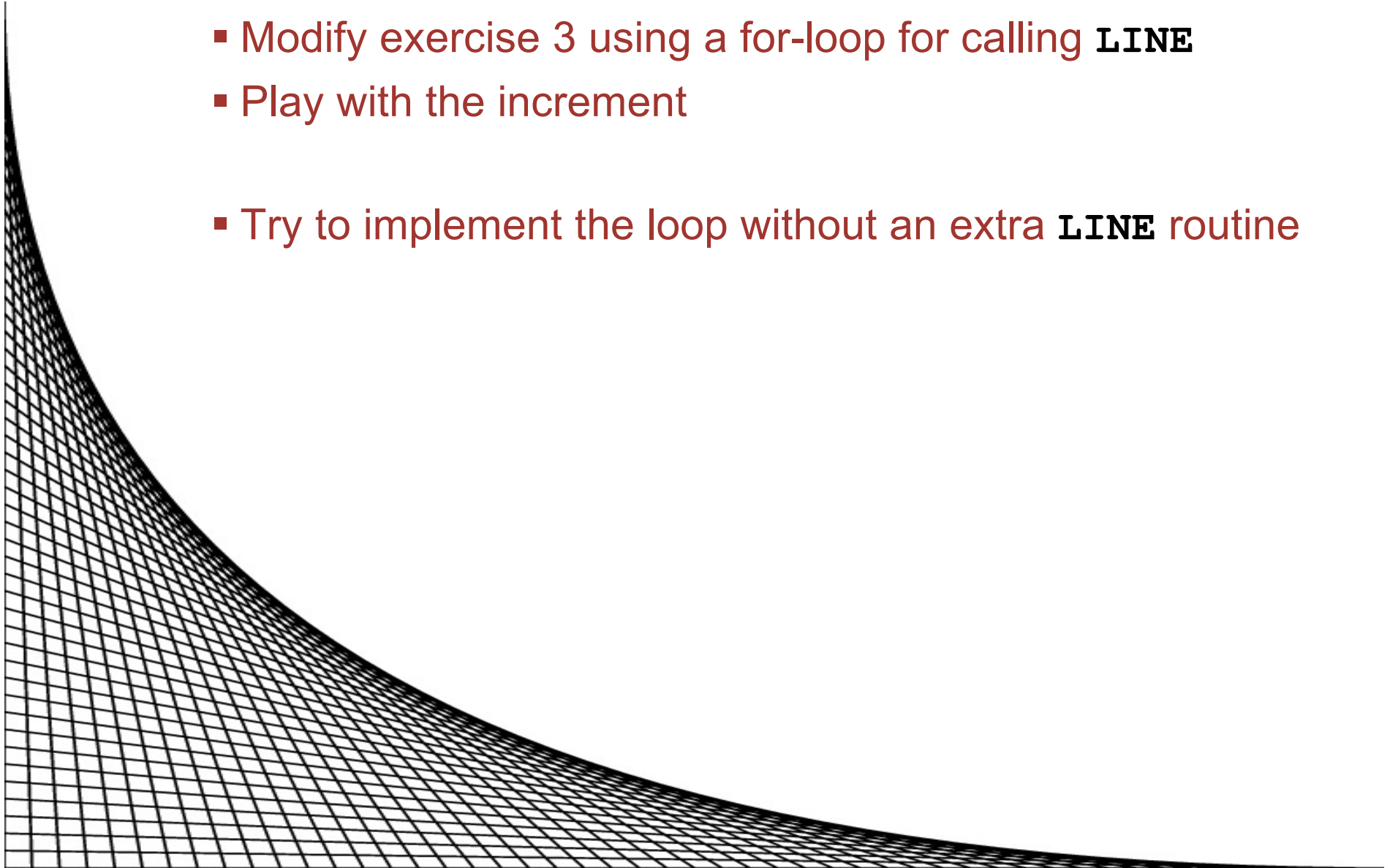


- Try to implement the loop without an extra **LINE** routine



Exercise 4b

- 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

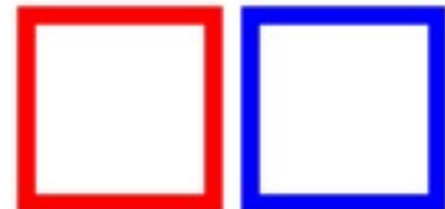
- Conditional expressions are possible
 - `boolval {...commands...} if`
 - `boolval {...cmds_true...} {...cmds_false...} ifelse`
- Boolean values can be

- `true`
- `false`
- `x y eq`
- `x y gt`
- `bool1 bool2 or`
- `bool not`
- ...

```
%!PS
/BOX { % Assume bool value on stack
  {1 0 0} {0 0 1} ifelse setrgbcolor
  0 0 10 10 rectstroke
} def

1 1 translate true BOX
12 0 translate false BOX

showpage
```

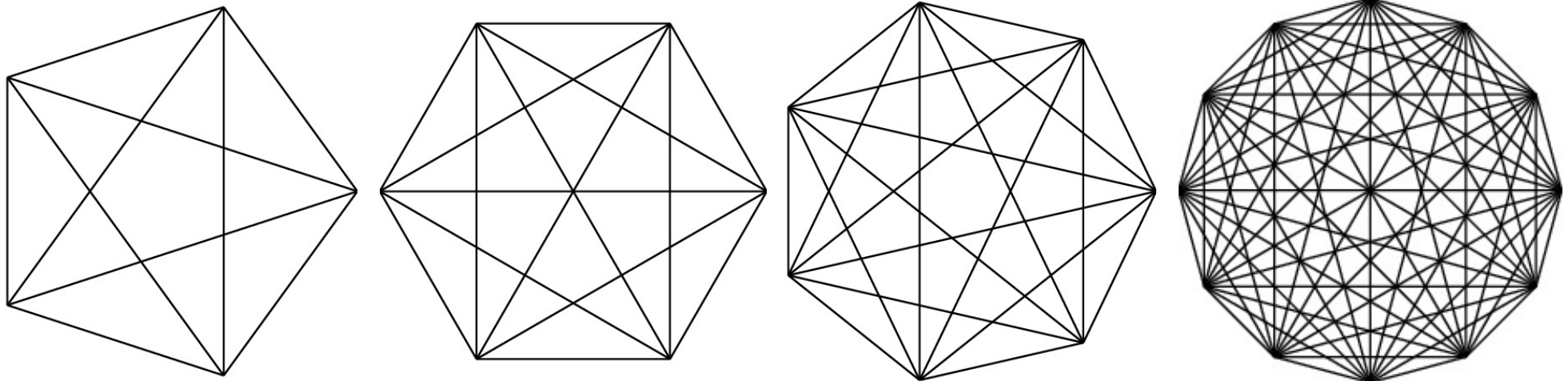


- Can be used to comment out larger parts of code



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)





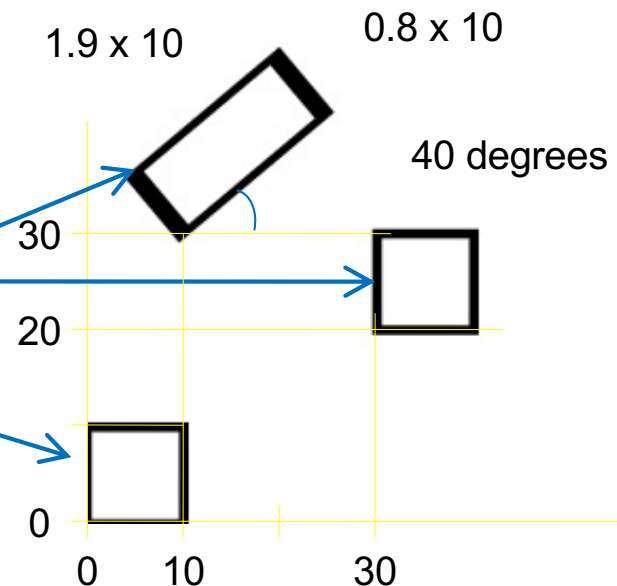
Translating and Scaling Things

- 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 → flip
 - **phi rotate** % angle in degree, as always

```

%!PS
/BOX {
  0 0 10 10 rectstroke
} def

BOX
30 20 translate BOX
-20 10 translate
40 rotate
1.9 0.8 scale
BOX
showpage
    
```





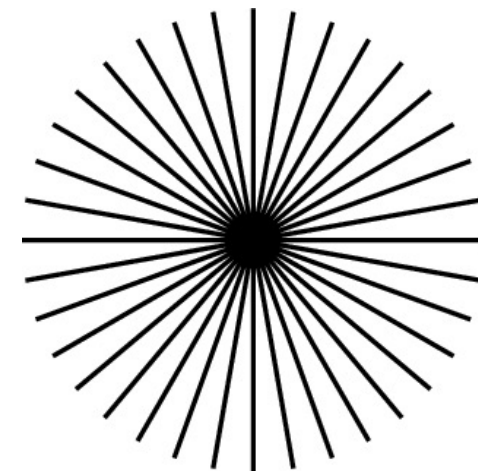
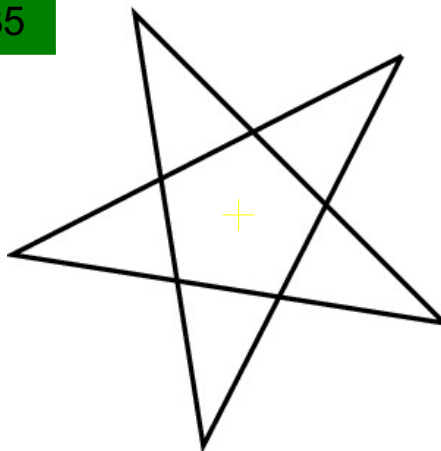
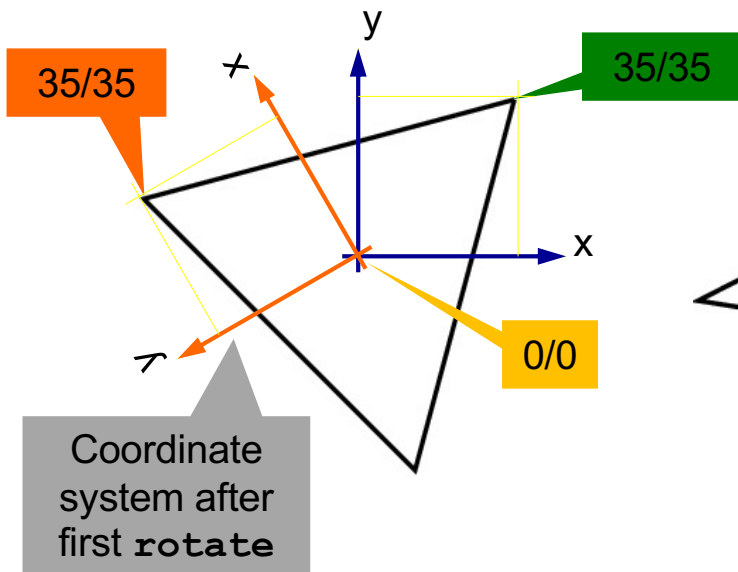
Applications of Coordinate Transformations

- Coordinate Transformations can simplify code *a lot*:

```
35 35 moveto
3 {
  120 rotate
  35 35 lineto
} repeat
stroke
```

```
35 35 moveto
5 {
  144 rotate
  35 35 lineto
} repeat
stroke
```

```
0 0 moveto
36 {
  50 0 lineto
  0 0 moveto
  10 rotate
} repeat
stroke
```





Converting Orientation and Units

■ With

```
%!PS
2.835 dup scale           % now one unit is 1 mm
5 dup translate          % shift by 5/5 mm to center
0.1 setlinewidth        % line width is 0.1mm
newpath                 % draw a frame around A4
  0 0 moveto            % (in portrait format)
  0 287 lineto
  200 287 lineto
  200 0 lineto
closepath
stroke
100 143.5 translate     % move origin to the center
```

drawing can start in the center, in mm units.

- A frame is drawn around a A4 sheet.



Saving the Graphic State

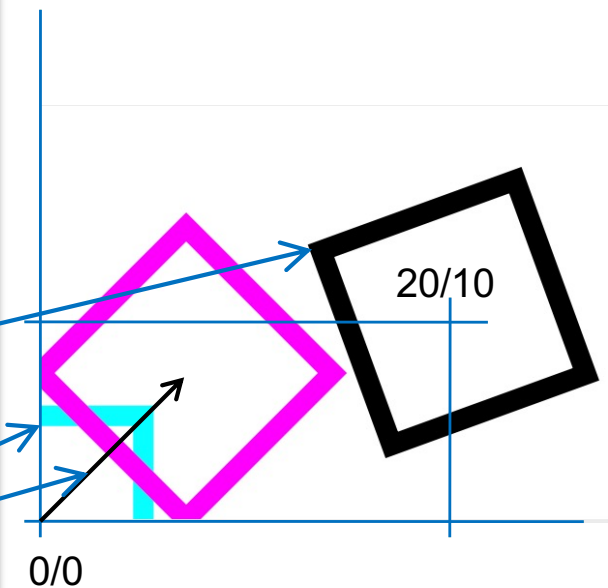
- Temporary scaling / translating... operations often lead to 'corrupt' coordinate systems
- The graphics state can be remembered with **gsave** and restored with **grestore**
- Example:

```

%!PS-Adobe-3.0 EPSF-3.0
%%BoundingBox: 0 0 30 20
/BOX { -5 -5 10 10 rectstroke } def

gsave
20 10 translate
10 rotate
0 setgray BOX % black box
grestore
0 1 1 setrgbcolor BOX % magenta

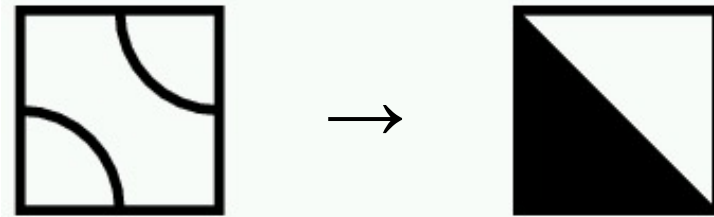
45 rotate
10 0 translate
1 0 1 setrgbcolor BOX % pink
    
```





Exercise 6

- Understand how the Truchet Pattern on page 13 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





Drawing Text

- Strings are delimited by `()`. Example: `(text)`
- A **font** must be selected before you can start drawing:
 - `/name findfont` put font '*name*' to stack (height is 1 unit)
 - Some font names:
 - **Times-Roman**
 - **Helvetica-Bold**
 - **Courier**
 - (or `currentfont`)
 - `value scalefont` resize (multiply) font (leave on stack)
 - `setfont` use it from now on (remove from stack)
- Print a string (which is on the stack): `show`
 - start at current point. Current point moves to end of string!
 - Example: `0 0 moveto (Hello World) show`
- Convert a number to a string: `value 10 string cvs`
- Get width of a string: `strval stringwidth (gets x and y)`
 - Note: y is always zero and must often be `popped`

See also:
selectfont



Drawing Text: Example

■ Example:

```

%!PS-Adobe-3.0 EPSF-3.0
%%BoundingBox: 0 0 80 70

10 10 translate 0 0 moveto
/Times-Roman findfont
15 scalefont setfont (Roman) show

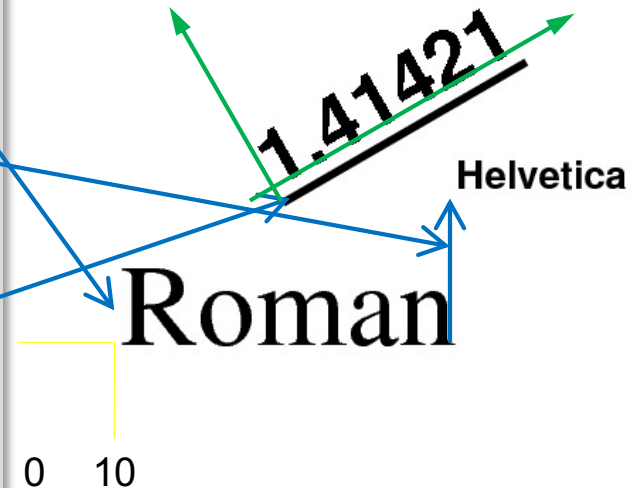
0 20 rmoveto
/Helvetica-Bold findfont
5 scalefont setfont (Helvetica) show

/x 2 sqrt 10 string cvs def

20 20 translate 30 rotate
0 0 moveto
currentfont 2 scalefont setfont
x show
0 -2 moveto
x stringwidth rlineto stroke

showpage

```





(A Detail: Font Size)

- Font height is from baseline to baseline
- **Character height** is $\sim 0.7 \times$ font height (depending on font)

```

%!PS-Adobe-3.0 EPSF-3.0
%%BoundingBox: 0 0 70 60

10 10 translate

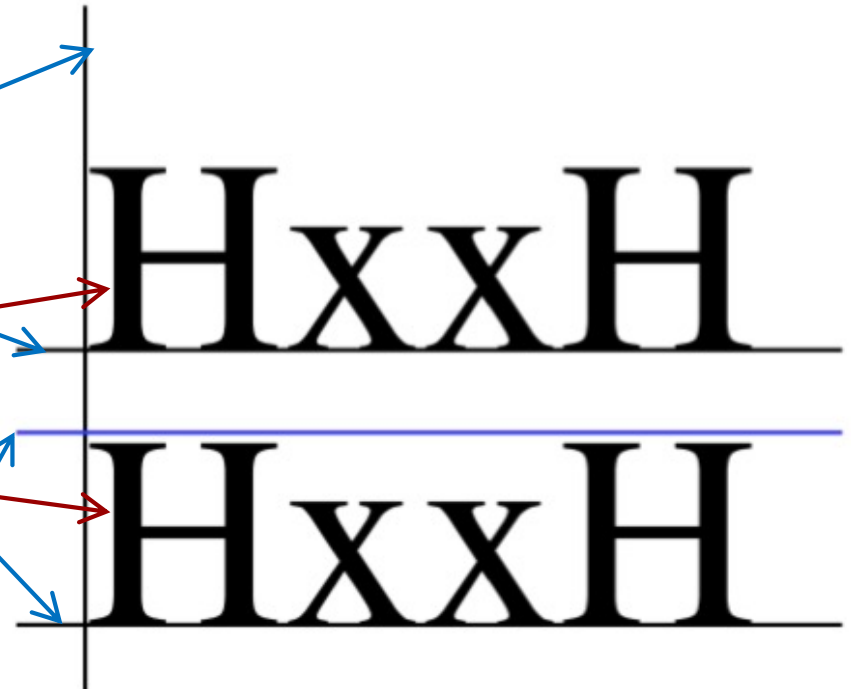
/FF 20 def
/Times-Roman findfont
FF scalefont setfont

0.3 setlinewidth
 0 -5 moveto 0 50 rlineto stroke
-5 FF moveto 60 0 rlineto stroke
-5 0 moveto 60 0 rlineto stroke

0 FF moveto (HxxH) show
0 0 moveto (HxxH) show

0 0 1 setrgbcolor
-5 FF 0.7 mul moveto 60 0 rlineto stroke

showpage
    
```





(Special Characters)

- The default character set does not contain special characters like ä,ö,ß,..
- This can be solved by assigning another character encoding to a font (see page 283 in PS Reference):

```
%!PS-Adobe-3.0 EPSF-3.0
%%BoundingBox: 0 0 200 100

/Helvetica findfont dup length
dict begin {def} forall
/Encoding ISOLatin1Encoding def currentdict end
/HelveticaNew exch definefont pop

/HelveticaNew findfont 20 scalefont setfont
20 50 moveto
(äöü) show

/HelveticaNew findfont 30 scalefont setfont
20 20 moveto
(gßs) show

showpage
```

Test äöü
gßs



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.



(Advanced Topic: Clipping)

- A path can be used to restrict the drawing area using the **clip** command
- **initclip** clears the clipping path

```

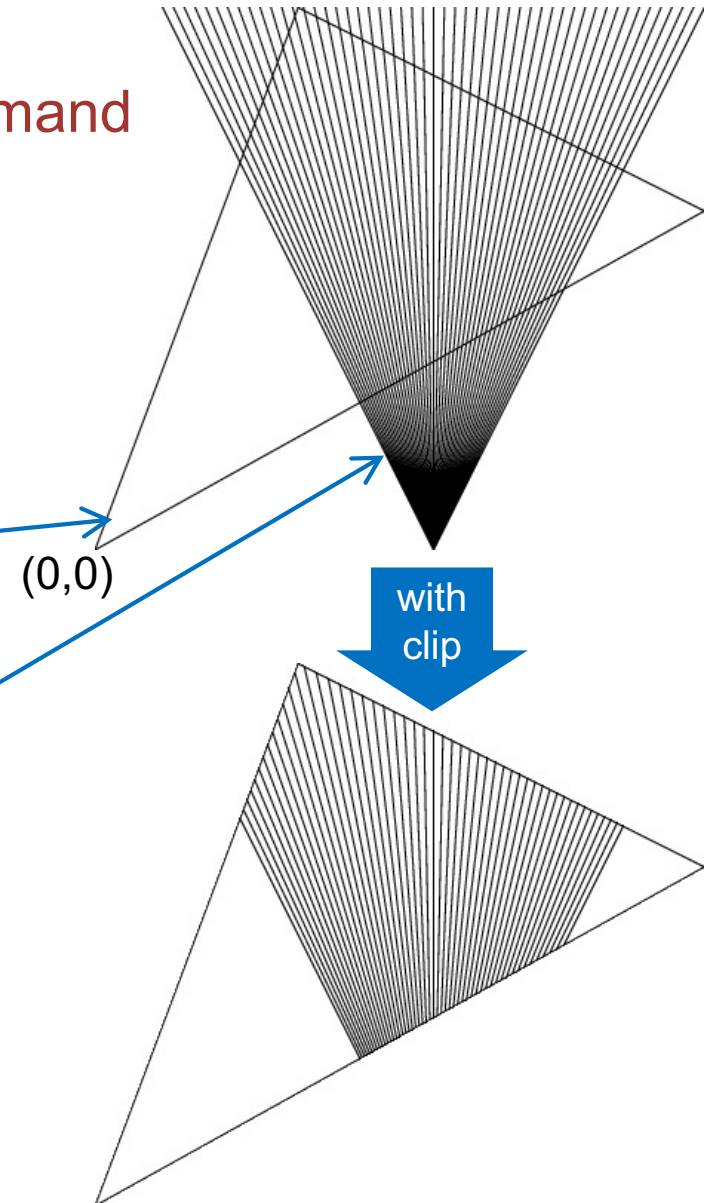
%!PS
0.2 setlinewidth

newpath 0 0 moveto
30 80 lineto 90 50 lineto
closepath
clip

0 2 100 {
  50 0 moveto 100 lineto
} for
stroke

showpage
    
```

construct
clipping path





(For fun: charpath)

- The outline of characters can be converted to a path using the **charpath** command. (Needs extra bool argument)
- Example using **clip**:

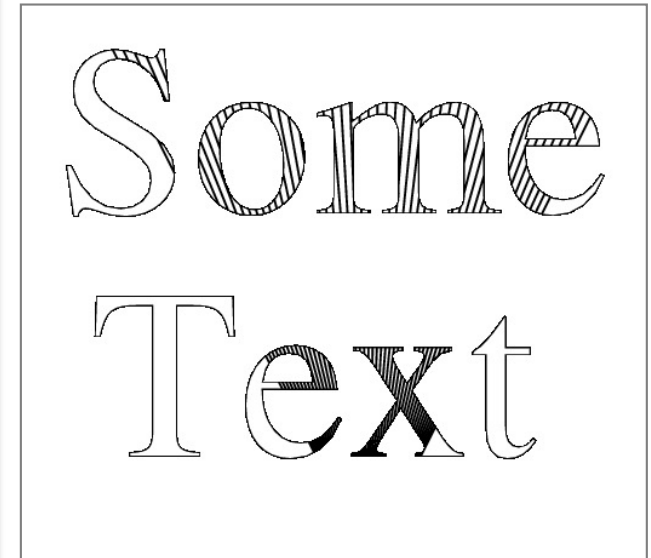
```
%!PS-Adobe-3.0 EPSF-3.0
%%BoundingBox: 0 0 90 80
0.3 setlinewidth

/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

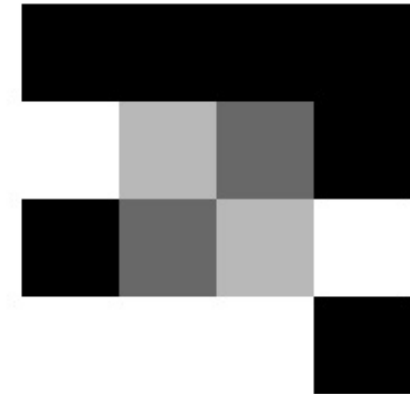
showpage
```





(Advanced: Bit Maps)

- The command **image** draws a bit map in a *unit square*
 - To change size: scale in x- and y
- Parameters of **image** 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...



```

%!PS-Adobe-3.0 EPSF-3.0
%%BoundingBox: 0 0 100 100

10 10 translate % move image to middle of page
80 80 scale % make image one inch on a side
4 4 2 [4 0 0 4 0 0] {<fc1be400>} image
showpage
  
```

We need
4 x 4 x 2 = 32 bit



(Example for colorimage)

```

%!PS-Adobe-3.0 EPSF-3.0
%%BoundingBox: 0 0 102 102

1 1 translate
100 100 scale

/picstr 6 string def
2 2 4 [2 0 0 -2 0 2]
{ currentfile picstr readhexstring pop}
false 3
colorimage
f000080f0088

showpage
    
```

NX NY
bits_per_col

colors
separate ?

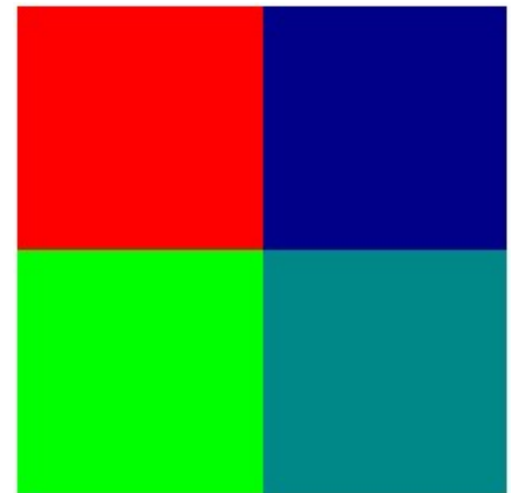
NCOL

Data:
2 x 2 x 4 x 3 bit
= 12 Byte

Function to create a
string of NX x NCOL
characters

matrix

Function to retrieve
data from file





Stack Underflow

- A very common error is **stack underflow**
 - Not enough arguments on stack
- Debugging help:

```

%!PS-Adobe-3.0 EPSF-3.0
%%BoundingBox: 0 0 35 13

/PrintStackFillState
{count 10 string cvs show} def

/Helvetica findfont 15 scalefont setfont
1 1 moveto

1 2      PrintStackFillState
Add      PrintStackFillState
Dup      PrintStackFillState
pop pop  PrintStackFillState

showpage
    
```

Count
returns number
of entries on
stack

Output:

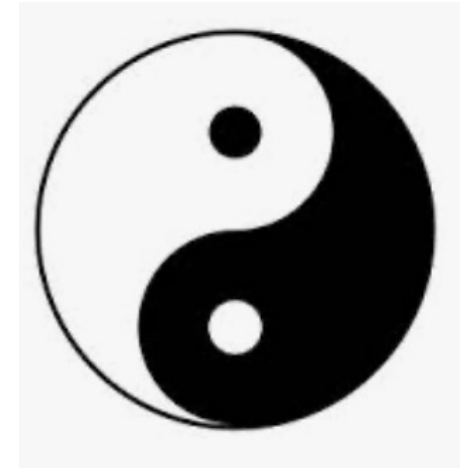
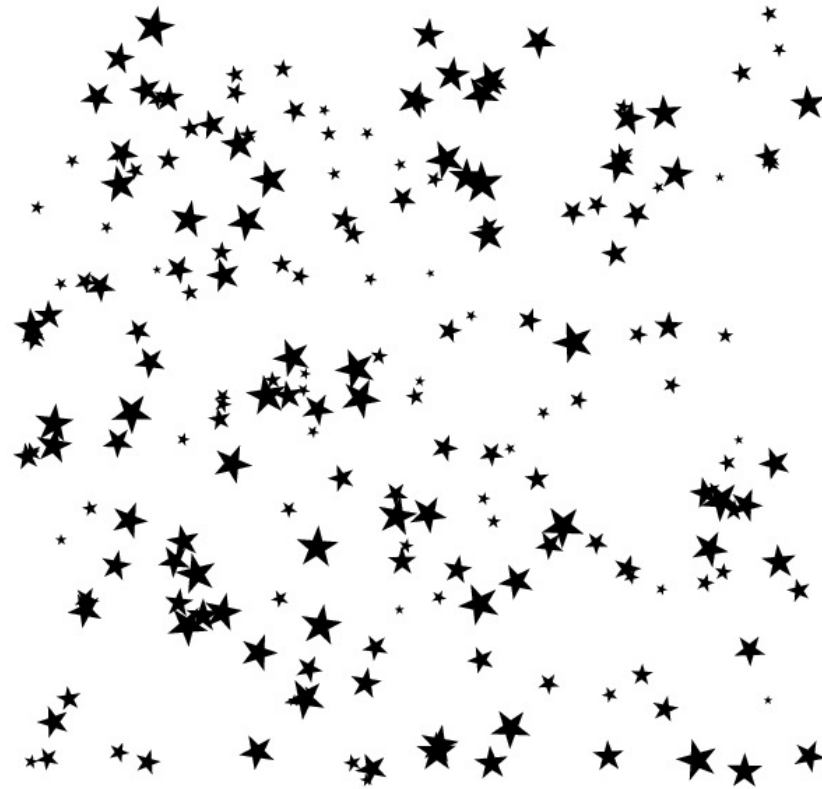
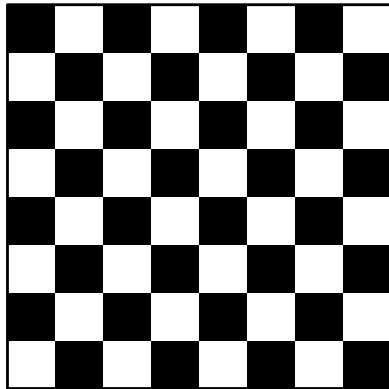
21 20



NEED IDEAS TO TRY OUT YOUR SKILLS ?



Inspirations

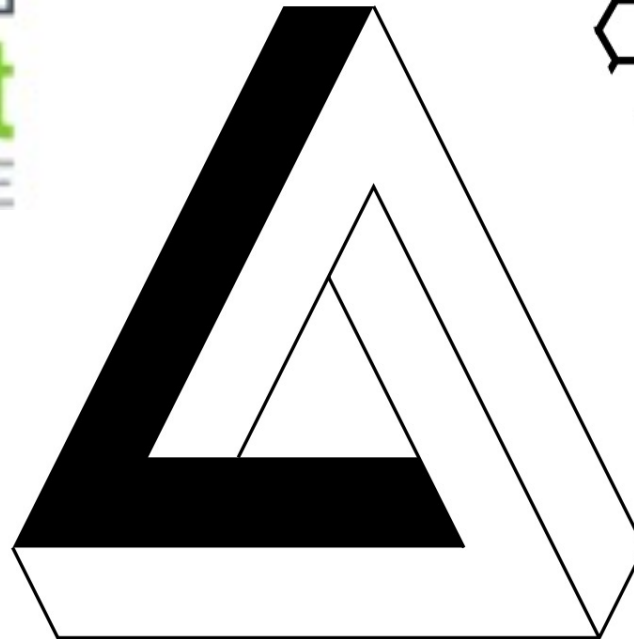
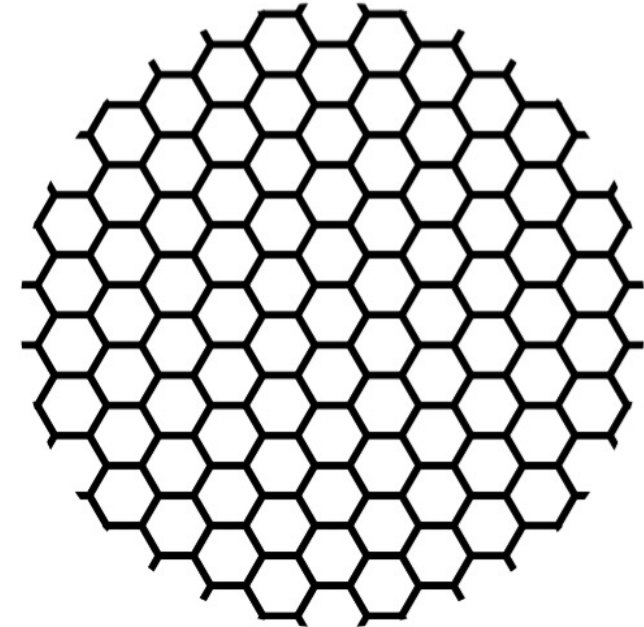




Inspirations

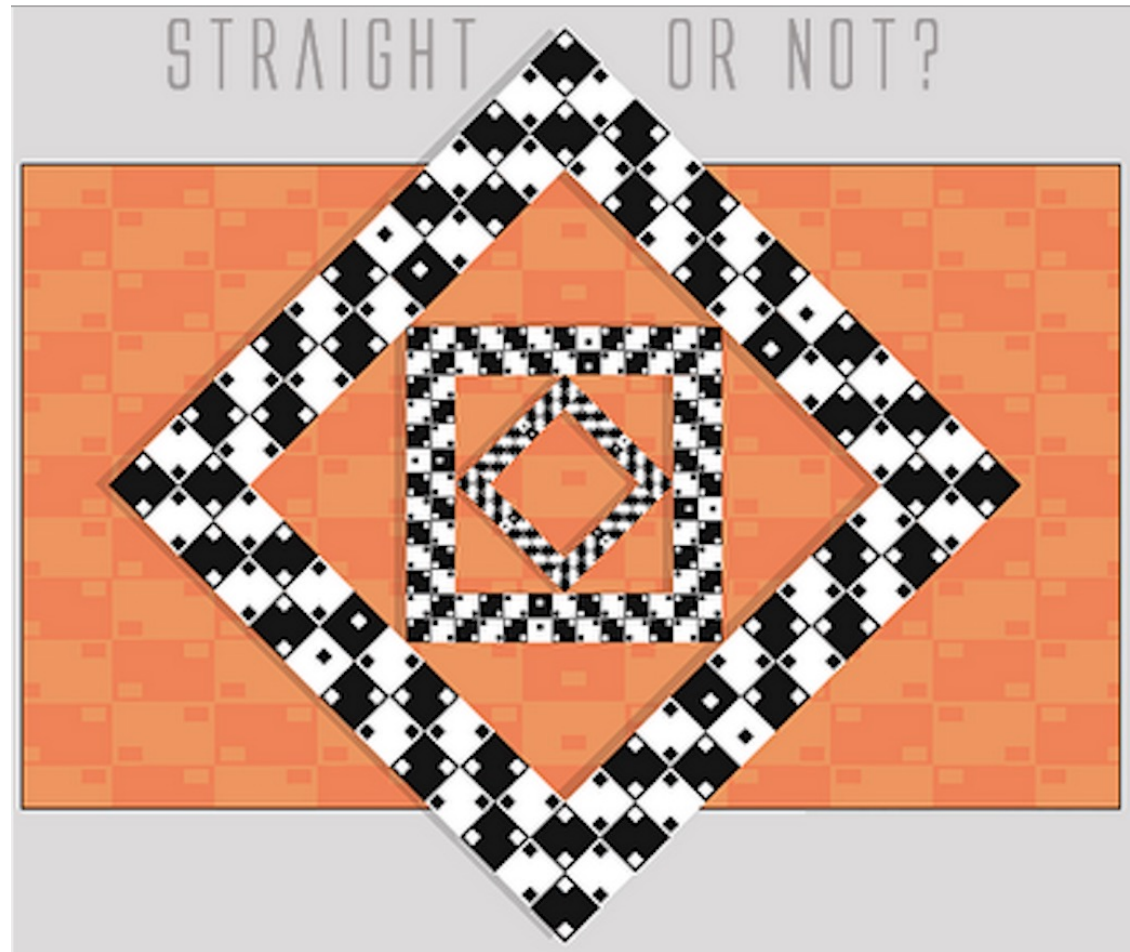


BioQuant
MODEL base of LIFE





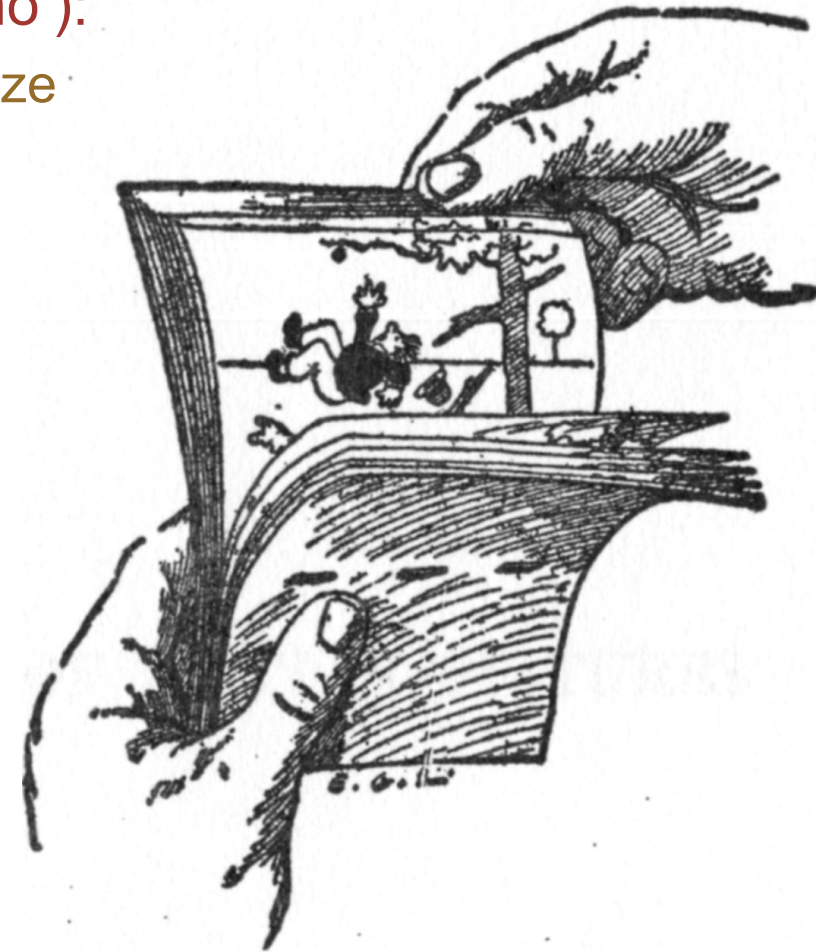
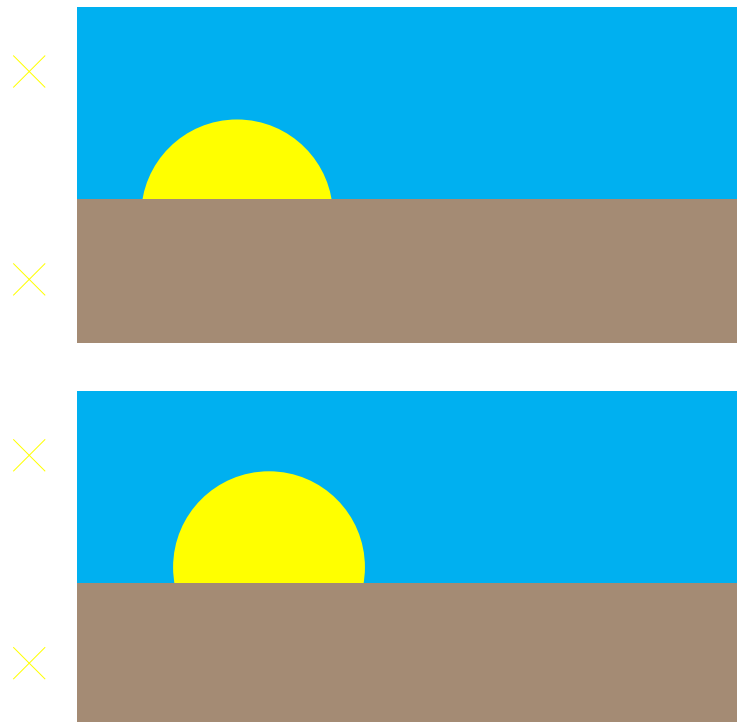
More Inspirations





More Inspiration

- **Make a Flipbook ('Daumenkino'):**
 - Define a (small) sheet of unit size
 - Add alignment holes / pins / markers for later assembly
 - Add a scene drawing
 - Generate a series of sheets



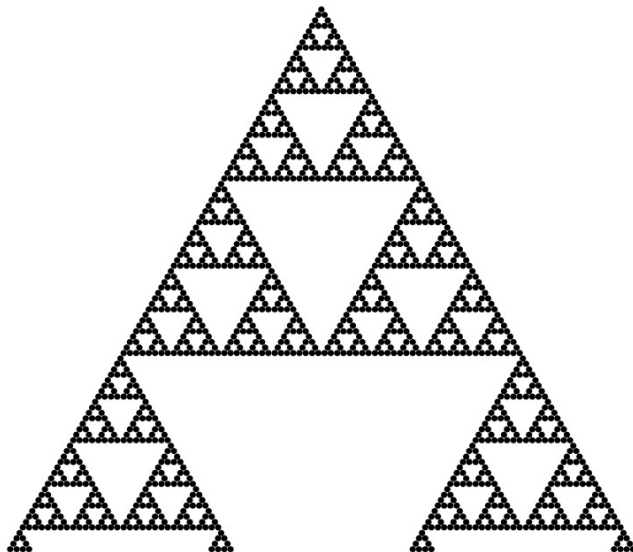
THE KINEOGRAPH.

Wikipedia

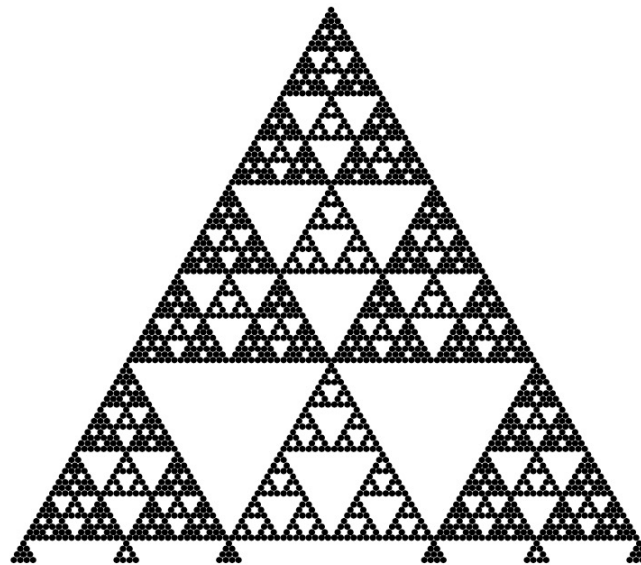


More Inspirations

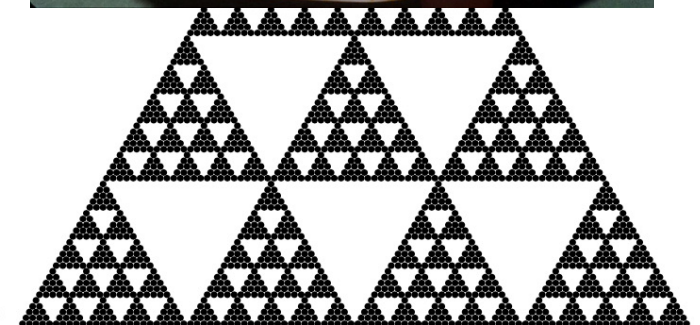
- Draw Pascal's Triangle
(https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pascalsches_Dreieck)
- Put a marker (circle, triangle,..) at the position of on all numbers which are multiples of some modulus K
- Examples:



$K = 2$



$K = 4$



$K = 5$



MISC



Document File Structure

- The life of viewers, print managers, etc. is simplified by adding **Document File Structure** commands, as described in the '*PostScript Language Document Structuring Conventions Specification*' document (on Adobe Web Page)

- Main Document blocks are

• Comments	at beginning of document	}	Prolog
• Prolog	Procedure definitions		
• Setup	General setup	}	Script
• Pages	Content (opt.: PageSetup...)		
• Trailer	Cleanup		

- Structuring by

- %%BeginProlog
- %%EndProlog
- ...



Document File Structure: Example

```
%!PS-Adobe-3.0 EPSF-3.0
%%BoundingBox: 0 0 200 300
%%Creator: Peter Fischer
%%Title: SomeTitle
%%CreationDate: Adate
%%Pages: 1
%%DocumentMedia: ... describe
    paper sizes here...
%%EndComments

/somecommand ... def
%%EndProlog

%%BeginSetup
...
%%EndSetup

%%Page: 1 1
...
%%Trailer
...
%%EOF
```

Must be **one** block, i.e.
without blank lines!

Columns (:) are important

Command Definitions

Setup before Drawing

Content of Page 1

Trailer



Multiple Pages

- Only possible in .ps, not in .eps
- **%%Pages: N** gives total number of pages
- **%%Page: i i** starts page i. i must be increasing per page
- Pages *should* be protected by save...restore (in case content redefines system commands)
- Example:

```
%!PS-Adobe-3.0
%%Pages: 2
%%EndComments

%%Page: 1 1
save ...commands ... restore

%%Page: 2 2
save ...commands ... restore

%%EOF
```



Error Messages

- GhostScript produces Error messages
 - To Clear the Console, Start Viewer from Scratch!
 - Scroll up to **First** error

- Some typical Errors
 - Stack underflow command has too few arguments
 - No current point **show** or **stroke** without point data
 - Variable not known ...
 - ...



Converting to Other Formats

- **Linux:**
 - ps2eps
 - ps2pdf
 - epstopdf

- **Convert**
 - <http://www.imagemagick.org/script/convert.php>



Interactive Mode

- GhostScript can be run interactively
 - List stack using **stack** command
 - Not further covered here...

```
GPL Ghostscript 8.60 (2007-08-01)
Copyright (C) 2007 Artifex Software, Inc.  All rights :
This software comes with NO WARRANTY: see the file PUB:
GS>2 3 4
GS<3>stack
4
3
2
GS<3>add
GS<2>stack
7
2
GS<2>/SUM2 { add dup mul } def
GS<2>SUM2
GS<1>stack
81
GS<1>_
```



History

- PostScript has been developed by Adobe

- Level1 1984
- (Display PostScript) 1988
- Level 2 1991
- PostScript 3 1997/98



- Info at <http://www.adobe.com/devnet/postscript.html>

- pdf is an ‚extension‘ of PostScript

- All graphics possibilities are preserved
- transparency
- Better page structure (can scroll to pages without code analysis)
- Interactive elements
- ...
- But: No programming language!

Source: wikipedia