

Laplace

PIK

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COLLABORATORS

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Chapter 1

Laplace

1.1 introduction

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Introduction -

1) Introduction

Laplace is (or at least should be) an universal tool for mathematical calculations. It lacks such a GUI with hundreds of windows like those other progs I've found for the AMIGA. Instead it works like a shell: you enter a command and get the result displayed, which is (imho) much more flexible.

I started programming Laplace, because I was looking for a program for handling matrices, something I needed for my studies. First all programs I found were only able to handle floatpoints, but especially with matrix calculations this will lead quite fast to large errors. So I made a simple prog that handled fractions instead of floatpoints. After that I needed something to handle parameters in matrices, and so I totally rewrote Laplace. This is the result.

- *
Copyright - Legal stuff...
 - *
Beta release - Some limitations.
 - *
Where to find it - and the latest versions.
 - *
Registration - How to obtain a full version.
 - *
Address - That's me!!!
 - *
Greetings - Greetinx go around the world...
-

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1.2 copyright

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Copyright -

1.1) Copyright

©1996-1998 by A Vision Of Paradise.

This is only a beta version of Laplace, look at
beta release
to read about
the limitations.

You are not allowed to take money for distributing Laplace, except for Urban Mueller and his AMINET-CD collection.

You may distribute Laplace only as the original archives, look at

Where to find it
to see where you can find the original archives.

You are not allowed to distribute a keyfile or to use a keyfile that is not registered to your name.

You are not allowed to use or distribute modified versions of Laplace.

Use it on your own risk. If you plan to build a nuclear plant, I take absolutely NO responsibility for uncontrolled chain reaction caused by false calculations!!!

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1.3 betarelease

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1.2) Beta release

Laplace is still in an early state of development (although, this state now lasts for about two years...). That's why I still declare it as a beta release. This means that there are still a lot of bugs left and some functions are not yet implemented. Before the first full version of Laplace is released, I want it to be in a (hopefully) stable and consistent state.

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1.4 wheretofind

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to find it -

1.3) Where to find it

The distribution of Laplace is splited into four archives

- LaplaceBase.lha
- Laplace000.lha
- Laplace020.lha
- Laplace020fp.lha

You always need the first file LaplaceBase.lha, it contains all data files needed by Laplace, the documentation and the installation script.

The program itself exists in three different versions, optimized for different processors. Depending on the processor of your AMIGA, you need one of the other three files:

- Use Laplace000.lha, if you have an AMIGA with a MC68000 processor (AMIGA500, AMIGA2000 without a processor card). This version works for higher processors, too, but it doesn't make use of their advanced instruction set (and is thereby slower).
- Use Laplace020.lha, if you have a processor MC68020, MC68030, MC68040 or MC68060, but no floatpoint unit (e.g. AMIGA1200 in it's base configuration). Floatpoint operations are emulated by the processor, which can be terribly slow.
- Use Laplace020fp.lha with a processor MC68020 or higher and an attached floatpoint unit. This gives you the maximum performance.

These archives can be found at different places. The most common way is probably the AMINET; Laplace can be found in the directory misc/math/. This is always the first place, where the latest version of Laplace appears.

If you don't have access to the INTERNET, wait for the next release of the AMINET-CD. It is a collection of the latest uploads to the AMINET, and you will thereby find Laplace on it, too (if there was no new version of Laplace since the last release of the AMINET-CD, the CD is still worth buying!).

If you have neither a CD-ROM drive nor access to the INTERNET, there is still a last possibility. I could send you the latest release on a diskette. Along with a

registration

(smile...) this is free. If you are not registered, you have to pay DM10 for the first time, and DM5 for each following release. The easiest way to submit such small amounts of cash to me, is to put it into an envelope and send it to

Benjamin Stegemann
Emmertsgrundpassage 1
69126 Heidelberg
Germany

A remittance is probably too expensive. Because you cannot find DM5 notes anymore, and sending a DM5 coin would be too dangerous, send DM10 instead. I will then send the actual version of Laplace, and the next release as soon as it appears. Feel free to send even higher amounts, you will then get a new release of Laplace as soon as it appears until your account is empty.

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1.5 registration

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1.4) Registration

Beginning with version 0.9 Laplace is SHAREWARE. To get the full functionality, you need a keyfile. Without this keyfile, some functions are disabled, e.g. you cannot save or import projects. Additionally there is a nasty requester popping up regularly.

Ordering your personal keyfile

To get a keyfile registered to your person, just send me a little note; either by e-mail...

bstegema@ix.urz.uni-heidelberg.de

... or by snail-mail...

Benjamin Stegemann
Emmertsgrundpassage 1
69126 Heidelberg
Germany

When you order your keyfile, don't forget to add your name, address and e-mail address (if you have one). This information will be encoded into the keyfile and is quite essential (otherwise, using a keyfile would be useless). Please note also whether you want me to deliver the keyfile on a diskette or by e-mail.

The price

The current price for a keyfile is 20DM or US\$15. Only DM and US\$ are accepted. If you don't have direct access to DM or US\$, and you want to send me the money in a letter, please exchange your currency to DM; exchange fees must be payed only one this way.

The price will increase with future releases. I hope that this is some incentive for you to pay the shareware fee, although the current version of Laplace is still quite draft. Once you have a keyfile, you can always get the latest version for free (e.g. from the AMINET), thereby you don't have to pay anything more, if the shareware fee increases.

How to submit the money

The simplest way is to put the cash into an envelope and send it, together with your order, to the address given above.

Another way is to remit the money to the following account:

Owner: Benjamin Stegemann
Account: 3076920
Bank code number: 672 500 20
Institute: Bezirkssparkasse Heidelberg, Germany

But I don't know, if this is possible from another country than Germany. You might have to pay some horrendous fees... Ask some helpful bank clerk (if you find one) for further information. If you know a better way to submit the money from a foreign country, you might give me a hit!

Delivering of the keyfile

There are two ways, how I can send the keyfile to you: either by e-mail or on a diskette. If it is submitted by e-mail, I will encode it with the program `uuencode`; you need its counterpart `uudecode` to decode the keyfile.

Sending the keyfile on a diskette, doesn't produce any extra costs for you (although it does for me). It is not necessary to send me some stamps for the return letter. I do it this way, because I don't want to discriminate those, who don't have access to the INTERNET. In my point of view, INTERNET, WWW etc. is just another expensive but useless invention, and I try to support those, who are not susceptible to this stuff. This does not mean, that you should always order a diskette, even if you have an e-mail account. As I said before, this produces some extra costs for me, and if you are already addicted to the internet, it is your fault...

If you want, I will put the actual version of Laplace onto the diskette, too. Please tell me, which processor you have, I will then copy only the version optimized for this processor onto the diskette (otherwise it would not fit on one diskette).

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1.6 address

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1.5) Address

To reach me, the author of this fantastic program, write to

Benjamin Stegemann
Emmertsgrundpassage 1
69126 Heidelberg
Germany

As you can see, my address has changed. So if you have sent me a letter/postcard in the time of April '97 until now, it didn't reach me.

Sorry about that, but I simply forgot it... Please note that I have to move again to another flat in March/April '98.

If you prefer electronic mail, send it to

bstegema@ix.urz.uni-heidelberg.de

If you want a fast reply, write a postcard! If you add your e-mail address I will probably use it to reply, but in most cases a postcard reaches me faster than an e-mail (that's why it's called s-mail : speed-mail!!!).

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1.7 greets

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1.6) Greetings

P!\K sends greetinx to...

Walter Dörwald (icons), Dietmar Eilert (GOLDED), Mattias p. Eriksson (icons), Boris Folgmann (REVUP), Michael 'Mick' Hohmann (icons), Martin Huttenloher (icons), Michael Sinz (ENFORCER), Stefan Stuntz (MUI) for the tools that I used to develop Laplace.

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Some special thanx go to Rolf Kabbe, 'cause he was the first who registered for Laplace!!

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