Redesign of a METAPOST-based font generating system

Marek Ryćko, Bogusław Jackowski

Bachotek, 4 V 2019

A glance at history

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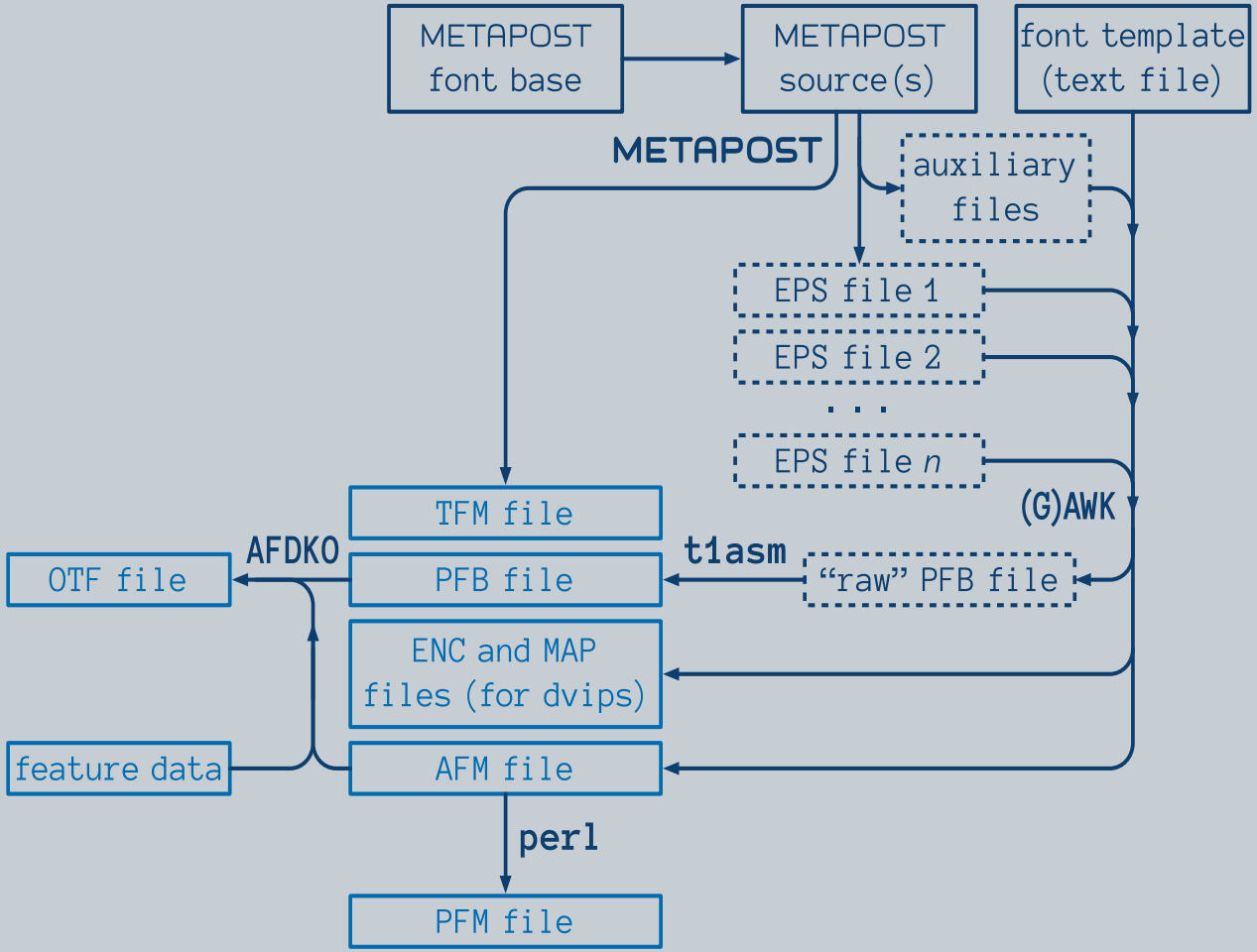

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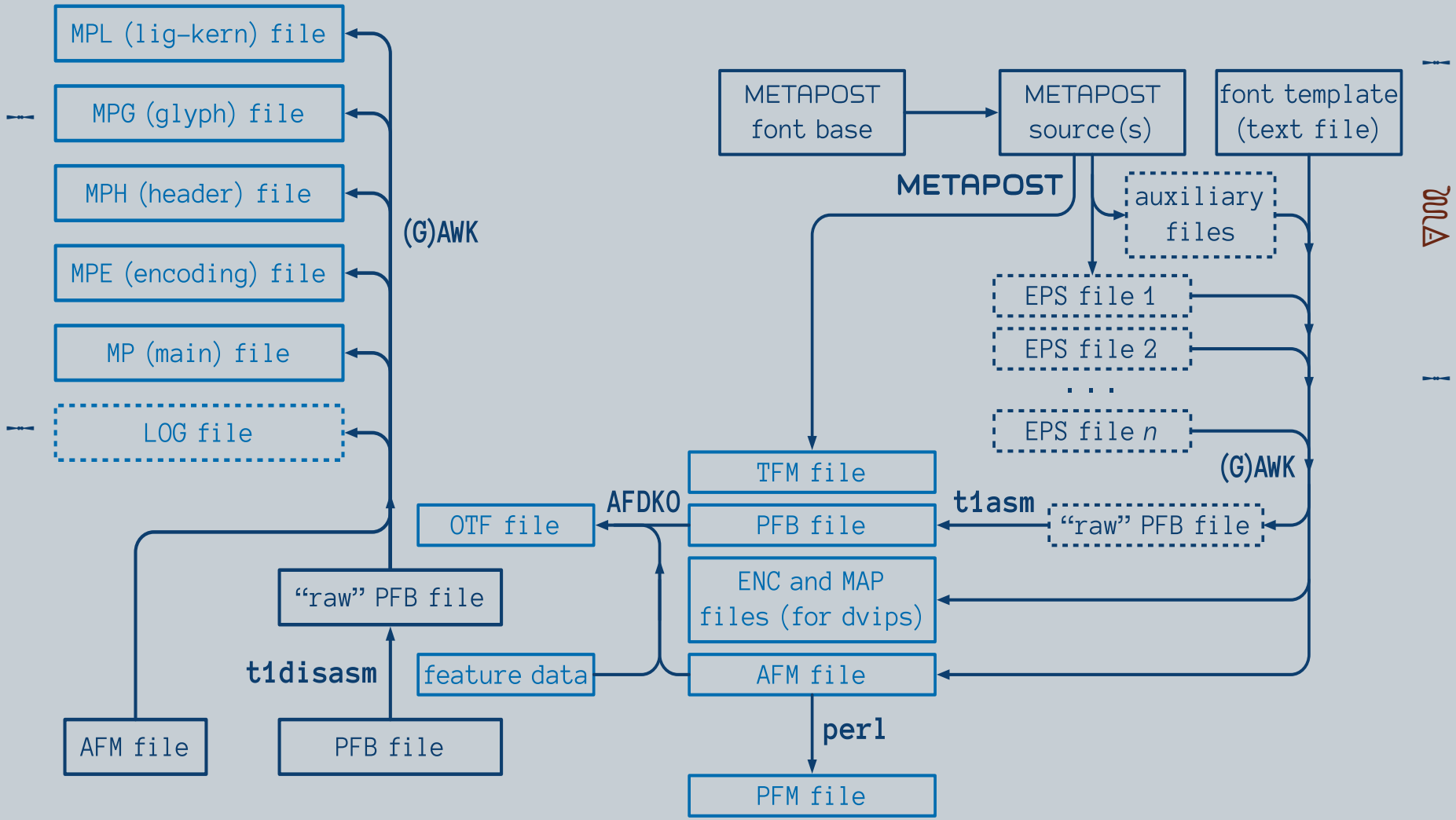

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- We decided to extend the engine in order to make its output universal, not merely TEX-oriented.
- But the engine structure became non-uniform, scattered, and tiresome in installing and configurating. Hence a scarce number of users: Janusz M. Nowacki, Johannes Küster (splendid Minion Math), Jacek Kmiecik (Pyszczki/Faces), the GUST e-Foundry (TG Gyre, Latin Modern, and math companion to both, altogether 130 font files, more than 120,000 glyphs), and, perhaps, occasionally, somebody else.

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- Therefore, we finally decided to simplify the engine – we employed only METAPOST and Python (with FontForge library).

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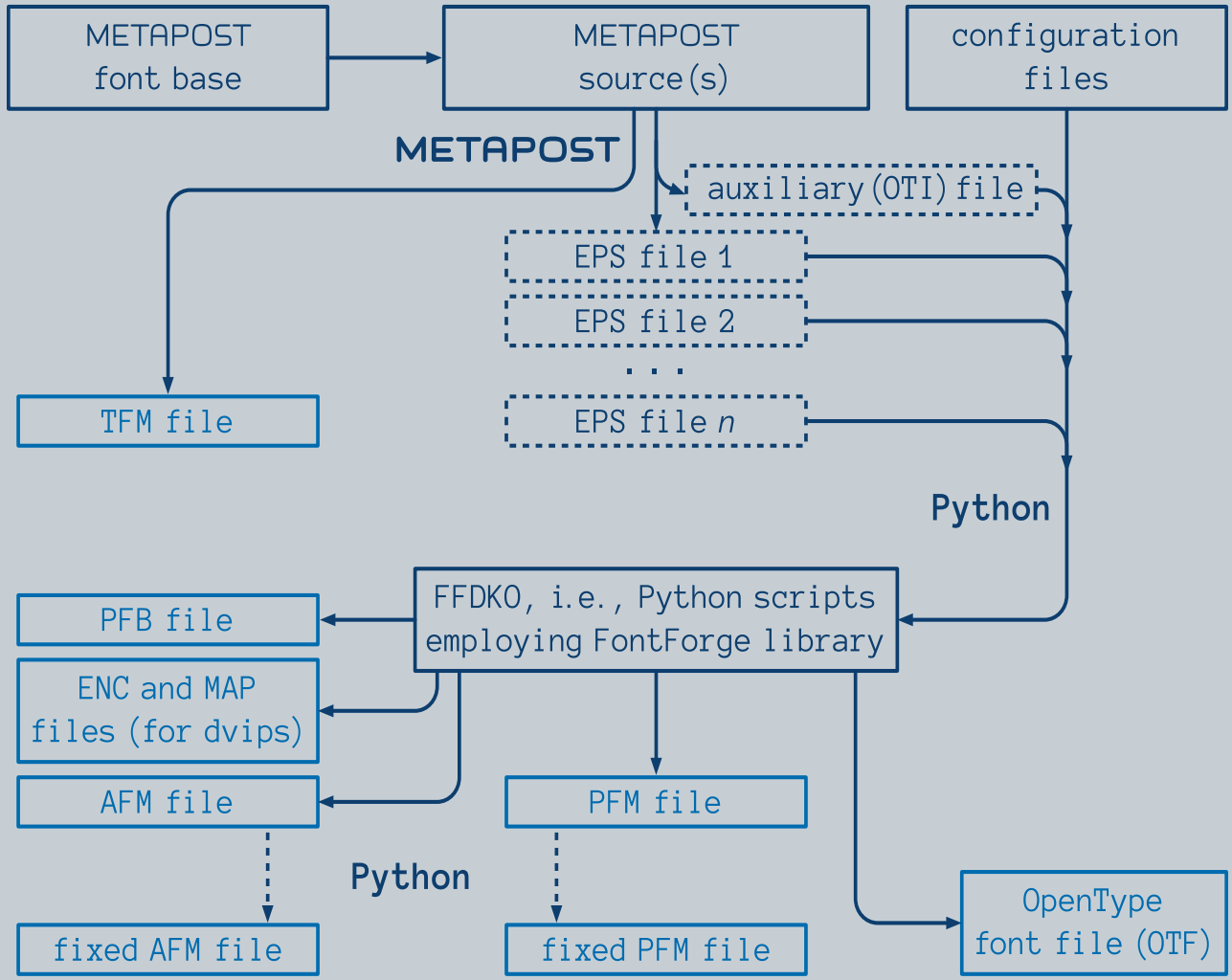

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- The main implementation idea is to use Python as a governing shell running METAPOST (which makes the engine independent of the operating system) and provide a simple yet universal installation (micro)language.
- We hope that such approach will improve transferability of the engine – both to other users and systems.

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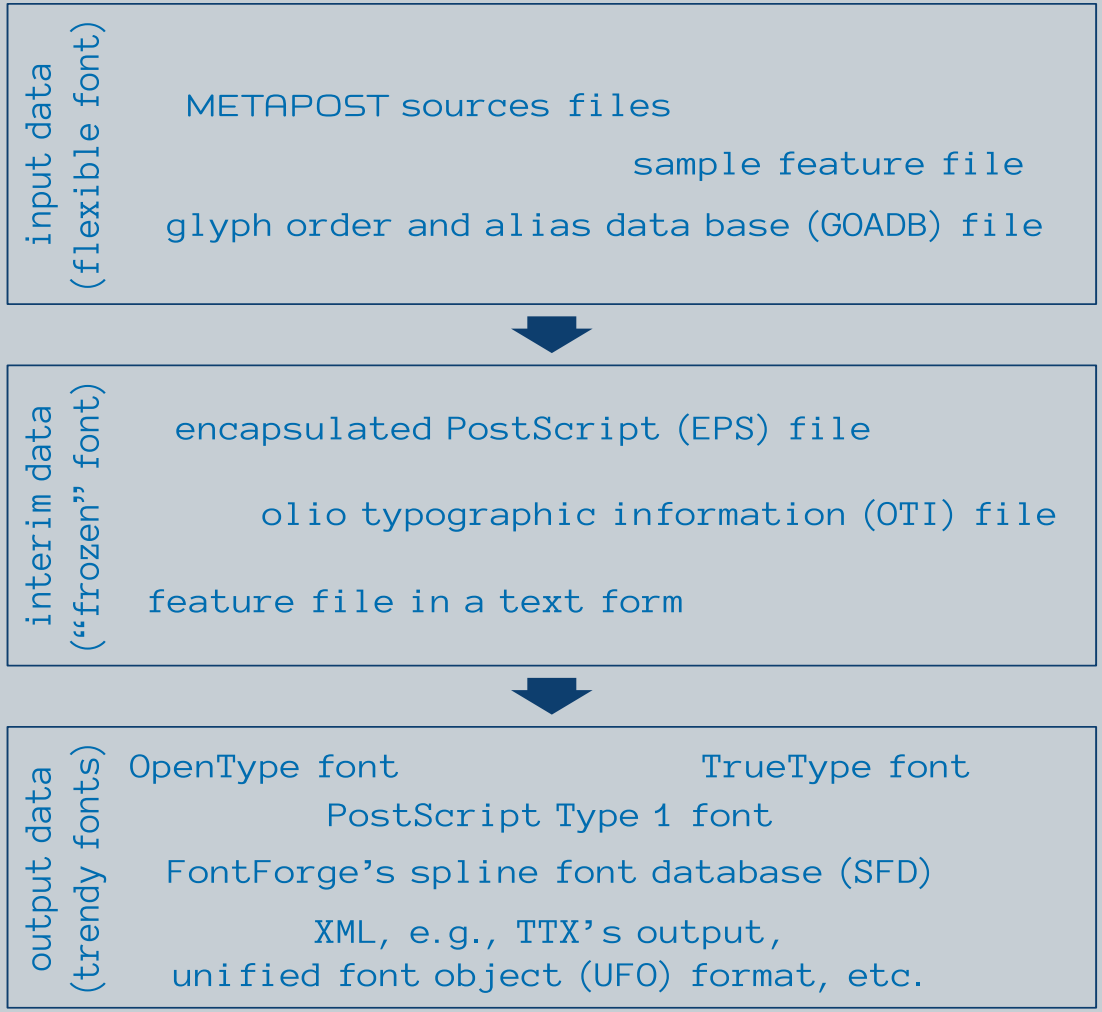

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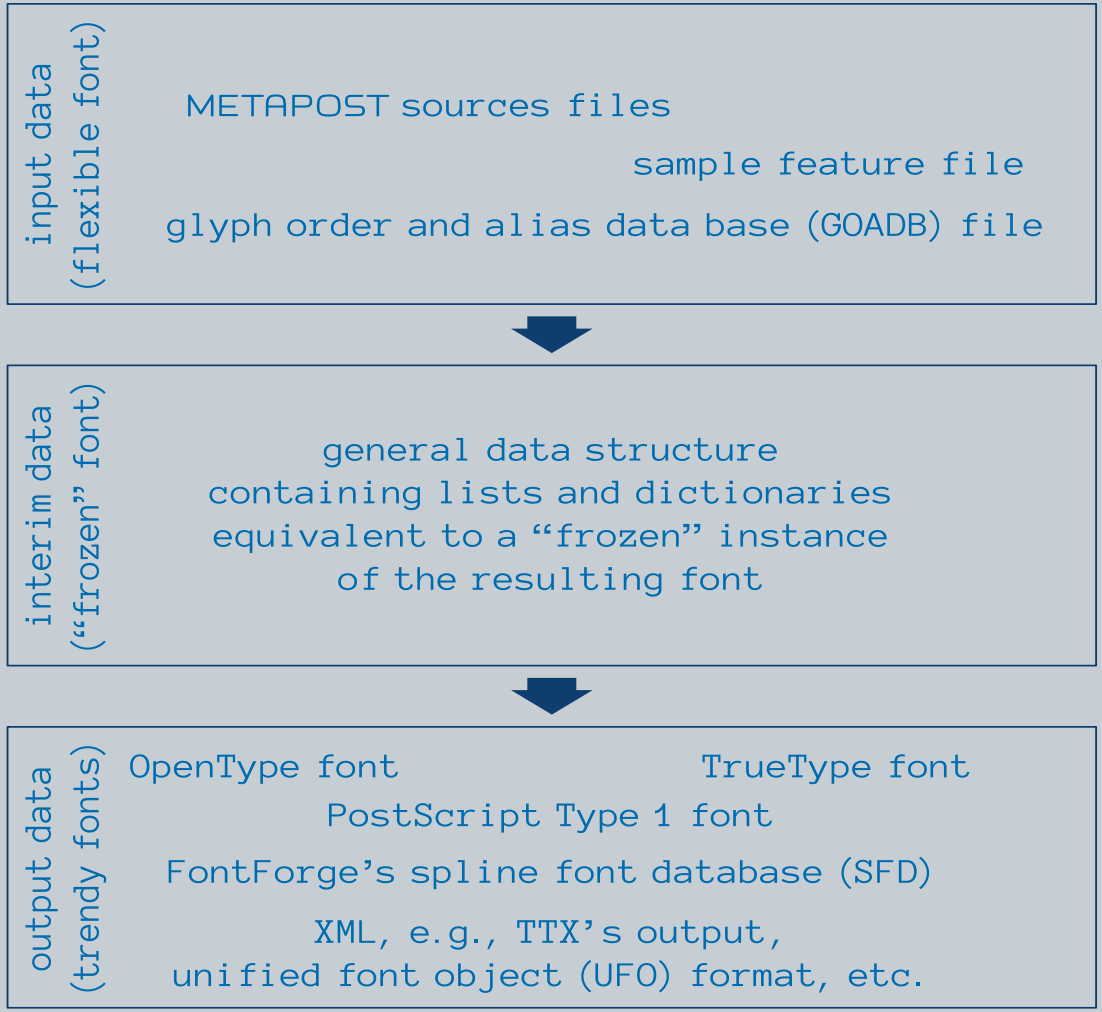

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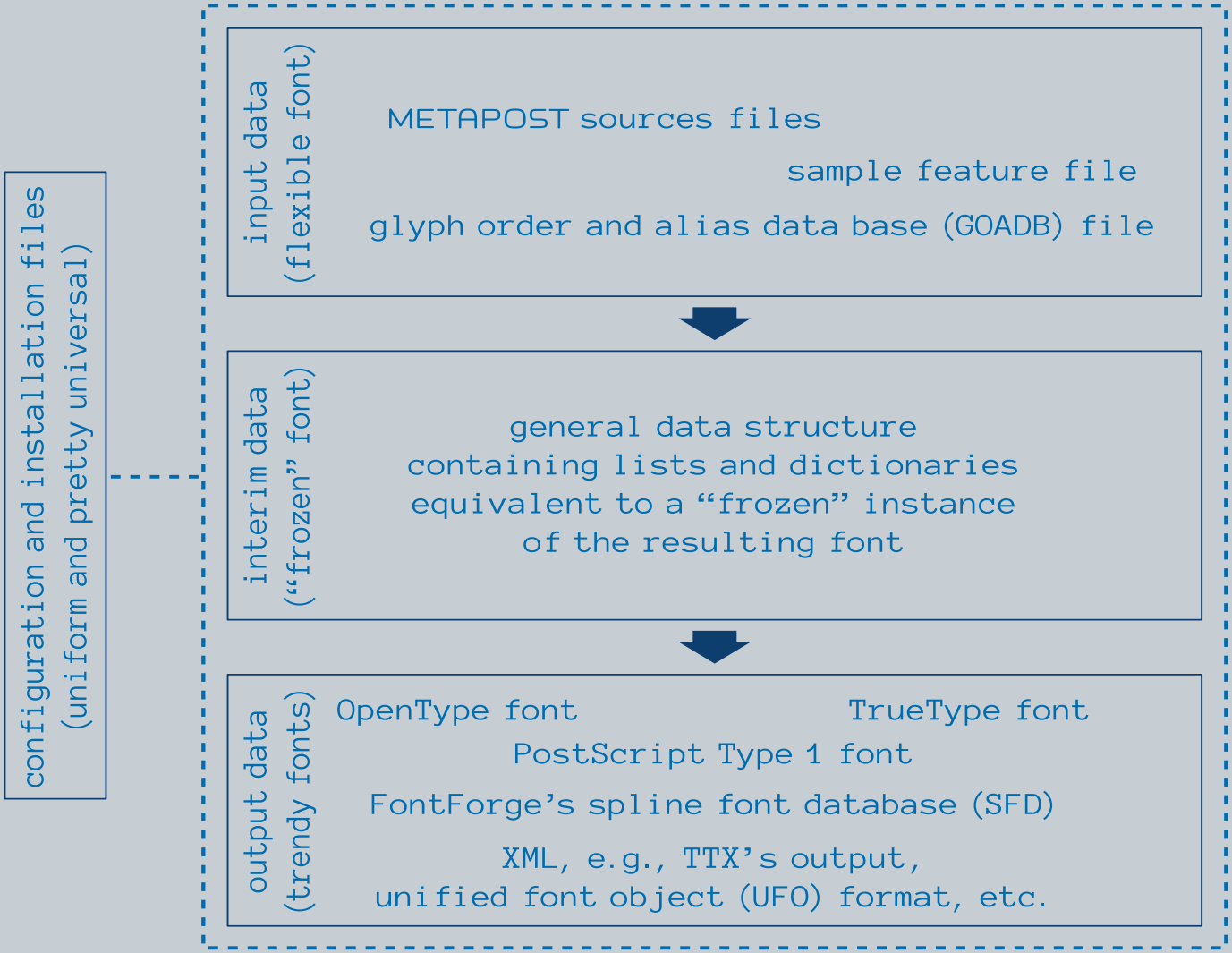

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    (It is worth emphasizing that both converter and formater, although obsolescent, are still used by us).
- We have the plan to finish the project of the TEX Gyre font enhancement as soon as possible (we recall that so far two fonts were enhanced: TG Adventor and TG Pagella), including TEX Gyre math fonts.

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- In our final words, we’d like to wish ourselves good dreams!

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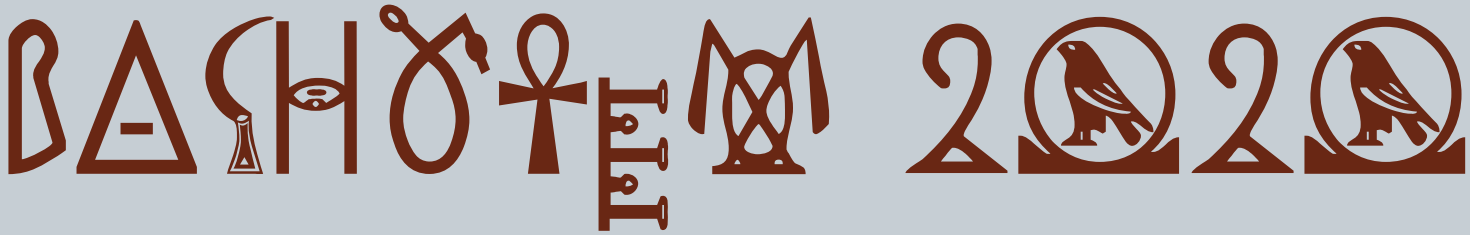

CREDITS

The funny "Egyptian" symbols that we used as a fancy font for BachoTEX's printed gadgets were designed by Petra Heidorn (pen name CybaPee Creations). The collection of her free fonts can be downloaded from Luc P. Devroye's web site http://luc.devroye.org/fonts-30503.html