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WRITTEN BY		April 25, 2025	

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NUMBER	DATE	DESCRIPTION	NAME

Contents

1	???	1
1.1	Table of contents	1
1.2	Introduction	1
1.3	Installing AGraph	2
1.4	Starting AGraph	2
1.5	Input files format	2
1.6	List of possible options	3
1.7	A small example of input file	4
1.8	Menus description	4
1.9	Using AGraph with ARexx	5
1.10	Technical informations	6

Chapter 1

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1.1 Table of contents

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AGraph 36.0

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Any commercial usage or selling without author's written authorization is strictly forbidden. You can copy and spread this program under the following conditions:

1. All the files must be provided
2. No file must be modified
3. You can't charge more than \$6 for the copy

In spite of several tests, no warranty is made that there are no errors in AGraph. YOU USE THIS PROGRAM AT YOUR OWN RISK. In no event will I be liable for any damage, direct or indirect, resulting of the use of AGraph.

Introduction
Installing AGraph
Starting AGraph
Input files format
Menus description
Using AGraph with ARExx
Technical informations

1.2 Introduction

AGraph is a small but quite powerfull program, which aim is to draw graphics like pies or histograms. It allows five types of graphics (most of them may be declined into various modes), has an AREXX port, and can save the graphics as a regular IFF ILBM file.

Criticisms and suggestions will always be welcomed. Write to:

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You can also send a message to "gounelle@alphanet.ch". Note that this mailbox is not mine, so please send only short messages. As I don't have direct access to the messages, don't expect an answer before a month.

1.3 Installing AGraph

To install AGraph, just copy the executable file to any directory in your path. The program requires a Kickstart V36 or higher. AGraph is provided in two versions: one that will run on any Amiga, the other optimized for Amigas with at least a 68020 CPU and a 68881 FPU.

AGraph is localized, so it can adapt itself to your favorite language. All you have to do is to copy the good catalog file into the directory corresponding to your language. For example, if your default language is french, copy the "français.catalog" file under the name "AGraph.catalog", into the "SYS:Locale/Catalogs/Français" directory.

1.4 Starting AGraph

The program may be run either from the Shell command line, or from the Workbench. In both cases, it only accept a single optional argument, which is assumed to be the name of the input file to use.

If no argument is specified, a file requester will appear, so that you can select the input file. If you cancel this requester, the program will stops.

1.5 Input files format

This section describes the format of AGraph input files. These files are simple text files, which hold the data and parameters that are needed to draw the graphic.

The general format of the input files is:

```
; comment line
AGRAPH
OPTIONS
  OPTION1=value
  OPTION2=value
  and so on...
DATA
  TitleOfColumn1,TitleOfColumn2,...
  TitleOfLine1,DataAtLine1Column1, DataAtLine1Column2,...
  ...
```

Empty lines and comment lines are ignored. The first line which is not a comment or an empty line must start with the "AGRAPH" keyword.

As you can see, input files are divided in one or two sections :

- the OPTIONS section, which is optional, allow to overwrite default parameters settings, like the screen mode to use or the type of graphic you want.
- the DATA section, which is required, holds the data for the graphic.

OPTIONS and DATA sections may appear in any order. It is strongly suggested that each option and data line begins with at least one space or tabulation character.

List of possible options

A small example of input file

1.6 List of possible options

DEPTH=n

Use a screen of "n" planes. If "n" is different of the number of planes of the Workbench screen, a custom screen will be opened. This screen will have the same mode as the Workbench screen, unless the DISPLAYID option is specified.

Example: DEPTH=3

DISPLAYID=screenmode

Opens a custom screen, with the specified screen mode.

Example: DISPLAYID=0x29004

FONT=fontnameY

Specifies the font to use, instead of the default text font.

Example: FONT=topaz8

LEGEND=RIGHT|BOTTOM|NONE

Specifies the location of the legend for the graphic. Default value is RIGHT.

Example: LEGEND=BOTTOM

MODE=PERCENT|HORIZONTAL|BACKDROP|NOAXES

Specifies the graphic's mode. You can specify a list of modes, separated by a comma (see example below). If a mode is not suitable for the current graphic's type, it will be ignored.

In PERCENT mode, the AREA, CUMHISTO and PIE graphics transform all data values in a percentage, relative to the sum of all the values in the same column.

In HORIZONTAL mode, X and Y axis are inverted for the STDHISTO and CUMHISTO graphics.

In BACKDROP mode, AGraph always opens a custom screen, and output windows are backdrop windows which can't be resized. You can specify the mode of the custom screen with the DISPLAYID option.

In NOAXES mode, AGraph doesn't draw vertical (or horizontal in HORIZONTAL mode) axes.

Example: MODE=PERCENT,HORIZONTAL

PALETTE=0xRGB,0xRGB,...

Specifies the colors to use for the current screen. If AGraph is working on the Workbench screen, the initial palette will be restored when the program will end.

Example: PALETTE=0xAAA,0x000,0xFFFF,0x68B

STARTPEN=n

Specifies the starting color to use. This color will be used for the first row of data. Default value is 2 (white in standard palette).

Example: STARTPEN=3

TITLE=window's title

Specifies the title of the output window. Default value is the input file's name.

Example: TITLE=Sales curve

TYPE=CURVE|AREA|PIE|STDHISTO|CUMHISTO

Specifies the type of graphic to draw. STDHISTO stands for "standard histogram", CUMHISTO for "cumulated histogram".

Default value is CURVE. Data values must have the same sign for AREA and PIE. Note that PIE uses only the first column of data.

Example: TYPE=PIE

YSCALE=n

Specifies the graduation step on Y axis. If omitted, AGraph will show 0, minimum and maximal values.

Example: YSCALE=2.5

1.7 A small example of input file

```
;
; Example file for AGraph
;
AGRAPH
OPTIONS
  FONT=times11
  TITLE=Sales curve
  YSCALE=10
  TYPE=STDHISTO
DATA
  01/94, 02/94, 03/94, 04/94, 05/94, 06/94, 07/94, 08/94
  Joe, 11.12, 3.49, 0.13, 2.29, 3.20, 9.13, 2.23, 3.24
  Jack, 22.57, 30.44, 17.21, 10.48, 36.36, 63.11, 25.55, 24.41
  William, 50.49, 42.08, 43.13, 9.36, 13.52, 37.06, 24.32, 15.19
  Averell, 0, 0, 51.40, 1.55, 7.24, 4.37, 0.33, 0.25
```

1.8 Menus description

Once an output window is opened, AGraph adds two menus to this window.

The "Project" menu has the following items:

Open...

Loads a new input file. A file requester will appear, so you will be able to select the file to load.

Save as...

Saves the current graphic as an IFF ILBM file. A file requester will appear, so you will be able to specify the name of the output file.

About...

Displays some informations about the program and the author.

Quit

Terminates the program

The "Mode" menu has the following items:

Area

Curve

Cumulated histo.

Standard histo.

Pie

Changes the graphic's type. Some types may be disabled, if the current data does not allow to display them.

Percent

Toggles PERCENT mode.

Horizontal

Toggles HORIZONTAL mode.

No axes

Toggles NOAXES mode

1.9 Using AGraph with ARexx

AGraph has an ARexx port, which name is "AGraph_rexx". The port is open when the program starts. If it can't be opened, an warning message will be displayed.

The commands that are accepted are:

MODE new mode

MODE modes list

Changes the mode of the current graphic

OPEN filename

Loads a new input file

PALETTE 0xRGB,0xRGB...

Changes the palette of the current screen

SAVEAS filename

Saves the current graphic as an IFF ILBM file, which name will be "filename"

TOFRONT

Bring current screen to front

TYPE new type

Changes the type of the current graphic

QUIT

Terminates the program

All these commands return 0 if successful, 10 if an error occurred, 20 if a fatal error occurred. In this last case, the program immediately terminates.

1.10 Technical informations

Language used

C language only.

Compiler used

SAS/C 6.51.

Source code size

112638 bytes, 4695 lines, 24 modules.

Developpement machine

Amiga 3000 25Mhz with 10Mb RAM, 160Mb hard disk, OS 3.1.

Developpement time

Less than 40 hours (for v36.0)