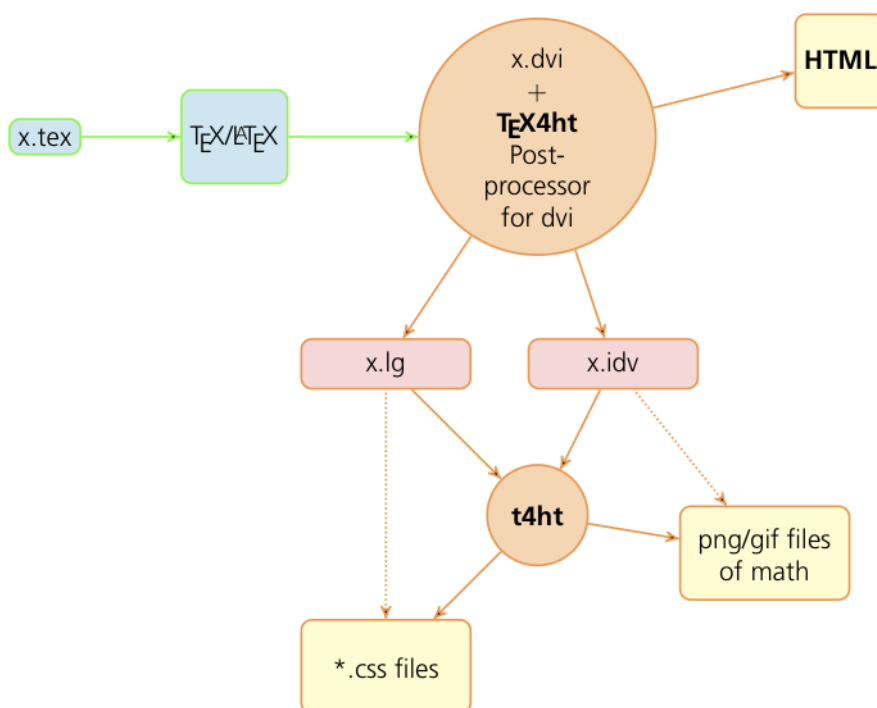


1 The Translation Process

The system can be activated with a sequence of commands of the following form, typically embedded within a script.

```
latex      x          (or 'tex x')
latex      x
latex      x
tex4ht     x
t4ht       x
```

The three compilations with \LaTeX (or \TeX) are needed to ensure proper links. The approach is illustrated in the following picture.



- `x.tex`: This is a source \TeX or \LaTeX or other \TeX file that imports the style files `tex4ht.sty` and `*.4ht`. The style files define the features for the output.
- `tex4ht`: The output of \TeX is a standard `verb+dvi+` file interleaved with special instructions for the postprocessor `tex4ht` to use. The special instructions come from implicit and explicit requests made in the source file through commands of \TeX4ht .

The utility `tex4ht` translates the `dvi` code into standard text, while obeying the requests it gets from the special instructions. The special instructions may request the creation of files, insertion of HTML code, filtering of pictures, and so forth.

In the extreme case that the source code contains no commands of \TeX 4ht, `tex4ht` gets pure `dvi` code and it outputs (almost) plain text with no hypertext elements in it.

The special (`\special`) instructions seeded in the `verb+dvi+` code are not understood by `verb+dvi+` processors other than those of \TeX 4ht.

- `x.idv`: This is a `dvi` file extracted from `x.dvi`, and it contains the pictures needed in the HTML files.
- `x.lg`: This is a log file listing the pictures of `x.idv`, the png files that should be created, CSS information, and user directives introduced through the `\Needs{...}` command.
- `t4ht`: This is an interpreter for executing the requests made in the `x.lg` script.