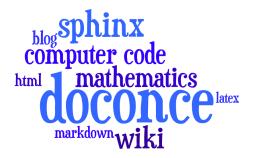
Scientific Writing and Publishing Anno 2013

Hans Petter Langtangen

Aug 29, 2014



Scientific writing = \LaTeX

- Pre 1980: Handwriting + publisher (paper or book)
- Post 1985: scientists write LATEX
- Post 1995: publish LATEX on the web and in journals and books

Big late 1990s question:

Will MS Word replace LATEX? It never did!

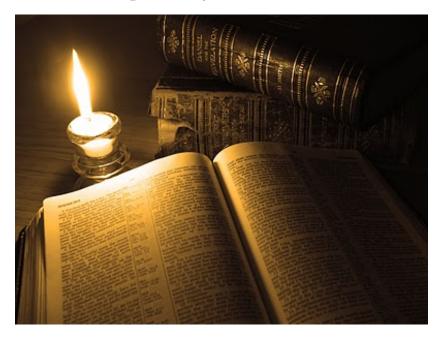
Scientific publishing needs to address new media







The book will probably survive



The classical report will survive

UNIVERSITÉ DE NICE - SOPHIA ANTIPOLIS

ÉCOLE DOCTORALE STIC SCIENCES ET TECHNOLOGIES DE L'INFORMATION ET DE LA COMMUNICATION

THÈSE

pour obtenir le titre de

Docteur en Sciences

de l'Université de Nice - Sophia Antipolis Mention : INFORMATIQUE

> Présentée et soutenue par Olivier COMMOWICK

Création et utilisation d'atlas anatomiques numériques pour la radiothérapie

Thèse dirigée par Grégoire MALANDAIN préparée à l'INRIA Sophia Antipolis, Projet ASCLEPIOS

Long Titles Look More Impressive Than Short Ones

Jonathan S. Doe*

University of Technology, Delft frits@howtoTeX.com

Abstract

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Curabitur magna lorem, tempor sed facilisis vel, porta et turpis. Sed et felis a massa dictum posuere. Aliquam hendrerit rhoncus ipsum sit amet placerat. Duis fringilla est eu arcu mollis faucibus non sit amet eros. Vestibulum risus nibh, dapibus vitae laoreet eget, fringilla quis nisl. Proin consequat nibh sit amet mauris suscipit tincidunt. Sed rutrum, purus nec aliquam faucibus, quam libero venenatis nisi, ut tempor mi sapien vel diam. Pellentesque sagittis elit non risus malesuada accumsan. Morbi consequat urna et lacus hendrerit sodales. Proin at urna neque, ut dapibus urna. Curabitur venenatis molestie convallis. Vestibulum blandit vulputate risus, quis sodales sapien portitior non.

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Suspendisse id urna vel risus venenatis ultrices ut vel odio. Donec aliquet est at magna tincidunt ut rutrum lacus cursus. Praesent ultricies aliquam erat quis scelerisque. Vestibulum interdum interdum augue, at placeraturpis tempus nec. Vestibulum feugiat, tellus ultrices tempor fermentum, ipsum dolor vestibulum eros, sed vulputate felis eros eget ipsum. Fusce ultricies dapibus turpis non pretium. Suspendisse potenti. Integer porttitor, lorem ac mattis fermentum, metus neque scelerisque sapien, vel lobortis orci erat at sapien. Mauris convallis nisi feugiat velit porttitor mollis. Nunc cursus est cursus erat malesuada sit amet cursus magna malesuada. Cum sociis natoque penatibus et magnis dis parturient montes, nascetur ridiculus mus. Sed eget dolor mauris. Aenean lobortis nunc vel velit lobortis quis tincidunt libero porta. Nunc hendrerit aliquet porttitor.

I. Section title example

Maecenas sed ultricies felis. Sed imperdiet dictum arcu a egestas.

- Donec dolor arcu, rutrum id molestie in, viverra sed diam.
- Curabitur feugiat,
- · turpis sed auctor facilisis,
- arcu eros accumsan lorem, at posuere mi diam sit amet tortor.
- Fusce fermentum, mi sit amet euismod rutrum.
- sem lorem molestie diam, iaculis aliquet sapien tortor non nisi.
- · Pellentesque bibendum pretium aliquet.

Scope of this presentation

- Focus: documents with much math and computer code
- Key question: What tools should I use for scientific writing?

^{*}Template by howtoTeX.com

The default answer is LATEX, but there are many recent popular alternative tools: HTML w/MathJax, Sphinx, Markdown, MediaWiki, IPython notebook.



Does your scientific writing today need to address new media (in the future)?

- BW paper
- Color paper
- Slides
- Web w/design
- Wiki
- Blog
- Notebook
- ...



Can we factor pieces from a heterogeneous world to one coherent piece in the future?

When I write some scientific material,

- a LATEX document,
- a blog post (HTML),
- some web pages (HTML),
- a Sphinx document,
- an IPython notebook,
- some Markdown files,

and later want to collect the pieces into a larger document, maybe some book, or one big web document, or a set of slides, is that at all feasible?

Probably not, but I have a solution :-)

Popular tools anno 2013 and their math support

- LaTeX: de facto standard for math-instensive documents
- $\bullet~pdfLaTeX,~XeLaTeX,~LuaLaTeX:$ takes over (figures in png, pdf) use these!
- MS Word: too clicky math support and ugly fonts, but much used

- HTML with MathJax: "full" LATEX math, but much tagging
- Sphinx: somewhat limited LATEX math support, but great support for web design, and less tagged than HTML
- reStructuredText: similar to Sphinx, but no math support, transforms to lots of formats (LATEX, HTML, XML, Word, OpenOffice, ...)
- Markdown: somewhat limited LATEX math support, but minor tagging, transforms to lots of formats (LATEX, HTML, XML, Word, OpenOffice, ...)
- IPython notebooks: Markdown code/math, combines Python code, interactivity, and visualization, but requires all code snippets to sync together
- MediaWiki: quite good LATEX math support (cf. Wikipedia/Wikibooks)
- Other wiki formats: no math support, great for collaborative editing
- Wordpress: supports LATEX formulas only, but good blog post support
- Google blogger: supports full HTML with MathJax
- Epydoc: old tool for Python code documentation
- Plain text for email: no math, just raw LATEX, and no tagging

LATEX is very rich; other tools support much less

- LATEX inline math: works with all (LATEX, MathJax, Sphinx, Markdown, MediaWiki)
- LATEX equation math:
 - LaTeX: equation*, equation, align*, align + eqnarray, split, alignat, ... (numerous!)
 - MathJax: equation*, equation, align*, align
 - MediaWiki: equation*, equation, align*, align
 - Sphinx: equation*, equation, align*
 - Markdown: equation*, equation, eqnarray*, align* (but no labels)

LATEX is very rich; other tools support much less

- Figures: all
- Subfigures: LATEX (subfigure)
- Movies: LATEX, raw HTML
- Floating computer code: LATEX; fixed computer code: all
- Interactive programs: Sphinx, IPython notebook, raw HTML
- Floating tables: LATEX; fixed tables: all
- Algorithms: LATEX
- Margin notes: LATEX, HTML with tailored css code
- Page references: LATEX
- Footnotes: LATEX, Sphinx, reStructuredText, MediaWiki
- Bibliography: LATEX, Sphinx, reStructuredText, MediaWiki
- Hyperlinks: all (but not on paper!)

Conclusion: Highly non-trivial to translate a LATEX document into something based on HTML and vice versa.

Typesetting concerns I

- Sphinx refers to figures by the caption (has to be short!) and strips away any math notation (avoid that!).
- Sphinx refers to sections by the title, but removes math in the reference, so avoid math in headlines.
- Tables cannot be referred to by numbers and have to appear at fixed positions in the text.
- Computer code has to appear at fixed positions in the text.
- Algorithms must be written up using basic elements like lists or paragraphs with headings.
- Recipes are often typeset as enumerated lists. For recipes with code or math blocks: drop the list (gives problems in some formats) and use paragraph (or subsubsection) headings with "Step 1.", "Step 2.", etc.

Typesetting concerns II

- Footnotes must appear as part of the running text (e.g., sentences surrounded by parenthesis), since only a few formats support footnotes.
- Sphinx does not handle code blocks where the first line is indented.
- Multiple plots in the same figure: mount the plots to one image file and include this (montage for png, gif, jpeg; pdftk, pdfnup, and pdfcrop for PDF).
- If you need several equations *numbered* in an align environment, recall that Sphinx, Markdown, and MediaWiki cannot handle this, although they have LATEX math support.
- Markdown tolerates labels in equations but cannot refer to them.

Typesetting concerns III

- Index words can appear anywhere in L^AT_EX, but should be outside paragraphs in other tools.
- References to tables, program code and algorithms can only be made in LATEX.
- Figures are floating in LATEX, but fixed in other tools, so place figures exactly where they are needed the first time.
- Curve plots with color lines do not work well in black-and-white printing. Make sure plots makes sense in color and BW (e.g., by using colors and markers).

Solution I: Use a format that translates to many

- Sphinx can do nice HTML, LATEX, epub, (almost) plain text, man pages, Gnome devhelp files, Qt help files, texinfo, JSON
- Markdown can do LATEX, HTML, MS Word, OpenOffice, XML, reStructuredText, epub, DocBook, ... but not Sphinx
- \bullet IPython notebook: can do IATEX, reStructuredText, HTML, PDF, Python script
- Sphinx and Markdown has some limited math support

Solution II: Use DocOnce

DocOnce offers minimalistic typing, great flexibility wrt format, especially for scientific writing with $much\ math\ and\ code.$

- Can generate IATEX, HTML, Sphinx, Markdown, MediaWiki, Google wiki, Creole wiki, reST, plain text
- Made for large science books and small notes
- Targets paper and screen
- Many special features (code snippets from files, embedded movies, admonitions, modern LATEX layouts, ...)
- Very effective for generating slides from ordinary text
- Applies Mako: DocOnce text is a program (!)
- Much like Markdown, less tagged than LATEX, HTML, Sphinx

DocOnce demos

http://hplgit.github.com/teamods/writing_reports/

- LATEX-based PDF for screen, for printing, for phone
- Plain HTML or with a template or another template or solarized
- Sphinx: agni, pyramid, classy, fenics, redcloud
- HTML for Google or Wordpress for blog posts
- MediaWiki (Wikipedia, Wikibooks, etc)
- DocOnce source code and tutorial

DocOnce disclaimer

• Based on text transformations (reg.exp.) so valid syntax may occasionally give problems

DocOnce divorce.

At any time one can divorce from DocOnce and marry one of the output formats, such as LATEX or Sphinx. The generated code is clean.

DocOnce experience: code generation is a great thing

Regardless of what format you write in, introduce a step where you can generate (parts of) the syntax.

- $\bullet\,$ Use a preprocessor a la Mako
- Write your own read-and-generate code
- or both (like DocOnce)

Advantages:

- \bullet Less writing
- Repository of syntax for nice constructions
- Implements structure/rules across documents
- Easier to change layout/structure

Example: generate reveal.js or deck.js slides from HTML

- Write the content of each slide in plain HTML(5)
- Use e.g. #slide as delimiter between slides
- Read file, splitting wrt #slide yields a list of slides (HTML code)
- For a specific format (reveal.js, deck.js, csss, ...):
 - write header
 - for slide in slides:
 - * embed slide in correct HTML code
 - write footer

```
<h2>Scope of this presentation</h2>

    Focus: documents with much <em>math</em> and <em>computer code</em>
```

```
Key question: What tools should I use for scientific writing?

<div class="alert">
The default answer is LaTeX.
</div>
```

A tour of DocOnce

Title, authors, date, toc

```
TITLE: Some Title
AUTHOR: name1 at institution1, with more info & institution2
AUTHOR: name2 email:name2@web.com at institution
DATE: today

# A table of contents is optional:
TOC: on
```

Notice.

Title and authors must have all information on a single line!

Abstract

```
__Abstract.__
Here goes the abstract...

Or:
__Summary.__
Here goes the summary...
```

Section headings

Chapter 1

This is an H1/chapter heading

This is an H2/section heading

This is an H3/subsection heading.

This is an H4/paragraph heading.

This is a paragraph heading.

Markup and lists

* Bullet list items start with '*'
and may span several lines

* *Emphasized words* are possible

* _Boldface words_ are also possible

* color{red}{colored words} too

* 'inline verbatim code' is featured
o and sublists with enumerated items starting with 'o'
o items are just indented as you would do in email

This gets rendered as

- $\bullet\,$ Bullet lists start with * and may span several lines
- Emphasized words are possible
- Boldface words are also possible
- colored words too
- inline verbatim code is featured
 - 1. and sublists with enumerated items starting with \circ

2. items are just indented as you would do in email

Labels, references, index items

```
# Insert index items in the source
idx{key word1} idx{key word2}

# Label
===== Some section =====
label{this:section}

# Make reference
As we saw in Section ref{this:section}, references, index
items and labels follow a syntax similar to LaTeX
but without backslashes.

# Make reference to equations
See (ref{eq1})-(ref{myeq}).

# Make hyperlink
"some link text": "https://github.com/hplgit/doconce"

# Hyperlink with complete URL as link text
URL: "https://github.com/hplgit/doconce"
```

Figures and movies

Important:

Figures with HTML and \LaTeX size info, and caption: everything on one line

```
FIGURE: [figdir/myfig, width=300 frac=1.2] My caption. label{fig1}

Movies are also supported:

MOVIE: [http://youtu.be/IDeGDFZSYo8, width=420 height=315]

and rendered as

http://youtube.com/IDeGDFZSYo8
```

Math

```
Inline math as in LATeX: ...where a=\int_{\Omega} f dx is an integral. gets rendered as ...where a=\int_{\Omega} f dx is an integral. An equation environment is surrounded by !bt and !et tags, the rest is plain LATeX:
```

```
!bt
\begin{align}
\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} &= \nabla^2 u,
label{a:eq}\\
\nabla\cdot\pmb{v} & = 0
label{b:eq}
\end{align}
!et
```

which is rendered as

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = \nabla^2 u,\tag{1.1}$$

$$\nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{v} = 0 \tag{1.2}$$

Math flexibility

Limit math environments to

```
\[ ... \]
\begin{equation*}
\begin{equation}
\end{equation}
\begin{align*}
\end{align*}
\begin{align}
\end{align}
\end{align}
```

DocOnce fix of shortcomings.

- Sphinx, Markdown, and MediaWiki cannot have align with labels
- MathJax (HTML, Sphinx, Markdown, Mediawiki, ...) cannot handle equation references across web pages

Displaying code

Code is enclosed in !bc and !ec tags:

```
!bc pycod
def solver(I, a, T, dt, theta):
    """Solve u'=-a*u, u(0)=I, for t in (0,T] with steps of dt."""
    dt = float(dt); N = int(round(T/dt)); T = N*dt
    u = zeros(N+1); t = linspace(0, T, N+1)
```

```
u[0] = I
for n in range(0, N):
        u[n+1] = (1 - (1-theta)*a*dt)/(1 + theta*dt*a)*u[n]
    return u, t
!ec

This gets rendered as

def solver(I, a, T, dt, theta):
    """Solve u'=-a*u, u(0)=I, for t in (0,T] with steps of dt."""
    dt = float(dt); N = int(round(T/dt)); T = N*dt
    u = zeros(N+1); t = linspace(0, T, N+1)

u[0] = I
    for n in range(0, N):
        u[n+1] = (1 - (1-theta)*a*dt)/(1 + theta*dt*a)*u[n]
    return u, t
```

Copying code from source files

We recommend to copy as much code as possible directly from the source files:

```
@@@CODE path/to/file
@@@CODE path/to/file fromto: start-regex@end-regex
```

For example, copying a code snippet starting with def solver(and ending with (line not included) def next(x, y, is specified by start and end regular expressions:

```
@@@CODE src/dc_mod.py fromto: def solver\(@def next\(x,\s*y,
```

Typesetting of code is implied by the file extension

- .py: pypro if complete file, pycod if snippet
- .pyopt: visualized execution via the Online Python Tutor
- .f, .f90, f.95: fpro and fcod
- .cpp, .cxx: cpppro and cppcod
- .c: cpro and ccod
- .*sh: shpro and shcod
- .m: mpro and mcod
- ptex2tex: between 40+ code styles in LATEX
- pygments is used for code in HTML (ca 10 styles)

Demonstrating code execution; Online Python Tutor

With !bc pyoptpro or a file *.pyopt, the code applies the Online Python Tutor for displaying program flow and state of variables:

```
def solver(I, a, T, dt, theta):
    dt = float(dt)
    N = int(round(T/dt))
    T = N*dt
    u = [0.0]*(N+1)
    t = [i*dt for i in range(N+1)]

    u[0] = I
    for n in range(0, N):
        u[n+1] = (1 - (1-theta)*a*dt)/(1 + theta*dt*a)*u[n]
    return u, t

u, t = solver(I=1, a=1, T=3, dt=1., theta=0.5)
    print u

(Visualize execution)
```

Demonstrating code execution; Sage Cell Server

With !bc pyscpro or a file *.pysc, the code is typeset in a sage cell:

```
a = 2
b = 3
print 'a+b:', a + b

# In a sage cell we can also plot
from matplotlib.pyplot import *
from numpy import *
x = linspace(0, 4*pi, 101)
y = exp(-0.1*x)*cos(x)
plot(x, y)
xlabel('x'); ylabel('y')
show()
```

Warning.

Works only in Sphinx documents (but HTML support is possible).

Demonstrating code execution; IPython notebook

Can take a DocOnce source and transform to an IPython notebook with source

Tables

time		velocity		acceleration
r-		r		r
0.0	-	1.4186	Τ	-5.01
1 2.0	İ	1.376512	İ	11.919
1 4.0	i	1.1E+1	İ	14.717624
i			·-·	

Gets rendered as

time	velocity	acceleration
0.0	1.4186	-5.01
2.0	1.376512	11.919
4.0	1.1E + 1	14.717624

Newcommands for math

- newcommands*.tex files contain newcommands
- Used directly in LATEX
- Substitution made for many other formats

Labels, citations, index, bibliography

Lables, citations, index, and bibliography follow the ideas of \LaTeX X, but without backslashes:

```
==== References =====
BIBFILE: papers.pub
```

The papers.pub file must be in Publish format (easy to make from BibTeX).

Exercises

DocOnce offers a special format for exercises, problems, projects, and examples:

```
===== Problem: Flip a Coin =====
label{demo:ex:1}
files=flip_coin.py, flip_coin.pdf
solutions=mysol.txt, mysol_flip_coin.py
keywords = random numbers; Monte Carlo simulation
!bsubex
Make a program that simulates flipping a coin $N$ times.
!bhint
Use 'r = random.random()' and define head as 'r <= 0.5'.
!ehint
!esubex
!bsubex
Compute the probability of getting heads.
!bans
0.5.
!eans
!esubex
```

Rendering of the previous page

Problem 1: Flip a Coin

a) Make a program that simulates flipping a coin N times.

```
Hint. Use r = random.random() and define head as r \le 0.5.
```

b) Compute the probability of getting heads.

```
Answer. 0.5. Filenames: flip_coin.py, flip_coin.pdf.
```

Exercises

All exercises, problems, and projects in a document are parsed and available in a data structure (list of dicts) for further processing (e.g., making a book of problems).

Use of preprocessors

- Simple if-else tests a la the C/C++ preprocessor
- FORMAT variable can be used to test on format, e.g.,
 - if latex/pdflatex do one sort of code (raw LATEX)
 - if html, do another type of code (raw HTML)
- Easy to comment out large portions of text
- Easy to make different versions of the document
- The make preprocessor is really powerful gives a complete programming language inside the document!

DocOnce admonitions

Use with caution!

Such environments may light up the document, but can be disturbing too. Some admon styles have icons.

Going deeper.

More details can be separated from the rest.

Time for review!

Tasks:

- Maybe ask a question?
- Or two?

Conclusion:

• A special "block" admonition has less pronounced typesetting and can be used when no special icon is desired. Good for slides.

Slides

Very effective way to generate slides from running text:

- Take a copy of your DocOnce prose
- Strip off as much text as possible
- Emphasize key points in bullet items
- Focus on key equations, figures, movies, key code snippets
- Insert !split wherever you want a new slide to begin
- Insert !bpop and !epop around elements to pop up in sequence
- Use 7 = or 5 = in headings (H2 or H3)
- Supported slide types: Beamer, HTML, HTML5 (reveal.js, deck.js, csss, dzslides)

Example on slide code

```
!split
===== Headline ======
```

- * Key point 1 * Key point 2 * Key point 3: Although long bullet points are not recommended in general, we need it here for demonstration purposes to investigate what happens with the slide layout where there is so much text under one point

```
FIGURE: [fig/teacher1, width=100 frac=0.4]
Key equation:
!bt
\[ -\nabla^2 u = f \quad\hbox{in }\Omega \]
!et
And maybe a final comment?
!split
====== Next slide... ======
```

Example on slide code

Last page gets rendered to

Headline

- Key point 1
- Key point 2



Key equation:

$$-\nabla^2 u = f \quad \text{in } \Omega$$

And maybe a final comment?

Grid layout of slide: MxN cells

Example with a bullet list to the left and a figure to the right (two cells: 00 and 01):

```
!split
======= Headline ======
!bslidecell 00
!bpop
  * Key point 1
  * Key point 2
  * Key point 3
!epop
!bpop
!bt
\[ -\nabla^2 u = f \quad\hbox{in }\0mega \]
!et
!epop
!eslidecell
!bslidecell 01
FIGURE: [fig/broken_pen_and_paper, width=400, frac=0.8]
!eslidecell
!split
======= Next slide... =======
```

Grid layout of slide: MxN cells

Last page gets rendered to

Headline

- Key point 1
- Key point 2
- Key point 3

$$-\nabla^2 u = f \quad \text{in } \Omega$$



Classic slide types

- LATEX Beamer
- Plain HTML w/various styles
 - separate slides w/navigation
 - one big slide

${ m HTML5}$ slide types

- $\bullet\,$ Supported HTML5 packages:
 - reveal.js
 - deck.js
 - dzslides
 - csss
- Problem: each package has its own syntax (though similar)
 - Solution: slide code is autogenerated from DocOnce
- Problem: reveal and deck have numerous styles

- Solution: easy to autogenerate all styles for a talk
- Problem: HTML5 slides need many style files
 - Solution: autocopy all files to talk directory
- **Problem**: original versions of the styles have too large fonts, centering, and other features not so suitable for lectures with much math and code
 - Solution: DocOnce contains adjusted css files

DocOnce to HTML

```
Run in terminal window:

doconce format html doconcefile

# Solarized HTML style
doconce format html doconcefile --html_solarized

# Control pygments typesetting of code
doconce format html doconcefile --pygments_html_style=native

# Or use plain pre> tag for code
doconce format html doconcefile --no_pygments_html
# Further making of slides
doconce slides_html doconcefile reveal --html_slide_theme=darkgray
```

Output for blog posts

Two formats of blog posts are supported:

- Google's blogspot.com: just paste the raw HTML (full support of math and code)
- Wordpress: despite limited math, DocOnce manipulates the math such that even equation and align work in Wordpress:-)

```
For wordpress, add --wordpress:
doconce format html doconcefile --wordpress
and paste the code into the text area.
```

DocOnce to pdfLATEX

```
doconce format pdflatex doconcefile
# Result: doconcefile.p.tex (ptex2tex file)
# Run either
ptex2tex doconcefile # or
doconce ptex2tex doconcefile -DHELVETICA envir=minted
pdflatex doconcefile
bibtex doconcefile
pdflatex doconcefile
# More control of how code is typeset
doconce format pdflatex doconcefile --minted_latex_style=trac
doconce ptex2tex doconcefile envir=minted
doconce format pdflatex doconcefile
doconce ptex2tex doconcefile envir=ans:nt
```

DocOnce to Sphinx

```
doconce format sphinx doconcefile
# Autocreate sphinx directory
doconce sphinx_dir theme=pyramid doconcefile
# Copy files and build HTML document
python automake-sphinx.py
google-chrome sphinx-rootdir/_build/html/index.html
```

Much easier than running the Sphinx tools manually!

Output for wiki

Only MediaWiki supports math.

doconce format mwiki doconcefile

Recommended site:

• ShoutWiki for standard wikis

Publishing of "official" documents:

- Wikibooks (can test code in the sandbox)
- Wikipedia

DocOnce to other formats

```
doconce format pandoc doconcefile # (Pandoc extended) Markdown doconce format gwiki doconcefile # Googlecode wiki doconce format cwiki doconcefile # Creole wiki (Bitbucket) doconce format rst doconcefile # reStructuredText doconce format plain doconcefile # plain, untagged text for email
```

Installation

- Ubuntu: sudo apt-get install python-doconce (old!)
- Source at GitHub (recommended!)
 - hg clone + sudo python setyp.py install
- Many dependencies...
 - Must have preprocess and make
 - Need latex, sphinx, pandoc, etc. (see the Installation description)
 - Easy for slides: only preprocess is needed :-)

Writing tips for LaTeX writers who want to convert to DocOnce

- doconce latex2doconce helps the translation
- Use \[\], equation, equation*, align, align* and nothing more for equations
- Figures: avoid subfigures (combine image files instead), use \includegraphics, have captions after graphics, use short figure captions, position exactly where needed
- Tables: have them inline (not floating), with no caption
- Computer codes: have them inline (not floating)
- Avoid footnotes, pageref
- Do not use algorithm environments, use simple list formatting instead
- Avoid math in section headings
- Use pdflatex or xetex
- Use BibTeX (can easily be converted to publish used by DocOnce)
- Use \href for links (and insert links frequently)

- \bullet Use the bm package for boldface u
- Place all newcommands in a separate file, with one definition per line (multiline definitions goes to a separate LATEX preamble file in DocOnce)
- Avoid all fancy LATEX constructs more backslashes than needed in math and sections is a bad thing...

DocOnce writing tips

Figures and movies:

- Prepare figures in the right format: EPS for latex, PDF for pdflatex, PNG, GIF or JPEG for HTML formats (html, and HTML output from sphinx, rst, pandoc). One can omit the figure file extension and doconce will pick the most appropriate file for the given output format.
- Let plotting programs produce both PDF/EPS and PNG files. (Recall that PDF and EPS are vector graphics formats that can scale to any size with much higher quality than PNG or other bitmap formats.)
- Use doconce combine_images to combine several images into one.
- Store all figures in a directory (tree) with name fig or fig-X, where X is some short logical name for the current document.
- Store all movies in a directory (tree) with name mov or mov-X.
- Favor the movie formats MP4, WebM, and Ogg (best suited for modern browsers).

DocOnce writing tips

- \bm{u} gives nicer boldface typesetting of math symbols than the alternatives \boldsymbol{u} and \pmb{u}.
- For HTML-based formats using MathJax, \bm{u} is not supported and therefore automatically replaced by \boldsymbol{u} by DocOnce.
- Use \\textcolor{blue}{formula} in math expressions to color a part.
- Not all IATEX math is supported by MathJax. Some legal IATEX math might give MathJax problems then one has to rewrite the expression to find a syntax that works both with IATEX and MathJax.
- Use doconce spellcheck *.do.txt to automatically spellcheck files.
- Avoid page references and footnotes.

Writing tips for sphinx and other formats

For output formats different from latex, pdflatex, and html:

- Use labels only right after section headings and in equations.
- Be careful with labels in align math environments: pandoc and mwiki cannot refer to them.
- sphinx output requires
 - no math in section headings or figure captions (gets removed in references).
 - running text to start in column 1.
 - progressive section headings: after chapter (9 =) comes section (7 =), then subsection (5 =), then paragraph (3 =). Do not make jumps in this progression.
 - index entries (\index{keyword}) before the paragraph where they are introduced and place them before subsubsection headings (=== ... ===) and after subsection and section headings.
 - a line of text and no comment or math before code or list.