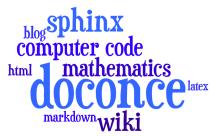
Scientific Writing Anno 2013

Hans Petter Langtangen

Jun 29, 2013



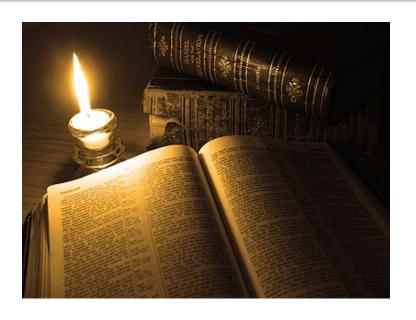
Scientific writing needs to address new media







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 Journal paper template • April 2012 • Vol. XXI, No. 1

Long Titles Look More Impressive Than Short Ones

IONATHAN S. DOE*

University of Technology, Delft frits@howtoTeX.com

Abstract

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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
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- · sem lorem molestie diam, iaculis aliquet sapien tortor non nisi.
- · Pellentesque bibendum pretium aliquet.

*Template by howtoTeX.com

Scope

- Focus: documents with much math and computer code
- Key question: What tools should I use for writing?
- Default answer: LATEX
- Recent popular alternative tools: HTML w/MathJax, Sphinx, Markdown, MediaWiki, IPython notebook

IATEX











New media are here

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



Fundamental question

When I write some scientific material,

- a LATEX document,
- a blogg (HTML),
- some web pages (HTML),
- a Sphinx document,
- some Markdown files,

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

Probably not, but I have a solution :-)

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Probably not, but I have a solution :-)

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

- 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)

MTEX

- Figures: all
- Subfigures: LATEX (subfigure)
- Movies: LATEX, raw embedded HTML in others
- Floating computer code: LATEX
- Fixed computer code: all
- Floating tables: LATEX; inline tables: all
- Algorithms: LATEX
- Margin notes: LATEX
- Page references: LATEX
- Footnotes: LATEX, Sphinx, reStructuredText, MediaWiki
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- 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).

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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
- IPython notebook: can do LATEX, 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 LATEX, HTML, Sphinx, Markdown, MediaWiki, Google wiki, Creole wiki, reST, plain text
- Made for large science books and small notes
- Targets books, electronic PDF, PDF for phones, designed web pages, blog posts
- Many special features (code snippets from files, embedded movies, admonitions, ...)
- Very effective for generating slides from ordinary text
- Applies Mako: Doconce text is a program (!)
- 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 blogging
- MediaWiki (Wikipedia, Wikibooks, etc)
- Doconce source code and tutorial

A tour of Doconce

Title, authors, date, toc

TITLE: Some Title

AUTHOR: name1 at institution1, with more info, and 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

Result:

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 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 o
 - 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": "http://code.google.com/p/doconce/"
# Hyperlink with complete URL as link text
URL: "http://code.google.com/p/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://www.youtube.com/embed/P8VcZzgdfSc, width=420 height=315]
```

and rendered as

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P8VcZzgdfSc

Math

Inline math as in LATEX:

```
...where $a=\int_{\Omega}fdx$ 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}\\
\n \c ot \pmb{v} & = 0
label{b:eq}
\end{align}
!et
```

which is rendered as

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = \nabla^2 u, \tag{1}$$

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{v} = 0 \tag{2}$$

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{v} = 0 \tag{2}$$

Math flexibility

Limit math environments to

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

Even though Sphinx, Markdown, and MediaWiki have problems with the latter, Doconce splits it into separate, single equations such that align with labels works accross formats.

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
lec.
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
```

pycod: Python snippet, pypro: complete Python program; fcod/fpro: Fortran; ccod/cpro: C, mcod/mpro: Matlab, etc.

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:

```
{\tt @@@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

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)]
    11 [0] = T
    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)

Tables

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

Gets rendered as

	time	velocity	acceleration
Ī	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,
but without backslashes:
==== My Section =====
label{sec:mysec}
idx{key equation} idx{$\u$ conservation}
We refer to Section ref{sec:yoursec} for background material on
the *key equation*. Here we focus on the extension
!bt.
\begin{equation}
\Ddt{\u} = \mycommand{v} label{mysec:eq:Dudt}
\end{equation}
!et
Equation (ref{mysec:eq:Dudt}) is important, see
cite{Larsen_et_al_2002, Johnson_Friedman_2010a}.
Also, cite{Miller_2000} supports such a view.
Figure ref{mysec:fig:myfig} displays the features.
FIGURE: [fig/myfile, width=600] My figure. label{mysec:fig:myfig}
==== References =====
BIBFILE: papers.pub
```

The manager much file moves he in Dublish formest (easy to meele

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 \leq 0.5'.
!ehint
!esubex
bsubex
Compute the probability of getting heads.
!bans
0.5.
!eans
Lesubex
```

Rendering of the previous page

labeldemo:ex:1

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 C preprocessor
- FORMAT variable can be used to test on format
 - 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.

Going deeper.

More details can be separated from the rest.

Time for review!

- Maybe ask a question?
- Or two?

Conclusions.

 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 figures and movies
- Focus on key equations
- Focus on 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)
- Slides are made with HTML5 tools such as reveal.js, deck.js, csss, or 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=0.5]
Key equation:
!bt.
\[ -\nabla^2 u = f \quad\hbox{in }\Omega \]
let.
And maybe a final comment?
!split
====== Next slide... ======
```

Example on slide code

Last page gets rendered to

Headline

- Key point 1
- Key point 2



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.
\[ -\nabla^2 u = f \quad\hbox{in }\Omega \]
!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

$$-\nabla^2 u = f$$
 in Ω



Grid layout of slide: MxN cells

Last page gets rendered to **Headline**

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

$$-\nabla^2 u = f$$
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Grid layout of slide: MxN cells

Last page gets rendered to **Headline**

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

$$-\nabla^2 u = f$$
 in Ω



- Supported HTML5 packages:
 - reveal.is
 - deck.is
 - dzslides
 - 0 0333
- Problem: each package has its own syntax (though similar)
- Problem: reveal and deck have numerous styles
- Problem: HTML5 slides need many style files
- Problem: original versions of the styles have too large fonts, centering, and other features not so suitable for lectures withhard much math and code

Supported HTML5 packages:

- reveal.js
- deck.js
- dzslide
- CSSS
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 - 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

- Supported HTML5 packages:
 - reveal.js
 - deck.js
 - dzslides
 - CSSS
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 - **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

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 - reveal.js
 - deck.js
 - dzslides
 - CSSS
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 - **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

Output in 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 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 blogging

Two types of blogs 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.

Output in PDF LATEX

```
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
```

Output in 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

Output in 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 Googlecode (recommended!)
 - hg clone + sudo python setyp.py install
- Many dependencies...
 - Must have preprocess and make
 - Need latex, sphinx, pandoc, etc. (see Installation in manual)
 - 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)
- Use the bm package for boldface u

Doconce writing tips

Figures:

- 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.

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 LATEX math is supported by MathJax. Some legal LATEX math might give MathJax problems - then one has to rewrite the expression to find a syntax that works both with LATEX 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 =).
 - index entries (\index{keyword}) before the paragraph where they are introduced (before 3 = too)
 - a line of text and no comment before code or list