

# DocOnce Troubleshooting and FAQ

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## Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>General Problems</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1	How do I debug a DocOnce file that results in a strange error message? . . . . .	1
1.2	GitHub gh-pages will not display files starting with a dot or underscore . . . . .	2
1.3	GitHub gh-pages will not display files . . . . .	2
1.4	A newline in equations (double backslash) becomes single backslash and eats up spaces . . . . .	2
1.5	Preprocess error: unexpected EOF while parsing . . . . .	2
1.6	When I set a large portion of text in color, only a part of it becomes colored . . . . .	2
1.7	How can I make use of a native $\LaTeX$ environments (example environment for instance)? . . . . .	3
1.8	How can I create a more tailored code environment in $\LaTeX$ than what DocOnce offers? . . . . .	3
1.9	How can I control the vertical spacing in slides? . . . . .	3
1.10	How do I get “Figure” written in another language? . . . . .	4
1.11	Spellcheck reports mistakes that I cannot find . . . . .	4
1.12	Spellcheck reports a lot of mistakes related to $\LaTeX$ math . . . . .	5
1.13	Text between subexercises are moved . . . . .	5
1.14	DocOnce aborts because of a syntax error that is not an error . . . . .	5
1.15	Figure captions are incomplete . . . . .	5
1.16	Problems with boldface and emphasize . . . . .	6
1.17	Links to local directories do not work . . . . .	6
1.18	Links are not typeset correctly . . . . .	6
1.19	Inline verbatim code or boldface is not detected when used with a footnote . . . . .	6
1.20	Inline verbatim code is not detected . . . . .	7

1.21	Inline verbatim text is not formatted correctly . . . . .	7
1.22	Strange non-English characters . . . . .	7
1.23	Wrong Norwegian characters . . . . .	7
1.24	Too short underlining of reST headlines . . . . .	7
1.25	Found !bt but no tex blocks extracted (BUG) . . . . .	7
1.26	Examples are typset with environment delimiters visible . . . . .	7
1.27	Emacs editing does not work properly because of "regex overflow" . . . . .	8
1.28	My machine hangs if I have many movies . . . . .	8
1.29	How can I use quotes in a link? . . . . .	8
1.30	Conversion from DocOnce to Google Docs . . . . .	8
1.31	Convesion from Google Docs to DocOnce . . . . .	9
1.32	Are there any tools for shared online writing of DocOnce documents? . . . . .	9
1.33	Examples on seemingly legal syntax that fails . . . . .	9
1.34	How can I make pressbooks.com books from DocOnce? . . . . .	10
1.35	How can I produce ePub books from DocOnce? . . . . .	11
1.36	What about non-English languages and DocOnce? . . . . .	11
1.37	How do I insert a copyright? . . . . .	12
<b>2</b>	<b>Preprocess/Mako problems</b>	<b>13</b>
2.1	List important things to remember when programming Mako . . . . .	13
2.2	The Mako preprocessor is seemingly not run . . . . .	13
2.3	The Mako preprocessor gives syntax error in Python code . . . . .	13
2.4	The Mako preprocessor gives strange error messages . . . . .	13
2.5	The Mako preprocessor is fooled by DocOnce text . . . . .	14
2.6	The Mako preprocessor claims a variable is undefined . . . . .	14
2.7	Something goes wrong in the preprocessing step . . . . .	15
2.8	Preprocessor directives do not work . . . . .	15
<b>3</b>	<b>Problems with code or Tex Blocks</b>	<b>15</b>
3.1	Too long lines in math blocks . . . . .	15
3.2	Code or math block errors in reST . . . . .	16
3.3	Strange errors around code or TeX blocks in reST . . . . .	16
3.4	Something is wrong with a verbatim code block . . . . .	16
3.5	Code/TeX block is not shown in reST format . . . . .	16
3.6	Verbatim code blocks inside lists look ugly . . . . .	16
3.7	L <sup>A</sup> T <sub>E</sub> X code blocks inside lists look ugly . . . . .	17
3.8	L <sup>A</sup> T <sub>E</sub> X code appears prior to paragraph headings . . . . .	17
3.9	Numbered equations in exercise solutions change the equation numbers in the text... . . . . .	17
<b>4</b>	<b>Problems with reST/Sphinx Output</b>	<b>17</b>
4.1	Sphinx directory generation aborts with "label empty or too long" . . . . .	17
4.2	Title level inconsistent . . . . .	17

4.3	Subsection headings appear at the level of sections in the table of contents	18
4.4	Lists do not appear in .rst files	18
4.5	Error message "Undefined substitution..." from reST	18
4.6	Warning about duplicate link names	18
4.7	Inconsistent headings in reST	18
4.8	No code environment appears before "bc ipy" blocks	18
<b>5</b>	<b>Problems with <math>\LaTeX</math> Output</b>	<b>19</b>
5.1	Lines are too long	19
5.2	Sphinx and HTML show pygmentized code, but not $\LaTeX$	19
5.3	$\LaTeX$ error because of underscores	19
5.4	$\LaTeX$ does not like underscores in URLs	19
5.5	Inline verbatim fails in admon headings	20
5.6	How can I have unnumbered sections?	20
5.7	$\LaTeX$ suddenly places figures differently	20
5.8	I want figure references with page number too	20
5.9	Error when running latex: You must have 'pygmentize' installed	21
5.10	Why are the $\LaTeX$ section headings smaller than normal?	22
5.11	I get $\LaTeX$ compilation errors about "shadedquoteBlue" in code blocks in exercises	22
5.12	I get compilation error due to pause commands	22
5.13	The cell structure in slides does not work for me ...	22
5.14	Can I have $\LaTeX$ figures with shadows?	23
5.15	How can I use my fancy $\LaTeX$ environments?	23
5.16	The $\LaTeX$ file does not compile	23
5.17	The $\LaTeX$ Beamer file does not compile	23
5.18	Inline verbatim gives error	23
5.19	Errors in figure captions	24
5.20	I want to tune the top (preamble) of the $\LaTeX$ file	24
5.21	How can I control the placement of figures?	24
5.22	How can I get a two-column text?	25
5.23	Solution heading in exercise solutions appear after the solution content	25
5.24	Subexercises (subexa)) triggers "Missing number, treated as zero"	26
<b>6</b>	<b>Problems with gwiki Output</b>	<b>26</b>
6.1	Strange nested lists in gwiki	26
6.2	Lists in gwiki look ugly in the gwiki source	26
<b>7</b>	<b>Problems with HTML Output</b>	<b>26</b>
7.1	Translation aborts when labels are not defined	26
7.2	MathJax formulas are not properly rendered	26
7.3	How can I change the layout of the HTML page?	27
7.4	Why do figures look ugly when using HTML templates?	28

<b>8</b>	<b>Problems with reveal/deck HTML5 slides</b>	<b>28</b>
8.1	Python Online Tutor code does not work in reveal . . . . .	28
8.2	Reveal slides are stacked on top of each other . . . . .	29
8.3	Reveal slides are moving steadily to the left . . . . .	29
8.4	YouTube movies do not work . . . . .	29
8.5	Online Python Tutor does not work . . . . .	29

#### Disclaimer.

DocOnce has some support for syntax checking. If you encounter Python errors while running `doonce format`, the reason for the error is most likely a syntax problem in your DocOnce source file. You have to track down this syntax problem yourself. However, DocOnce applies regular expressions to a large extent for transforming text, and regular expressions may sometimes lead to undesired results. Therefore, there is a chance that legal DocOnce syntax is not treated properly. Section 1.33 gives some examples of what can go wrong.

## 1 General Problems

### 1.1 How do I debug a DocOnce file that results in a strange error message?

Isolate the problem by a “bisection” method: split the file in two, compile both parts, continue with the part that gave the problem, and repeat the process. This will quickly narrow down the next so you understand the problem. If you do not understand why the identified piece of text gives an error message, try to rewrite.

### 1.2 GitHub gh-pages will not display files starting with a dot or underscore

This is a typical problem related to publishing either splitted HTML documents or Sphinx versions of documents on GitHub, using a gh-pages branch. File-names starting with a dot (as in `._mydoc001.html`) or located in a directory whose name starts with an underscore (as in `spninx/_static`) will not be properly shown in HTML if not the root directory of the gh-pages branch contains a file `.nojekyll`. This file can be empty. A typical fix is

```
Terminal> git checkout gh-pages
Terminal> touch .nojekyll
```

```
Terminal> git add .nojekyll
Terminal> git commit -am updates
Terminal> git push origin gh-pages
```

### 1.3 GitHub gh-pages will not display files

A common error is to link to addresses starting with `https://github.com` rather than the required `http://username.github.io/`.

### 1.4 A newline in equations (double backslash) becomes single backslash and eats up spaces

This is a problem with the Mako preprocessor and files that have been edited on Windows. The remedy is to change the newline character on Windows to that in Unix:

```
Terminal> doconce subst '\r\n' '\n' mydoc.do.txt
```

If you work on Windows, you probably have to avoid using the Mako preprocessor (it is not used unless you use Mako functions, variables, or control statements).

### 1.5 Preprocess error: unexpected EOF while parsing

This error may arise from a syntax error with a colon at the end of if tests, e.g. `# #if FORMAT == 'html':.` Colon is not used with Preprocess (but required by Mako: `if FORMAT == 'html':`).

### 1.6 When I set a large portion of text in color, only a part of it becomes colored

Although DocOnce features a color inline tag (`color`), this tag will most likely fail for large portions of text. The reason is that this tag, like most other DocOnce constructions, relies on a regular expression for being detected. The regular expression searches for opening and closing braces after the `color{red}` specification. The closing brace is the first brace encountered. Therefore, if you have any text containing a right brace inside the text to be colored, the first right brace will define the end of the coloring. Here is an example:

```
color{blue}{Here is some text
to be typeset in blue.

==== Here is a new subsection ====
label{sec:subsec}
```

More text to be typeset in blue, but the right brace in the label will end the coloring. There is no way out of this except for moving constructions with braces (`'label'`, `'cite'`) out of the text to be colored.

## 1.7 How can I make use of a native $\LaTeX$ environments (example environment for instance)?

$\LaTeX$  writers often lack their favorite environments, but DocOnce has a way to define such environments, with corresponding typesetting also for HTML and all other output formats. See the section [User-Defined Environments](#) in the DocOnce manual. It contains all the details for using a standard example or theorem environment in  $\LaTeX$  output.

## 1.8 How can I create a more tailored code environment in $\LaTeX$ than what DocOnce offers?

It is easy with *user-defined environments*, see such an example at the end of the document [Demonstration of DocOnce support for  \$\LaTeX\$  code block environments](#). Description of user-defined environments are found in the [DocOnce manual](#).

## 1.9 How can I control the vertical spacing in slides?

HTML5 and  $\LaTeX$  slides control the spacings for you. However, sometimes you really want to add some space. The `<linebreak>` is effective for this purpose. For example,

```
!bblock (large) So - how to be excellent?  
<linebreak>  
Excellence is not a planned goal - it is the corollary of  
deep passion, very much hard (and exciting!)  
work, and *thinking constantly about it*.  
!eblock
```

is rendered as

**So - how to be excellent?.**

Excellence is not a planned goal - it is the corollary of deep passion, very much hard (and exciting!) work, and *thinking constantly about it*.

The `<linebreak>` is a newline in  $\LaTeX$  if it has preceding text, otherwise it is a `\vspace{3mm}`. In HTML, `<linebreak>` is `<br>`.

More vertical space is obtained by repeated use of `<linebreak>`:

```
<linebreak>  
<linebreak>  
<linebreak>
```

## 1.10 How do I get “Figure” written in another language?

DocOnce documents can be written in any language, but figure captions typically contain the English word “Figure”. This must be fixed by auto-editing the output file after translation by `doconce format`.

In  $\text{\LaTeX}$  you can use your native language package, e.g.,

```
doconce replace '% insert custom LaTeX commands...' '\\usepackage[norsk]{babel} mydoc.tex
```

to get the Norwegian language.

In other formats you have to do more manual substitutions:

```
doconce replace Figure Figur mydoc.html
doconce replace figure figur mydoc.html
```

or both in one command using regular expressions:

```
doconce subst '([Ff]igur)e' '\g<1>' mydoc.html
```

## 1.11 Spellcheck reports mistakes that I cannot find

The `doconce spellcheck` command strips off a lot of text (math, code, syntax tags) before it starts spellchecking. The spellchecked text is therefore different from the `doconce` source! Fortunately, the file that is actually spellchecked can be examined. If the `spellcheck` command is

```
doconce spellcheck mydoc
```

the file `tmp_stripped_mydoc.do.txt` contains the text that is actually run through the spellchecker (`ispell`). Search for the misspelled word there and try to find it in the `doconce` source code. Very often, strange misspellings come from a syntax typo that has led to a strange word in the stripped version.

Wrong typesetting of mathematics can lead to strange errors, e.g., misspellings such as `iu` because of some math `f_{iu_i}` that is not properly typeset between dollar signs. Here are some useful `grep` commands to search for such errors:

```
grep --color=auto -E '\biu\b' tmp_stripped_mydoc.do.txt
grep --color=auto -E 'iu' tmp_stripped_mydoc.do.txt
grep --color=auto -E 'iu ' tmp_stripped_mydoc.do.txt
grep --color=auto -E 'iu' tmp_stripped_mydoc.do.txt
```

## 1.12 Spellcheck reports a lot of mistakes related to $\text{\LaTeX}$ math

The `doconce spellcheck` command should ignore  $\text{\LaTeX}$  math, but if the dollar signs for inline math are not correct (one missing, for instance), a lot of math enters the text to be spellchecked. Invoke the relevant `tmp_missing_*` file and find the first math-style expression that is reported as misspelling. Open the

corresponding stripped file, `tmp_stripped_*`, which is supposed to have all the math stripped away, and search for the misspelling. When you find it, you will see that there are math expressions in the stripped file that should not be there. (Because of wrong begin and end signs around math expressions ordinary text has instead been stripped away. This way, a missing dollar sign can lead to hundreds of misspellings.) Find the problem in the corresponding DocOnce file and correct it. A similar error can be caused by wrong matching of equation environments between `!bt` and `!et`.

### 1.13 Text between subexercises are moved

If you insert text between a `!esubex` and the next `!bsubex`, this text is moved before all the subexercises. This is a feature, not a bug (exercises have certain elements: main text, subexercises, hints, etc. that are typeset in a specific order, which may be different from what appears in the DocOnce source file). If you need a comment between two subexercises, just place the comment at the end of the previous subexercise.

### 1.14 DocOnce aborts because of a syntax error that is not an error

DocOnce searches for typical syntax errors and usually aborts the execution if errors are found. However, it may happen, especially in verbatim blocks, that DocOnce reports syntax errors that are not errors. To continue execution, simply add the `--no_abort` option on the command line. You may send an email to the DocOnce author at `hpl@simula.no` and report the problem.

### 1.15 Figure captions are incomplete

If only the first part of a figure caption in the DocOnce file is seen in the target output format, the reason is usually that the caption occupies multiple lines in the DocOnce file. The figure caption must be written as *one line*, at the same line as the `FIGURE` keyword.

### 1.16 Problems with boldface and emphasize

Two boldface or emphasize expressions after each other are not rendered correctly. Merge them into one common expression.

### 1.17 Links to local directories do not work

Links of the type

```
see the "examples directory": "src/examples"
```



do not work well. You need to link to a specific HTML file:

```
see the "examples directory": "src/examples/index.html"
```

We recommend to put all files you link to in a `_static` directory if you intend to use the `sphinx` output. This guarantees that all your files are collected in the Sphinx directory tree bundle. With plain `html` output only, you can link to whatever, but remember to move all files you link to if you move the primary `.html` file.

### 1.18 Links are not typeset correctly

Not all formats will allow formatting of the links. Verbatim words in links are allowed if the whole link is typeset in verbatim:

```
see the directory "examples": "src/examples/index.html".
```

However, the following will not be typeset correctly:

```
see the "examples": "src/examples/index.html" directory.
```

The back-ticks must be removed, or the text can be reformulated as in the line above it.

### 1.19 Inline verbatim code or boldface is not detected when used with a footnote

There must be a space between the verbatim code (or boldface words) and the footnote bracket:

```
The construction 'def f(x,y):' is standard.
```

```
[^whitespace]: Well, a space before the 'y' argument, as in 'f(x, y)',  
would be the standard.
```

### 1.20 Inline verbatim code is not detected

Make sure there is a space before the first back-tick.

### 1.21 Inline verbatim text is not formatted correctly

Make sure there is whitespace surrounding the text in back-ticks.

### 1.22 Strange non-English characters

The former reason for this problem is that DocOnce could only work with latin1 (ISO-8859) encoding and not UTF-8. After May 2013, DocOnce applies UTF-8 both for HTML and  $\text{\LaTeX}$ .

Check the encoding of the `.do.txt` file with the Unix `file` command or with

```
Terminal> doconce guess_encoding myfile.do.txt
```

If the encoding is UTF-8, convert to latin1 using either of the Unix commands

```
Terminal> doconce change_encoding utf-8 latin1 myfile.do.txt
Terminal> iconv -f utf-8 -t latin1 myfile.do.txt --output newfile
```

### 1.23 Wrong Norwegian characters

When DocOnce documents have characters not in the standard ASCII set, the format of the file must be LATIN1 and not UTF-8. See the section "Strange non-English characters" above for how to run `doconce change_encoding` to change the encoding of the DocOnce file.

### 1.24 Too short underlining of reST headlines

This may happen if there is a paragraph heading without proceeding text before some section heading.

### 1.25 Found !bt but no tex blocks extracted (BUG)

This message points to a bug, but has been resolved by removing blank lines between the text and the first !bt (inserting the blanks again did not trigger the error message again...).

### 1.26 Examples are typeset with environment delimiters visible

If you see an Example section containing !bsubex, !bsol, or other begin and end tags for environments, it means that you have intended to typeset examples as exercises, but forgotten the command-line option `--examples_as_exercises`. The text in the example is typeset as is unless this option is included.

### 1.27 Emacs editing does not work properly because of "reg-exp overflow"

Sometimes the Doonce editing mode (see the *Emacs DocOnce Formatter* section in the manual) in Emacs leads to an error message ending with "overflow in regexp matcher". This error is due to some regular expression used in the DocOnce editing mode. The remedy is to split the file into smaller pieces and include the pieces using the preprocess directive `#include "piece.do.txt"`. The error message comes with the DocOnce file contains too much text for Emacs to handle.

## 1.28 My machine hangs if I have many movies

DocOnce has no limits on the amount of movies. When the output is in HTML, one big HTML file may contain too many movies (local movie files or embedded YouTube movies) for the browser to handle. The remedy is to split the document into smaller pieces by inserting

```
!split
```

for every new page. After `doonce format html mydoc`, run `doonce split_html mydoc.html` to get the document split into a main document `mydoc.html` and pieces `._mydocXXX.html`, where `XXX` stands for three digits (000, 001, 002, and so forth).

## 1.29 How can I use quotes in a link?

Links are typeset inside double quotes, but DocOnce applies double backticks and double single quotes to typeset quotes, so the right form is

```
"This is a 'link text' to google": "http://google.com".
```

It appears as (typeset in a quote admon):

This is a “link text” to google.

## 1.30 Conversion from DocOnce to Google Docs

- Transform the DocOnce document to HTML, upload to Google Drive, right-click the file and open as Google Docs.
- It might be necessary to adjust formatting, e.g., insert an extra line between paragraphs.
- MathJax code is not converted to the Google Docs  $\LaTeX$  counterpart and appears verbatim.
- Pygmentized computer code and admons look fine.

## 1.31 Convesion from Google Docs to DocOnce

- Save as HTML file and use Pandoc to convert to Markdown. Use the `--markdown` and `--md2do_output=` options to `'doonce format` to convert to DocOnce.
- Lists in Markdown must be intended.
- Notes in Google Docs become (potentially many) footnotes. Some tailored editing is necessary.

This solution is not much explored and more text transformations from Pandoc-generated Markdown is certainly needed.

### 1.32 Are there any tools for shared online writing of DocOnce documents?

In theory, <http://draftin.com> and <https://stackedit.io> can be used to share Markdown documents and these can be transform to and from DocOnce documents. Tested to a little degree, but may work for very simple documents (sections, lists, code - no labels, refs, math, admons, code copied from file). Not all of Extended Markdown is interpreted by DocOnce, and DocOnce transforms to Panddoc-extended Markdown, not the Extended Markdown used by these sites.

### 1.33 Examples on seemingly legal syntax that fails

Since DocOnce applies regular expressions to a large extent to translate the input source to the output format, limitations of regular expressions may lead to unexpected results. Here are some examples on what can go wrong.

**Double bold/italic.** Two strings with bold or emphasize after each other will not work:

```
# Not properly interpreted:
Here is a _bold_ _word_.
# This is how to do it:
Here is a bold word_.

# Same with emphasize/italic:
Cannot write *two emphasized* words*,
but must write two emphasized words*.
```

The wrong syntax implies that one of the texts inside bold/italic tags will appear with DocOnce syntax in the output.

**Mix of bold/italic and math.** Trying to typeset a mixture of text and mathematics or code in boldface or emphasized font fails:

```
_It is important that  $u_1=2$ !_
*It is important that 'a*b=b*a' in any computer language*.
```

The reason is that boldface or emphasize text cannot contain the special characters dollar sign and backtick. However, if these were allowed, the above examples would fail because the underscore in  $u_1=2$  would mark the end of the boldface text. Similarly, the `*` in `a*b` would mark the end of the emphasized text. Such problems are avoided by *only using plain text inside emphasize or boldface tags*:

```
_It is important that  $u_1=2$ !_
*It is important that* 'a*b=b*a' *in any computer language*.
```

Another similar example is the mix of `\textcolor{col}{text}` syntax with braces inside the text. For example,

```
color{blue}{However, here a blue color specification
fails:  $\frac{1}{2}\omega^2$ .}
```

The text part is interpreted as string with `However` and lasting up to the first right brace, which is in `\frac{1}`. A remedy is, as above, to only use plain text inside the text part of the color specification and use a `\textcolor` command inside the mathematics:

```
color{blue}{However, here a blue color specification
fails:}  $\textcolor{red}{\frac{1}{2}\omega^2}$ .
```

Mathematics and code in blocks are invisible when inline tagging is interpreted and translated. Therefore, a specification as follows works well:

```
color{red}{This equation,

!bt
\begin{equation}
a = b
label{eq1}
\end{equation}
!et
is meant to be in red and it works.}
```

The rules are that `*text*`, `_text_`, and `\textcolor{color}{text}` employs a simple rule: text lasts up to the first end-tag character (`*`, `_`, and `}` above), but code and math blocks do not count.

### 1.34 How can I make pressbooks.com books from DocOnce?

<http://pressbooks.com> supports HTML input with WordPress  $\text{\LaTeX}$  mathematics, so the easiest way is to compile DocOnce to HTML with the `-wordpress` option, put the file on the web somewhere, click *Utilities - Import* in pressbooks.com, then choose HTML input, write the URL, and upload.

Note that WordPress  $\text{\LaTeX}$  cannot refer to equations using labels! This is a major problem with pressbooks.com.

### 1.35 How can I produce ePub books from DocOnce?

DocOnce has no direct translation to ePub, but one can apply a script [ebookmaker.py](#) to translate a set of split HTML files to ePub. Bootstrap styles with mathematics and code come out very nice in ePub this way. The script needs a JSON file. If `mydoc.do.txt` is the DocOnce file and `._mydoc*.html` the set of split HTML files after translation to HTML, the JSON file may look like this:

```
{
  "filename" : "mydoc",
  "title" : "Title of the document",
  "authors" : [
    {
      "name" : "Hans Petter Langtangen",
```

```

        "sort" : "Langtangen, Hans Petter"
    }
],
"rights" : "Public Domain",
"language" : "en",
"publisher": "hpl",
"subjects" : [ "Science" ],
"contributors" : [
    {
        "name" : "Hans Petter Langtangen",
        "role" : "author"
    }
],
"identifier" : {
    "scheme" : "URL",
    "value" : "http://somewhere.net"
},
"contents" : [
    {
        "type" : "text",
        "source" : "._mydoc*.html"
    }
],
"toc" : {
    "depth" : 2,
    "parse" : [ "text" ],
    "generate" : {
        "title" : "Index"
    }
}
}

```

Just edit this file to your needs, save it as `mydoc.json` and run `epubmaker.py mydoc.json` to produce `mydoc.epub`. Read in [Calibre](#) on computers or use ebook readers on phones and tablets.

### 1.36 What about non-English languages and DocOnce?

DocOnce can handle non-English language, although most of its use has concerned documents in English. When writing in languages with non-ASCII characters, remember to use the command-line option `-encoding=utf-8`. Some other points of importance:

- The abstract requires a heading `Summary` or `Abstract`. This heading must be substituted by the appropriate word after translation.
- $\text{\LaTeX}$  files should make use of packages and options for the language in question such that  $\text{\LaTeX}$ -generated headings get the right language-specific wording. Use `doonce replace` or `doonce search` modify the `.tex` file (see the Bash script referred to below for examples).
- Some DocOnce-generated headings are in English, e.g., “Table of Contents”, which must be edited by `doonce replace`.

- For Sphinx output, two edits in files in the Sphinx root directory (`sphinx-rootdir` by default) are necessary (see Bash script below for examples on autoediting):
  - Insert right language in `conf.py`: `language = 'nb_NO'` for Norwegian
  - Edit headings in `index.rst`: “Contents:” and “Tables and indices”, to what the language demands
  - Unfortunately, “Page contents”, “Next page”, and “Previous page” remains in English in the navigation area (these can, of course, be replaced in all the HTML files generated by Sphinx in `_build/html` - recall to edit also all the files starting with a dot if you have split the document (`doconce split_rst`))

There is an example of a document in Norwegian in the DocOnce repository where we do all necessary adjustments mentioned above:

- [DocOnce source](#)
- [Bash script for compiling the DocOnce source](#)
- [PDF](#)
- [HTML](#)
- [Sphinx](#)

### 1.37 How do I insert a copyright?

See the [Copyright section of the DocOnce manual](#).

**Other formats.** An error message is provided.

## 2 Preprocess/Mako problems

### 2.1 List important things to remember when programming Mako

- Keep Python code more than a few lines *outside* of the DocOnce file, and use `# #include` to include the code. See the *Debugging Python code in Mako* section in the manual for how to do it.
- Do not use continuation character (backslash) in Python code.

- When a Mako error refers to a line in the text, invoke the file that Mako sees: `tmp_preprocess__mydoc.do.txt` if the DocOnce file has name `mydoc.do.txt`.
- Use double `##` (Mako comment) to comment out Mako calls to functions or Mako variables.

## 2.2 The Mako preprocessor is seemingly not run

If you have lines starting with `%` inside code segments (for example, SWIG code or Matlab comment lines), the Mako preprocessor will crash because it thinks these lines are Mako statements. DocOnce detects this problem and avoids running Mako. Examine the output from DocOnce: warnings are issued if Mako is not run.

## 2.3 The Mako preprocessor gives syntax error in Python code

The information with respect to syntax errors in Python code is sparse. It is recommended to move the Python code to separate files and test it with the ordinary Python interpreter. See the section *Debugging Python code in Mako* in the DocOnce manual.

## 2.4 The Mako preprocessor gives strange error messages

If you to a little syntax error in Mako, the consequences can be quite unpredictable. Especially, if you forget curly braces around variables or function calls, the forthcoming text is processed as part of the Mako command. Pay attention to the line number reported by Mako: this is the line number after Preprocess has processed the DocOnce document, so you need to load `tmp_preprocess__mydoc.do.txt` and go to the right line in that file to see the Mako problem (here the DocOnce document is named `mydoc.do.txt`).

Look through the specific Mako problems reported below, and if they do not bring you to a solution of the problem, search for all occurrences of dollar, left curly brace and check the syntax carefully. Likewise, check the syntax of Mako if-tests.

Another widely used technique is to copy out small parts of the complete document to a separate file and run `doonce format`. In this way you can easier see which parts of the document that work and where the error suddenly appears.

**Tip: Compile your DocOnce document frequently.**



The best means against Mako problems is to run `doconce format` often. Combined Git, you can take a `git diff` to see what you have recently changed and get an idea what can be wrong.

## 2.5 The Mako preprocessor is fooled by DocOnce text

Here are possible problems for Mako:

- Strings with `'T<%.1f'` look as openings of Mako blocks (`<%`); change to `'T < %.1f'` to avoid this confusion.

## 2.6 The Mako preprocessor claims a variable is undefined

Very often such errors are related to typos when using Mako variables or functions, or correct yet undesired  $\LaTeX$  syntax. For example,

```
${\cal O}(\Delta x^2)$
```

is valid  $\LaTeX$ , but the dollar sign and curly braces confuse Mako. Rewrite such mathematics. It is wise to not use `${}` anywhere in  $\LaTeX$  mathematics. Create a newcommand if there are no other possible rewritings. A known common problem is `${}^~+$` type of indication of superscripts. A suggested rewrite is `$\,{}^~+$`.

The error message will ask you to rerun `doconce` with `--mako_strict_undefined`, which will display the variable that is confusing Mako. Sometimes the variable is printed, sometimes a totally different name is said to be undefined. This is confusing, because then you have to use the bisection method below to narrow down the problem yourself.

Do not continue to use `--mako_strict_undefined` while you are debugging because this variable or a new variable will then always be undefined in that mode. Rerun without `--mako_strict_undefined` to see if the problem is gone. If not, try the option again, and if no progress, use `# ifdef` directives to comment out large portions of the text and apply a bisection procedure to locate where the Mako problem is (without `--mako_strict_undefined`). A bisection procedure means that you comment out the last half, find in which half the problem is, comment out half of that half, find in which half the problem is, and so on. The procedure converges pretty quickly, even for large books.

## 2.7 Something goes wrong in the preprocessing step

You can examine `tmp_preprocess__filename` and `tmp_mako__filename`, where `filename` is the complete name of the DocOnce file, to see what the preprocessors actually do and if something is wrong in these files before DocOnce starts

translating the text. One or both of those files may be missing, but examine the beginning of the output from DocOnce to see exactly which preprocessors are run and on which files.

## 2.8 Preprocessor directives do not work

Make sure the preprocessor instructions, in Preprocess or Mako, have correct syntax. Also make sure that you do not mix Preprocess and Mako instructions. DocOnce will then only run Preprocess.

# 3 Problems with code or Tex Blocks

## 3.1 Too long lines in math blocks

A common problem in  $\text{\LaTeX}$  (not directly related to DocOnce) is too long lines in math blocks. The trick is to use the `align` or `align*` environment and introduce newlines with `\nonumber\\` to break up lines (without introducing an equation number). Typically,

1. Insert `\nonumber\\` where you see a linebreak should occur.
2. Start next line with `&\quad` such that the continuing line starts slightly to the right of the alignment character used to align the equations. If you have only one equation, find some point where you insert `&` and just start the next line with `&` - no `\quad` displacement to the right is needed in that case.
3. `\left(` and `\right)` (and similar constructions for automatic adjustment of the sizes of parentheses) do not work accross linebreaks. This means that you must replace `\left(` by (e.g.) `\biggl(` unless there is a corresponding `\right` on the same line. Whether to choose `\biggl`, `\bigl`, or `\Bigl` depends on the desired size of the the parenthesis.

## 3.2 Code or math block errors in reST

First note that a code or math block must come after some plain sentence (at least for successful output in reST), not directly after a section/paragraph heading, table, comment, figure, or movie, because the code or math block is indented and then become parts of such constructions. Either the block becomes invisible or error messages are issued.

Sometimes reST reports an "Unexpected indentation" at the beginning of a code block. If you see a `!bc`, which should have been removed when running `doconce format sphinx`, it is usually an error in the DocOnce source, or a problem with the rst/sphinx translator. Check if the line before the code block ends in one colon (not two!), a question mark, an exclamation mark, a comma,

a period, or just a newline/space after text. If not, make sure that the ending is among the mentioned. Then `!bc` will most likely be replaced and a double colon at the preceding line will appear (which is the right way in reST to indicate a verbatim block of text).

### 3.3 Strange errors around code or TeX blocks in reST

If `idx` commands for defining indices are placed inside paragraphs, and especially right before a code block, the reST translator (rst and sphinx formats) may get confused and produce strange code blocks that cause errors when the reST text is transformed to other formats. The remedy is to define items for the index outside paragraphs.

### 3.4 Something is wrong with a verbatim code block

Check first that there is a "normal" sentence right before the block (this is important for reST and similar "ASCII-close" formats).

### 3.5 Code/TeX block is not shown in reST format

A comment right before a code or tex block will treat the whole block also as a comment. It is important that there is normal running text right before `!bt` and `!bc` environments.

### 3.6 Verbatim code blocks inside lists look ugly

Read the Section *Blocks of Verbatim Computer Code* in the DocOnce manual. Start the `!bc` and `!ec` tags in column 1 of the file, and be careful with indenting the surrounding plain text of the list item correctly. If you cannot resolve the problem this way, get rid of the list and use paragraph headings instead. In fact, that is what is recommended: avoid verbatim code blocks inside lists (it makes life easier).

### 3.7 L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X code blocks inside lists look ugly

Same solution as for computer code blocks as described in the previous paragraph. Make sure the `!bt` and `!et` tags are in column 1 and that the rest of the non-LaTeX surrounding text is correctly indented. Using paragraphs instead of list items is a good idea also here.

### 3.8 L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X code appears prior to paragraph headings

If you have a paragraph heading and then code right after,

```

__Heading__

!bc pycod
def f(x):
    return 42
!ec

```

the generated  $\text{\LaTeX}$  code is correct, but it is translated to PDF in a wrong way such that the heading appears *after* the code. A remedy is to insert some text after the paragraph heading. See also Section 5.23 - it is the same problem.

### 3.9 Numbered equations in exercise solutions change the equation numbers in the text...

This is a problem if you produce versions with and without solutions, see the heading “Numbering of Extra Equations in Solutions” in the DocOnce manual for description of the problem and its solutions.

## 4 Problems with reST/Sphinx Output

### 4.1 Sphinx directory generation aborts with “label empty or too long”

This is a strange error that might arise from a too long title of the document. The solution is to specify a shorter title when running `doconce sphinx_dir` (i.e., to avoid getting the title from the original `.do.txt` document):

```

Terminal> doconce sphinx_dir title="Short Title" \
          authors="A. B. Crunch" theme=pyramid mydoc

```

### 4.2 Title level inconsistent

reST does not like jumps in the levels of headings. For example, you cannot have a `===` (paragraph) heading after a `=====` (section) heading without a `====` (subsection) heading in between.

### 4.3 Subsection headings appear at the level of sections in the table of contents

This is a problem that arises if you split a Sphinx document at the subsection level. Then the subsection is the highest level in that part, and it will then move up to the section level in the table of contents (this is done by Sphinx, and DocOnce has no influence on the process).

After Oct 2014, DocOnce ignores by default the `!split` commands that the user has inserted and performs a split at the highest section level, which means

that chapters constitute the parts of the document, if chapters are present, otherwise the sections represent the different parts. If this behavior is not desired and the user's `!split` commands are to be respected, provide the command-line argument `--sphinx_keep_splits` in the `doconce` format command.

#### 4.4 Lists do not appear in .rst files

Check if you have a comment right above the list. That comment will include the list if the list is indented. Remove the comment.

#### 4.5 Error message "Undefined substitution..." from reST

This may happen if there is much inline math in the text. reST cannot understand inline  $\LaTeX$  commands and interprets them as illegal code. Just ignore these error messages.

#### 4.6 Warning about duplicate link names

Link names should be unique, but if (e.g.) "file" is used as link text several places in a reST file, the links still work. The warning can therefore be ignored.

#### 4.7 Inconsistent headings in reST

The `rst2*.py` and Sphinx converters abort if the headers of sections are not consistent, i.e., a subsection must come under a section, and a subsubsection must come under a subsection (you cannot have a subsubsection directly under a section). Search for `===`, count the number of equality signs (or underscores if you use that) and make sure they decrease by two every time a lower level is encountered.

#### 4.8 No code environment appears before "bc ipy" blocks

The `!bc ipy` directive behaves this way for `sphinx` output because interactive sessions are automatically handled. If this is not appropriate, shift to `!bc cod` or another specification of the verbatim environment.

## 5 Problems with $\LaTeX$ Output

### 5.1 Lines are too long

Too long lines are often handled with a forced newline like `\\` in  $\LaTeX$ , but this double backslash does not look good in other formats when you use DocOnce. Try to rewrite the text such that  $\LaTeX$  naturally avoids too long lines. Inline

verbatim can easily force  $\text{\LaTeX}$  to extend the line width, but see if you can use other words to move the inline verbatim to the left or to the next line.

A last resort is to use the preprocessor and test on “FORMAT == ‘pdf $\text{\LaTeX}$ ’” and then use the double backslash.

## 5.2 Sphinx and HTML show pygmentized code, but not $\text{\LaTeX}$

You have to explicitly select the `minted` environment when running `ptex2tex` to get pygmentized computer code in  $\text{\LaTeX}$ :

```
Terminal> doconce ptex2tex mydoc envir=minted
Terminal> pdflatex -shell-escape mydoc
```

## 5.3 $\text{\LaTeX}$ error because of underscores

$\text{\LaTeX}$  requires prefixing underscores by a backslash. Either typeset words with underscores in inline verbatim text (so you do not need the backslash) or use the preprocessor to insert  $\text{\LaTeX}$ -specific text with a backslash, e.g.,

```
Here is a word underscore:
%% if FORMAT in ('latex', 'pdf $\text{\LaTeX}$ '):
my\_word
%% else
my_word
%% endif
```

Usually, inline verbatim text is way to go with underscores anyway.

## 5.4 $\text{\LaTeX}$ does not like underscores in URLs

Suppose you have a URL reference like

```
..which can be found in the file "my_file.txt":
"http://some.where.net/web/dir/my_file.txt".
```

$\text{\LaTeX}$  will stop with a message about a missing dollar sign. The reason is that underscores in link texts need to be preceded by a backslash. However, this is inconvenient to do in the DocOnce source since the underscore is misleading in other formats. The remedy is to format the link text with inline verbatim tags (backticks):

```
..which can be found in the file "'my_file.txt'":
"http://some.where.net/web/dir/my_file.txt".
```

Verbatim text in links works fine with underscores.

## 5.5 Inline verbatim fails in admon headings

A known problem is to have the word

```
\Verb
```

in (admon) headings. Otherwise inline verbatim should work, both in section headings and admon headings.

## 5.6 How can I have unnumbered sections?

Use the `--section_numbering=off` option:

```
Terminal> doconce format pdflatex mydoc --section_numbering=off
```

## 5.7 L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X suddenly places figures differently

Until August 25, 2015, the figure environment applied the [t] (top) option, but since then the [h] option is used. Of even greater influence are the `topfraction`, `bottomfraction`, and `textfraction` parameters in the .tex file. See the “Figures” section in the manual for more information and how to customize the placement of figures.

## 5.8 I want figure references with page number too

A DocOnce user wanted figure references to be as follows in L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X:

```
% if current page is different from figure page:
... Figure \ref{my:fig} on page \pageref{my:fig}.
% if current page is the same as the figure page:
... Figure \ref{my:fig}.
```

All other formats should emit the standard treatment of a DocOnce figure reference with `ref`.

**Quick solution with the `varioref` package.** DocOnce actually generates such references in L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X output if you request the `varioref` package: `--latex_packages=varioref` (the standard `ref` command is now replaced by `\vref`, except in equation references).

**Manual solution (or a good example on what Mako can do).** Here is an implementation using if-else tests in L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X and internal variables. Unfortunately, this solution is not reliable because it uses the `\thepage` variable in L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X (for the page number of the current page) and this variable is unreliable. The solution above (using `\vref` and the `varioref` package) is much better. However, the manual solution is a good example on how to use Mako to do seemingly complicated things.

The above problem can be solved by some Mako programming and usage of the L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X packages `ifthen` and `refcount`.

```
<%
def figref(label):
    text = 'Figure ref{%s}' % label
    if FORMAT in ('latex', 'pdflatex'):
        text += r'\ifthenelse{\equal{\thepage}{\getpagerefnumber{%s}}}{ on page \pageref{%s}}' % (
    return text
%>
```

```
FIGURE: [myfigfile, width=600 frac=0.8] My figure. label{my:fig}
```

We refer to `\figref{my:fig}`.

```
...
# Much later
..., as seen in \figref{my:fig}.
```

The first reference is on the same page as the figure, and  $\text{\LaTeX}$  should not write the page number, while the second reference is on another page so both the figure number and the page number should appear in the output. All other formats have a standard figure reference (translated to a figure number in HTML and to the caption in Sphinx).

The  $\text{\LaTeX}$  output is something like this:

```
\begin{figure}[h] % my:fig
  \centerline{\includegraphics[width=0.8\linewidth]{myfigfile.png}}
  \caption{
    My figure. \label{my:fig}
  }
\end{figure}
%\clearpage % flush figures sec:fig

We refer to Figure~\ref{my:fig}\ifthenelse{
\equal{\thepage}{\getpagerefname{my:fig}}}{ on page \pageref{my:fig}}.

...
% Much later
..., as seen in Figure~\ref{my:fig}\ifthenelse{
\equal{\thepage}{\getpagerefname{my:fig}}}{ on page \pageref{my:fig}}.
```

## 5.9 Error when running latex: You must have 'pygmentize' installed

This message points to the use of the minted style for typesetting verbatim code. You need to include the `-shell-escape` command-line argument when running `latex` or `pdflatex`:

```
Terminal> latex -shell-escape file mydoc.tex
Terminal> pdflatex -shell-escape file mydoc.tex
```

Using `doconce ptex2tex` will turn on the minted style if specified as environment on the command line, while using `ptex2tex` requires the preprocessor option `-DMINTED` to turn on the minted package. When this package is included, `latex` or `pdflatex` runs the `pygmentize` program and the `shell-escape` option is required.

## 5.10 Why are the $\text{\LaTeX}$ section headings smaller than normal?

DocOnce inserts a special command to make the headings more compact:

```
\usepackage[compact]{titlesec}
```



as explained in the `titlesec` package documentation. To retrieve the standard  $\LaTeX$  headings, comment out this line or remove it:

```
Terminal> doconce format pdflatex mydoc
Terminal> doconce subst '\usepack.+{\titlesec\} ' ' mydoc.p.tex
```

You can easily make the headings even smaller than the normal font by replacing `[compact]` by `[compact,small]` as parameter specification for `titlesec`.

### 5.11 I get $\LaTeX$ compilation errors about "shadedquoteBlue" in code blocks in exercises

When using colored boxes for code in  $\LaTeX$ , a code snippet is needed in the ordinary running text *before* code snippets inside exercises, problems, or projects. This is a kind of bug in DocOnce that is challenging to fix. It is usually only a problem when writing documents mainly containing exercises, problems, or projects.

### 5.12 I get compilation error due to pause commands

The `|\pause|` commands are intended for popping up code segments in slides. If you compile the document without having run `doconce slides_beamer` first, standard  $\LaTeX$  have a problem with `|\pause|`. The remedy is to just remove these commands by

```
Terminal> doconce subst '\|\pause\|\\n' ' ' mydoc.tex
```

before running `pdflatex mydoc`.

### 5.13 The cell structure in slides does not work for me ...

Common errors:

- Empty cells? No cell can be empty. Just insert a comment `# Empty cell` to make it non-empty.
- Wrong numbering of the cells. They go 00, 01, 02, 10, 11, etc.

Also, text outside the slidecell boxes *are not shown* in the slide. Everything you want to see must be inside the cells. Use `<linebreak>` repeatedly to insert vertical spacings inside cells.

### 5.14 Can I have $\LaTeX$ figures with shadows?

This is easy by including the `fancybox` and `graphicx` packages and wrapping all `\includegraphics` in a shadow box:

```

Terminal> doconce format pdflatex mydoc
Terminal> doconce replace \
'microtype}'', 'microtype,fancybox,graphicx}' mydoc.p.tex
Terminal> doconce subst '(\includegraphics\[.+\}\})' \
'\shadowbox{<1>}' mydoc.p.tex

```

## 5.15 How can I use my fancy L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X environments?

See the section *Example: Defining a Theorem Environment* in the DocOnce manual for how to make a custom theorem environment also in DocOnce, without using implementations restricted to L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X. See also Section 1.7.

## 5.16 The L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X file does not compile

If the problem is undefined control sequence involving

```
\texttt{...}
```

the cause is usually a verbatim inline text (in back-ticks in the DocOnce file) spans more than one line. Make sure, in the DocOnce source, that all inline verbatim text appears on the same line.

## 5.17 The L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X Beamer file does not compile

Make sure you have a `!split` before every slide heading.

## 5.18 Inline verbatim gives error

Check if the inline verbatim contains typical L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X commands, e.g.,

```

some text with '\usepackage{mypack}' is difficult because
ptex2tex will replace this by \Verb!\usepackage{mypack}! and
then replace this by
{\fontsize{10pt}{10pt}\verb!\usepackage{mypack!}}
which is wrong because ptex2tex applies regex that don't
capture the second }

```

The remedy is to place verbatim L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X commands in verbatim blocks - that is safe.

## 5.19 Errors in figure captions

Such errors typically arise from unbalanced curly braces, or dollar signs around math, and similar L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X syntax errors.

(Note that verbatim font is likely to cause trouble inside figure captions, but DocOnce will automatically replace verbatim text in back-ticks by a proper `texttt` command (since verbatim font constructions does not work inside figure captions) and precede underscores by backslash.)

## 5.20 I want to tune the top (preamble) of the $\text{\LaTeX}$ file

It is easy to provide a customized preamble text:

```
Terminal> doconce format latex mydoc --latex_preamble=mytop.tex
```

If `mytop.tex` starts with a `documentclass` specification, the whole file becomes the complete preamble in `mydoc.p.tex`, otherwise `mytop.tex` is added at the end of the preamble generated by DocOnce.

If you already have some preamble that defines styles etc., I recommend to generate a `.tex` file from DocOnce and merge the preamble you have with the one generated by DocOnce. When the `.tex` file compiles with the desired preamble, store it in a separate file and use it with the `--latex_preamble=` option. (This approach will fix the preamble for the future so updates of the DocOnce-generated preamble will not be available for this document.)

Note also that `doconce replace` and `doconce subst` can be used after `doconce format` to tune the  $\text{\LaTeX}$  code in the preamble (and elsewhere). Such automatic edits are useful if they are few.

There are comment lines with `-- begin preamble --` and `-- end preamble --` in the generated `.tex` file that can be used to replace the whole preamble by another text via a script.

## 5.21 How can I control the placement of figures?

In general,  $\text{\LaTeX}$  will control the placement, and DocOnce applies (for now) the `[t]` option to recommend figures to be placed at the top of a page. This can be changed in different ways, using techniques from Sections 1.10 and 5.20. The `float` package and the `[H]` (“here”) option for figures makes figures appear closer to their original location:

```
\usepackage{float}
\floatplacement{figure}{H}
```

The `[t]` option in figures must be removed:

```
doconce replace '{figure}[t]' '{figure}' mydoc.tex
```

**Custom preamble file.** Place the lines above in a file `mypreamble.tex` and ask DocOnce to add this file to the preamble: `--latex_preamble=mypreamble.tex`.

**Edit the `.tex` file.** There is a special line in the `.tex` file,

```
%% insert custom LaTeX commands...
```

which can be used to insert desired commands, in this case by

```
doconce subst '% insert custom LaTeX.+ ' '\usepackage{float}\n\floatplacement{figure}{H}' mydoc.tex
```

Note that you in both cases need to run the `doconce replace` above command to remove the `[t]` option.

## 5.22 How can I get a two-column text?

Simply add `twocolumn` to the `\documentclass` command. If the `mydoc.tex` file looks like

```
\documentclass[%  
twoside,  
...
```

you can do a simple substitution edit

```
Terminal> doconce subst 'twoside,' 'twocolumn,\ntwoside,' mydoc.tex
```

## 5.23 Solution heading in exercise solutions appear after the solution content

Sometimes a solution environment with code

```
!bsol  
!bc cod  
def f(x):  
    return x + 2  
!ec  
!esol
```

leads to strange behavior with verbatim  $\LaTeX$  environment: the **Solution** heading appears after the code in the solution. This appears to be a  $\LaTeX$  problem since the generated  $\LaTeX$  code has the heading and solution content in the right order. A working remedy is to insert a text before the code:

```
Code:  
!bsol  
!bc cod  
def f(x):  
    return x + 2  
!ec  
!esol
```

## 5.24 Subexercises (`subexa`)) triggers “Missing number, treated as zero”

Check if you have done a `doconce subst` of `section` to `section*`. Such a substitution will alter the newcommand `\subex` defined in the `.tex` file and insert an erroneous `\@startsection*`, which should not contain the `*`. Be more specific with the substitution of `section` in the `.tex` file:

```
doconce subst '\\section{' '\\section*' mydoc.tex  
doconce subst '\\subsection{' '\\subsection*' mydoc.tex  
# or  
doconce replace '\\section{' '\\section*' mydoc.tex  
doconce replace '\\subsection{' '\\subsection*' mydoc.tex
```

## 6 Problems with gwiki Output

### 6.1 Strange nested lists in gwiki

DocOnce cannot handle nested lists correctly in the gwiki format. Use nonnested lists or edit the `.gwiki` file directly.

### 6.2 Lists in gwiki look ugly in the gwiki source

Because the Google Code wiki format requires all text of a list item to be on one line, DocOnce simply concatenates lines in that format, and because of the indentation in the original DocOnce text, the gwiki output looks somewhat ugly. The good thing is that this gwiki source is seldom to be looked at - it is the DocOnce source that one edits further.

## 7 Problems with HTML Output

### 7.1 Translation aborts when labels are not defined

By default, the DocOnce translation of HTML document aborts when references are found to labels not defined in the document (i.e., labels in other documents). This abortion can be annoying, and although it can be nullified by `--no_abort`, that option also ignores other error messages. Instead, use `--allow_refs_to_external_docs` to allow references to labels in other documents. These references will of course not work, but the option can be handy, e.g., while compiling chapters for a book individually.

### 7.2 MathJax formulas are not properly rendered

Here are some common problems:

- Two equations cannot have identical label (this error often arises from copying and pasting equations)
- `[` and `]` brackets must sometimes be replaced by `\lbrack` and `\rbrack`

### 7.3 How can I change the layout of the HTML page?

**Autoedits of the `.html` file.** The easiest way is to edit the HTML style or the HTML code directly. However, those edits are overwritten the next time you compile the DocOnce document to HTML. The edits should therefore be automated using `doonce subst` (for regular expression editing) or `doonce replace` (for plain text substitution editing) commands in the file where you run `doonce format html mydoc`. For example, say you want narrower gray

admonition boxes with a much thicker boundary. The `.alert` style must then be changed, more precisely the `border` and the `width` specification:

```
doconce replace 'border:1px' 'border:11px' mydoc.html
doconce replace 'width: 75%;' 'width: 35%' mydoc.html
```

**Specify a .css file.** Another way to control the layout is to copy the style in the HTML file into a `.css` file, edit that file as you like, and provide the file as part of the compilation using the `--css=mystyle.css` flag. For example, say you want to transform the headings to something attractive for young girls (white text on pink background). A `.css` file can be written from scratch, but one can also generate one from one of the built-in DocOnce HTML styles by running

```
Terminal> doconce format html mydoc --css=pink.css \
--html_style=blueish
```

The result is a new file `pink.css` containing the specification of the `blueish` style. One can now change this `pink.css` file to `h1` headings with pink background and white text, `h2` and `h3` headings with pink text, and pink color for visited or hovered hyperlinks:

```
h1 {
  font-family:"comic sans ms";
  width: 900px;
  font-size: 48px;
  text-align: center;
  background: #EA00FF; /* pink */
  border-style: solid;
  border-width: 5px;
  border-color: #FFFFFF;
  padding: 20px;
  margin: 20px;
  margin-left: 10px;
  color: white
}
h2, h3 {
  font-family:"comic sans ms";
  font-size: 18px;
  color: #EA00FF;
}
h3 { font-size: 24px; }
a { color: #1e36ce; text-decoration:none; }
a:hover, a:visited { color: #EA00FF; /* pink */ }
...
```

The rest of the file can remain unaltered. Running

```
Terminal> doconce format html mydoc --css=pink.css \
--html_style=blueish
```

will now render `mydoc.html` with pink headings and visited links.

**Specify a template.** The standard way of completely controlling the HTML format is to use an HTML template. The DocOnce source is then the body of text (leave out `TITLE:` to get HTML without a header and footer). The `--html_template=filename` command-line option will then embed the DocOnce text in the specified template file, where you can use style sheets and desired constructs in the header and footer. The template can have “slots” for a title `%(title)s`, a date `%(date)s`, and the main body of text `%(main)s`. For typesetting code, `pygments` is used (if installed) and can be turned off by `--no_pygments_html` (leaving code in gray boxes).

The easiest way is to get fancy layouts in HTML is to use the `sphinx` format and one its many themes.

## 7.4 Why do figures look ugly when using HTML templates?

The HTML header that DocOnce generates contain special styles for figure captions and the horizontal rule above figures. When using templates these styles are not defined, resulting in a rule that spans the width and a centered caption. Changing the appearance of the rule and caption can either be done by inserting styles or simply by automatic editing of the HTML code in a little shell script:

```
doconce replace '<p class="caption">' \
  '<p style="width: 50%; font-style: italic; color: blue">' mydoc.html
doconce replace '<hr class="figure">' \
  '<hr style="width:60%, font-style: normal">' mydoc.html
```

## 8 Problems with reveal/deck HTML5 slides

### 8.1 Python Online Tutor code does not work in reveal

Use the Chrome browser (the code does not work in Firefox in combination with reveal HTML5, but it works in plain HTML).

### 8.2 Reveal slides are stacked on top of each other

This problem can be caused by having a `!bblock` environment crossing two slides because of a forgotten `!eblock` on the first slide. To locate the problematic slides, copy chunks of slides to a new file, compile, and inspect. This will reveal the problematic chunk.

### 8.3 Reveal slides are moving steadily to the left

This seems to be a problem when one has used the mouse to scroll down on a slide and continue to use the right arrow for moving to the next slide. Click on the arrow in the slide instead of using the arrow key.

#### **8.4 YouTube movies do not work**

They do not work in reveal or deck unless the Chrome browser is used. Usually the HTML5 slides work best in Firefox.

#### **8.5 Online Python Tutor does not work**

Seems to be a problem with reveal slides. The *Forward* button is not clickable.