Labels and Cross-referencing in LaTeX

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This will be a short but *very* meaningful tutorial on cross-references in LaTeX What makes LaTeX cross-referencing so good is that you can literally refer to almost any object you want, which makes it very useful. The fact, that this task is trivial to do makes it very difficult to ignore it.

Everything works via `label` command, which defines a *makrker*, to which you can refer later on via `ref` command. So for example, referencing to a section called "Introduction" you just have to specify it with the following code:

```
1  \section{Introduction}
2  \label{sec:intro}
```

or

```
1  \section{Introduction \label{sec:intro}}
```

Both code variants will work and when you would execute a command \ref{sec:intro}, you would get a section number. For getting a page-number you would similarly execute \pageref{sec:intro} command.

Now note the prefix I have given to the newly created label. Since one can refer to almost any object, it might get slightly confusing once you have more than 10 references. In order to avoid this, most LaTeX users make labels with various prefixes, which denote what type of object it is. Common prefixes are as follows:

- *sec:* for sections

- *subsec:* for sections or you can use *ssec:*

- *eq:* for equations

- *fig:* for figures

- *tab:* for tables

Note, that the list of the prefixes is completely trivial, so you can use whatever prefixes you like. If you use packages, which provide new commands, or environments, then it would be good idea to come up with prefixes for these things as well.

- *schem:* for schemes

- *lst:* for code listings

- *cheq:* for chemical reaction equations

NOTE, the prefix convention is not obligatory, so one can not use it, but in the end, for bigger documents, it makes reading, and writing the document so much easier. Therefore, it would be a good idea to use it *always*.

For more information on cross-referencing, please read a chapter on Labels and Cross-referencing[1] on the LaTeX wikibook[2].

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[1]The URL is https://secure.wikimedia.org/wikibooks/en/wiki/LaTeX/Labels_and_Cross-referencing
[2]The URL is https://secure.wikimedia.org/wikibooks/en/wiki/LaTeX