An Interactive Introduction to LaTeX

Part 2: Structured Documents & More

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writeLaTeX

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Outline

Structured Documents

- In Part 1, we learned about commands and environments for typesetting text and mathematics.
- Now, we'll learn about commands and environments for structuring documents.
- You can try out the new commands in writeLaTeX:

Click here to open the example document in **writeLaTeX**

Or go to this URL: `http://bit.ly/WU0bMU`
For best results, please use Google Chrome or a recent FireFox.

- Let's get started!

Title and Abstract

- Tell LaTeX the `\title` and `\author` names in the preamble.
- Then use `\maketitle` in the document to actually create the title.
- Use the `abstract` environment to make an abstract.

The Title

A. Author

February 20, 2014

Abstract

Abstract goes here...

Sections

- Just use `\section` and `\subsection`.
- Can you guess what `\section*` and `\subsection*` do?

1 Introduction

The problem of ...

2 Method

We investigate ...

2.1 Sample Preparation

2.2 Data Collection

3 Results

4 Conclusion

Labels and Cross-References

- Use `\label` and `\ref` for automatic numbering.
- The `amsmath` package provides `\eqref` for referencing equations.

1 Introduction

In Section 2, we ...

2 Method

$$e^{i\pi} + 1 = 0 \tag{1}$$

By (1), we have ...

Structured Documents Exercise

Typeset this short paper in LaTeX: [1]

Click to open the paper

Make your paper look like this one. Use `\ref` and `\eqref` to avoid explicitly writing section and equation numbers into the text.

Click to open this exercise in **writeLaTeX**

- Once you've tried, click here to see my solution.

[1] From `http://pdos.csail.mit.edu/scigen/`, a random paper generator.

Outline

Graphics

- Requires the `graphicx` package, which provides the `\includegraphics` command.
- Supported graphics formats include JPEG, PNG and PDF (usually).

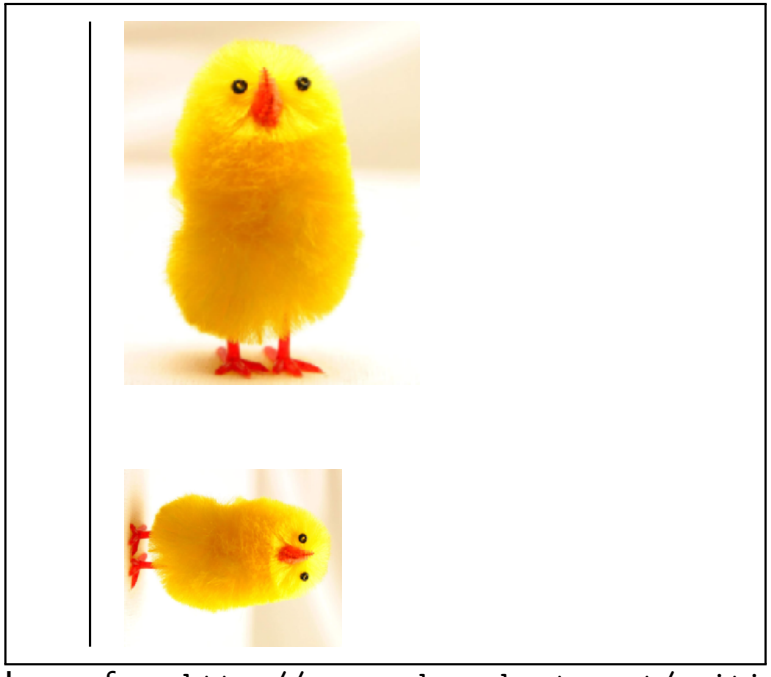

Image from `http://www.andy-roberts.net/writing/latex/importing_images`

Interlude: Optional Arguments

- We use square brackets [ ] for optional arguments, instead of braces { }.
- `\includgraphics` accepts optional arguments that allow you to transform the image when it is included. For example, `width=0.3\textwidth` makes the image take up 30% of the width of the surrounding text (`\textwidth`).
- `\documentclass` accepts optional arguments, too. Example:

  makes the text bigger (12pt) and puts it into two columns.
- Where do you find out about these? See the slides at the end of this presentation for links to more information.

Floats

- Allow LaTeX to decide where the figure will go (it can "float").
- You can also give the figure a caption, which can be referenced with `\ref`.

Figure 1: Aww....

Figure 1 shows ...

Tables

- Tables in LaTeX take some getting used to.
- Use the `tabular` environment from the `tabularx` package.
- The argument specifies column alignment — **l**eft, **r**ight, **r**ight.

Item	Qty	Unit $
Widget	1	199.99
Gadget	2	399.99
Cable	3	19.99

- It also specifies vertical lines; use `\hline` for horizontal lines.

Item	Qty	Unit $
Widget	1	199.99
Gadget	2	399.99
Cable	3	19.99

- Use an ampersand `&` to separate columns and a double backslash `\\` to start a new row (like in the `align*` environment that we saw in part 1).

Outline

bibTEX 1

- Put your references in a `.bib` file in 'bibtex' database format:
- Most reference managers can export to bibtex format.

bibTEX 2

- Each entry in the `.bib` file has a *key* that you can use to reference it in the document. For example, `Jacobson1999Towards` is the key for this article:
- It's a good idea to use a key based on the name, year and title.
- LATEX can automatically format your in-text citations and generate a list of references; it knows most standard styles, and you can design your own.

bibTEX 3

- Use the `natbib` package (recommended).
- Use `\citet` and `\citep` to insert citations by key.
- Reference `\bibliography` at the end, and specify a `\bibliographystyle`.

Brooks et al. [1997] show that .... Clearly, all odd numbers are pri
[Jacobson, 1999].

References

Fredrick P. Brooks, John Kubiatowicz, and Christos Papadimitriou. A metho
ology for the study of the location-identity split. In *Proceedings of OOPSL*
June 1997.

Van Jacobson. Towards the analysis of massive multiplayer online role-playi
games. *Journal of Ubiquitous Information*, 6:75–83, June 1999.

Exercise: Putting it All Together

Add an image and a bibliography to the paper from the previous exercise.

1. Download these example files to your computer.

   Click to download example image

   Click to download example bib file

2. Upload them to writeLaTeX (use the files menu).
3. (To find the keys in the `.bib` file, you'll have to open it in Notepad on your computer — you can't view it online in writeLaTeX, yet.)

Outline

More Neat Things

- Add the `\tableofcontents` command to generate a table of contents from the `\section` commands.
- Change the `\documentclass` to
  or
- Define your own command for a complicated equation:

$$\rho_{\text{perf}} = \mathbf{c}'\mathbf{X} + \varepsilon$$

More Neat Packages

- `beamer`: for presentations (like this one!)
- `todonotes`: comments and TODO management
- `tikz`: make amazing graphics
- `pgfplots`: create graphs in LaTeX
- `spreadtab`: create spreadsheets in LaTeX
- `gchords`, `guitar`: guitar chords and tabulature
- `cwpuzzle`: crossword puzzles

See `https://www.writelatex.com/examples` and `http://texample.net` for examples of (most of) these packages.

Installing LaTeX

- To run LaTeX on your own computer, you'll want to use a LaTeX *distribution*. A distribution includes a `latex` program and (typically) several thousand packages.
  - On Windows: MikTeX
  - On Linux: TeXLive
  - On Mac: MacTeX
- You'll also want a text editor with LaTeX support. See `http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comparison_of_TeX_editors` for a list of (many) options.
- You'll also have to know more about how `latex` and its related tools work — see the resources on the next slide.

Online Resources

- The LaTeX Wikibook — excellent tutorials and reference material.
- TeX Stack Exchange — ask questions and get excellent answers incredibly quickly
- LaTeX Community — a large online forum
- Comprehensive TeX Archive Network (CTAN) — over four thousand packages plus documentation
- Google will usually get you to one of the above.

Thanks, and happy TEXing!