Posting degree project presentations as Canvas calendar events and announcements and  
in the KTH Calendar

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KTH Royal Institute of Technology would like to have Swedish and English languages as parallel languages within the university. As all KTH theses should have English **and** Swedish abstracts and ideally keywords and titles, it would be advantageous to include this information in the announcements of degree project presentations. Additionally, many students doing degree projects need to be an active listener for some number of other degree project presentations. Moreover, degree project presentations are supposed to be public. I have written some software to make it easier to announce these events[[1]](#footnote-1) to make it easier for people to know about them and so that they can attend.

# Put information into LaTeX template to generate a draft or final thesis

Figure 1 shows the title page of a thesis created using a LaTeX.template that I have developed. The idea is to capture the information needed for the announcement of the oral presentation and for reporting the final approved thesis in DiVA via the thesis itself.

Note that the following information is present in the order of this exposition, not necessarily the order it is in the LaTeX source file. However, all of this information is prior to \begin{document}.

Information about the title and the student authors of the thesis is entered via the set of macros as shown in Figure 2. Note that you can have either one or two authors (the latter in the case of a 1st cycle degree project). There are several other elements of metadata collected about the student (primarily driven by the current author metadata fields in DiVA). A brief description of them and why they are there are given below:

* One might question why have an e-mail address (when under the current policy the student will lose their e-mail address upon graduation)? One of the main reasons is so that the library (i.e., KTHB) can notify the student that the thesis has be stored in DiVA. A second reason is if the library needs to contact the student.
* One might also wonder, why include the student’s kthid. The main reason is that this identifier uniquely identifies this author within KTH, so that all of their publications can be found in a DiVA search.
* Note that ORCiD information is unnecessary, but if the student has an ORCiD identifier, it will be added to the record in DiVA. Student’s may find it useful to have such an identifier if they are going to go on to write conference, journal, and other publications in the future.
* A very questionable field is authorsSchool. In a discussion with DiVA administrators at KTH on 2021-04-29, the consensus was that this should be the school of the thesis examiner, since 1st and 2nd cycle students are in *programs of study* and **not** schools, department, etc.
* Finally, there is programcode – this is used to generate the degree information just above the data on the title page and is also used to compute the “lead” for the calendar entry (which differs depending upon whether it is a 1st or 2nd cycle degree project presentation).

**NB**: A limitation of the current template is that I do not handle the case of two students who are in different programs.

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|  |

Figure : Example of title page of a thesis

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| --- |
| %% Information for inside title page  \title{This is the title in the language of the thesis}  \subtitle{An subtitle in the language of the thesis}  % give the alternative title - i.e., if the thesis is in English, then give a Swedish title  \alttitle{Detta är den svenska översättningen av titeln}  \altsubtitle{Detta är den svenska översättningen av undertiteln}  \authorsLastname{Student}  \authorsFirstname{Fake A.}  \email{a@kth.se}  \kthid{u100001}  % If the student has an ORCiD - add it here  \orcid{0000-0002-00001-1234}  \authorsSchool{\schoolAcronym{EECS}}  \programcode{TCOMK}  %% Alternatively, you can say \programme{Civilingenjör Datateknik} to directly set the programme string  % If there is a second author - add them here:  \secondAuthorsLastname{Student}  \secondAuthorsFirstname{Fake B.}  \secondemail{b@kth.se}  \secondkthid{u100002}  % If the student has an ORCiD - add it here  \secondorcid{0000-0002-00001-5678}  \secondAuthorsSchool{\schoolAcronym{ABE}} |

Figure : Information about the title and the student authors of the thesis

Figure 3 shows the information entered about the supervisor or supervisors and the examiner.

**NB**: A limitation of the current template is that I do not handle (a) more than three supervisors or (b) the case of multiple examiners.

|  |
| --- |
| \supervisorAsLastname{Supervisor}  \supervisorAsFirstname{A. Busy}  \supervisorAsEmail{sa@kth.se}  % If the supervisor is from within KTH add their KTHID, School and Department info  \supervisorAsKTHID{u100003}  \supervisorAsSchool{\schoolAcronym{EECS}}  \supervisorAsDepartment{Computer Science}  % other for a supervisor outside of KTH add their organization info  %\supervisorAsOrganization{Timbuktu University, Department of Pseudoscience}  %If there is a second supervisor add them here:  \supervisorBsLastname{Supervisor}  \supervisorBsFirstname{Another Busy}  \supervisorBsEmail{sb@kth.se}  % If the supervisor is from within KTH add their KTHID, School and Department info  \supervisorBsKTHID{u100003}  \supervisorBsSchool{\schoolAcronym{ABE}}  \supervisorBsDepartment{Public Buildings}  % other for a supervisor outside of KTH add their organization info  %\supervisorBsOrganization{Timbuktu University, Department of Pseudoscience}  \examinersLastname{Maguire Jr.}  \examinersFirstname{Gerald Q.}  \examinersEmail{maguire@kth.se}  % If the examiner is from within KTH add their KTHID, School and Department info  \examinersKTHID{u100004}  \examinersSchool{\schoolAcronym{EECS}}  \examinersDepartment{Computer Science}  % other for a examiner outside of KTH add their organization info  %\examinersOrganization{Timbuktu University, Department of Pseudoscience} |

Figure : Supervisors and examiner information

Figure 4 shows how to enter data about where the thesis is being done if outside of KTH.

**NB**: A limitation of the current template is that I do not handle multiple companies, as I assume that there is a single host company. However, you can have a list of names within the two text fields (but only a hostcompany or a hostorganization).

|  |
| --- |
| \hostcompany{Företaget AB} % Remove this line if the project was not done at a host company  %\hostorganization{CERN} % if there was a host organization  \date{\today} |

Figure : Information about where the thesis is taking place

Figure 5 collects the information regarding the time, place, and language of the presentation. Note that the opponents names are simply separated by ‘\&’ – so it is easy to have one more opponents.

|  |
| --- |
| %%%%% for the oral presentation  \presentationDateAndTimeISO{2021-03-15 13:00}  \presentationLanguage{eng}  \presentationRoom{via Zoom}  %\presentationAddress{}  \presentationCity{Stockholm}  % Opponent's information  \opponentsNames{A. B. Normal \& A. X. E. Normalè}  \nationalsubjectcategories{10201, 10206} |

Figure : Information relevant to the oral presentation (both the location and the opponent or opponents)

Finally, Figure 6 collects the information regarding the National Subject Categories – this is simply a list of 3 or 5 digit numbers separated by commas. The numbers come from <https://www.scb.se/contentassets/10054f2ef27c437884e8cde0d38b9cc4/oversattningsnyckel-forskningsamnen.pdf> while the Swedish and English versions are given in <https://www.scb.se/contentassets/3a12f556522d4bdc887c4838a37c7ec7/standard-for-svensk-indelning--av-forskningsamnen-2011-uppdaterad-aug-2016.pdf>. This information is for a required field in DiVA. Note that 5 digit codes are preferred over 3 digit codes.

|  |
| --- |
| \nationalsubjectcategories{10201, 10206} |

Figure : Information relevant to the oral presentation (both the location and the opponent or opponents)

Figure 7 and Figure 8 show examples of abstracts that in a real thesis would be in English and Swedish with the first to appear being the abstract in the language of the thesis. Note that the actual content of these two abstracts is primarily for testing and is not meant to suggest real abstracts.

The template also supports a number of other languages (based upon the languages used for abstracts in undergraduate theses in 2020). It is straight forward to add additional language as necessary. One of the reason for having abstracts in additional languages so that dual degree students do not have to write another document for their home/other university. While the template includes a number of place holders for these other abstracts, if they are unused they can simply be deleted.

The three character code used for the language is the ISO 639-2 Code – specifically the "B" (bibliographic) variant of these codes as these seem to be the codes used in DiVA when one access the MODS formatted metadata for publications. In the example below we see “eng” being stored into a scontents buffer called “lang”.

|  |
| --- |
| \begin{scontents}[store-env=lang]  eng  \end{scontents} |

The abstract itself is stored into an scontents buffer called “abstracts” and the keywords are stored in an scontents buffer called “keywords”. These buffers are part of the LaTeX scontents package and allow contents to be stored and later retrieved.

|  |
| --- |
| \begin{abstract}  \markboth{\abstractname}{}  \begin{scontents}[store-env=lang]  eng  \end{scontents}  \begin{scontents}[store-env=abstracts,print-env=true]  All theses at KTH are \textbf{required} to have an abstract in both \textit{English} and \textit{Swedish}.  Exchange students many want to include one or more abstracts in the language(s) used in their home institutions to avoid the need to write another thesis when returning to their home institution.  Keep in mind that most of your potential readers are only going to read your \texttt{title} and \texttt{abstract}. This is why it is important that the abstract give them enough information that they can decide is this document relevant to them or not. Otherwise the likely default choice is to ignore the rest of your document.  A abstract should stand on its own, i.e., no citations, cross references to the body of the document, acronyms must be spelled out, … .  Write this early and revise as necessary. This will help keep you focused on what you are trying to do.  Example of a formula in an abstract: $c=2 \cdot \pi \cdot r$ or \[ \int\_{a}^{b} x^2 \,dx \]  two chemical formulas: H\textsubscript{2}O or $(C\_5O\_2H\_8)\_n$, copyright symbol: \textcopyright Maguire 2021, and some superscripts: \textsuperscript{99m}Tc, A\textsuperscript{\*},  A\textsuperscript{\textregistered}, and A\texttrademark.  Write an abstract with the following components:% key parts of the abstract  \begin{itemize}  \item What is the topic area? (optional) Introduces the subject area for the project.  \item Short problem statement  \item Why was this problem worth a Master’s thesis project? (i.e., why is the problem both significant and of a suitable degree of difficulty for a Master’s thesis project? Why has no one else solved it yet?)  \item How did you solve the problem? What was your method/insight?  \item Results/Conclusions/Consequences/Impact: What are your key results/\linebreak[4]conclusions? What will others do based upon your results? What can be done now that you have finished - that could not be done before your thesis project was completed?  \end{itemize}  % comment at end  \end{scontents}  \subsection\*{Keywords}  \begin{scontents}[store-env=keywords,print-env=true]  Canvas Learning Management System, Docker containers, performance tuning  \end{scontents}  \end{abstract} |

Figure : LaTeX to produce the English abstract

|  |
| --- |
| \selectlanguage{swedish}  \begin{abstract}  \markboth{\abstractname}{}  \begin{scontents}[store-env=lang]  swe  \end{scontents}  \begin{scontents}[store-env=abstracts,print-env=true]  Alla avhandlingar vid KTH måste ha ett abstrakt på både engelska och svenska.  If you are writing your thesis in English, you can leave this until the final version. If you are writing your thesis in Swedish then this should be done first – and you should revise as necessary along the way.  If you are writing your thesis in English, then this section can be a summary targeted at a more general reader. However, if you are writing your thesis in Swedish, then the reverse is true – your abstract should be for your target audience, while an English summary can be written targeted at a more general audience.  This means that the English abstract and Swedish sammnfattning  or Swedish abstract and English summary need not be literal translations of each other.  The abstract in the language used for the thesis should be the first abstract, while the Summary/Sammanfattning in the other language can follow.  \end{scontents}  \subsection\*{Nyckelord}  \begin{scontents}[store-env=keywords,print-env=true]  Canvas Lärplattform,Dockerbehållare, prestandajustering  \end{scontents}  \end{abstract} |

Figure : LaTeX input to produce the Swedish abstract

# Now that data is in the template, what happens?

The first thing that happens in the LaTeX code automatically generates one or more pages at the end of the PDF document that contain the data – primarily to be used to report the final approved thesis in DiVA. However, a secondary use is that if this information is added to the draft copy that is going to the opponent – then one can potentially automate many of the steps in announcing the oral presentation.

Figure 9 and Figure 10 show this information “For DIVA”. The format is supposed to look like JSON.

The ”organisation”: {”L1”: ”School of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science ”,”L2”: ”Computer Science” }} that for the examiner is used to determine which local part of the KTH calendar a calendar announcement should appear in. The Cortina calendar is divided by school and then by department. Note that the department name must be in Swedish.

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Figure : First part of the “For DiVA” information

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Figure : Second part of the “For DiVA” information

# How did the abstracts and the keywords appear?

The \divainfo command that generates the For DiVA information pages has the following little bit of code that walks the set of scontents buffers using the lang scontents buffer to put the language and the corresponding abstract and keywords (see Figure 11). Originally, I used \getstored[\i]{abstracts} to get an abstract, but this turns out to process the LaTeX into something to render in the PDF. However, I realized that it would be far better to get the actual LaTeX source code and then process it myself into HTML for the announcement and calendars.

The \typestored command that the scontents package provides will not take a variable argument, i.e., it only takes a constant, such as \ typestored[2]{abstracts}. Unfortunately, I need to have a loop to handle the variable number of abstracts that could be used. To do this required a new command \typestoredx that evaluates the variable and the calls the internal function that gets the contents of the correct scontents buffer! This new command is shown in Figure 12 – it uses ExplSyntax – see the LaTeX package expl3. The quad euro symbols are used as markers to avoid problems with quotation marks in the abstract itself. I have assumed that such a combination of characters will never occur in an abstract.

|  |
| --- |
| "Number of lang instances": \textquotedbl\relax\countsc{lang}\textquotedbl\relax,\\  \foreach \i in {1,...,\countsc{lang}} {  "Abstract[\getstored[\i]{lang}]": €€€€\\  \typestoredx{\i}{abstracts}  €€€€,\\  "Keywords[\getstored[\i]{lang}]": €€€€\\  \getstored[\i]{keywords}  €€€€,\\  } |

Figure : Code in \divainfo command to output the abstracts and keywords

Figure 12 also shows how to configure the listings environment to put the abstract into. One of the tricks here is that it was important to reduce the hyphenation penalty to enable the abstract text to nicely wrap text on the page. As an added benefit, the LaTeX syntax highlighting is on – so one can easily see the LaTeX commands that are used – as this might need manual editing before the event is announced.

|  |
| --- |
| \ExplSyntaxOn  \newcommand\typestoredx[2]{\expandafter\\_\_scontents\_typestored\_internal:nn\expandafter{#1} {#2}}  \ExplSyntaxOff  \makeatletter  \let\verbatimsc\@undefined  \let\endverbatimsc\@undefined  \lst@AddToHook{Init}{\hyphenpenalty=50\relax}  \makeatother  \lstnewenvironment{verbatimsc}  {  \lstset{%  basicstyle=\ttfamily\tiny,  %basicstyle=\tiny,  %columns=fullflexible,  columns=[l]fixed,  language=[LaTeX]TeX,  %numbers=left,  %numberstyle=\tiny\color{gray},  keywordstyle=\color{red},  breaklines=true, % sets automatic line breaking  breakatwhitespace=true, % sets if automatic breaks should only happen at whitespace  %keepspaces=false,  breakindent=0em,  %fancyvrb=true  }  }{} |

Figure : Code in the document file to set up the command \typestoredx and to configure the listing environment to put the abstract into.

# Extracting the information from the PDF file

Now that the JSON-like information is in the PDF file, the next step is to extract it. We use a command line, as shown in Figure 13, to extract the information. Figure 14 shows an example of the resulting file.

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| --- |
| ./extract\_pseudo\_JSON-from\_PDF.py --pdf test5.pdf --json event.json |

Figure : Extract the JSON like information

|  |
| --- |
| {"Author1": {"Last name": "Student", "First name": "Fake A.", "Local User Id": "u100001", "E-mail": "a@kth.se", "ORCiD": "0000-0002-00001-1234", "organisation": {"L1": "School of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science "}}, "Author2": {"Last name": "Student", "First name": "Fake B.", "Local User Id": "u100002", "E-mail": "b@kth.se", "ORCiD": "0000-0002-00001-5678", "organisation": {"L1": "School of Architecture and the Built Environment "}}, "Degree": {"Educational program": "Bachelor’s Programme in Information and Communication Technology"}, "Title": {"Main title": "This is the title in the language of the thesis", "Subtitle": "An subtitle in the language of the thesis", "Language": "eng"}, "Alternative title": {"Main title": "Detta är den svenska översättningen av titeln", "Subtitle": "Detta är den svenska översättningen av undertiteln", "Language": "swe"}, "Supervisor1": {"Last name": "Supervisor", "First name": "A. Busy", "Local User Id": "u100003", "E-mail": "sa@kth.se", "organisation": {"L1": "School of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science ", "L2": "Computer Science"}}, "Supervisor2": {"Last name": "Supervisor", "First name": "Another Busy", "Local User Id": "u100003", "E-mail": "sb@kth.se", "organisation": {"L1": "School of Architecture and the Built Environment ", "L2": "Public Buildings"}}, "Examiner1": {"Last name": "Maguire Jr.", "First name": "Gerald Q.", "Local User Id": "u100004", "E-mail": "maguire@kth.se", "organisation": {"L1": "School of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science ", "L2": "Computer Science"}}, "Cooperation": {"Partner\_name": "Företaget AB"}, "Other information": {"Year": "2021", "Number of pages": "xxxiii,35"}, "Opponents": {"Name": "A. B. Normal & A. X. E. Normalè"}, "Presentation": {"Date": "2021-03-16 13:00", "Language": "eng", "Room": "via Zoom", "City": "Stockholm"}, "Number of lang instances": "10", "abstracts": {"eng": "<p>All theses at KTH are <bold>required</bold> to have an abstract in both <i>English</i> and <i>Swedish</i>.</p><p>Exchange students many want to include one or more abstracts in the language(s) used in their home institutions to avoid the need to write another thesis when returning to their home institution.</p><p>Keep in mind that most of your potential readers are only going to read your <tt>title</tt> and <tt>abstract</tt>. This is why it is important that the abstract give them enough information that they can decide is this document relevant to them or not. Otherwise the likely default choice is to ignore the rest of your document.</p><p>A abstract should stand on its own, i.e., no citations, cross references to the body of the document, acronyms must be spelled out, … .</p><p>Write this early and revise as necessary. This will help keep you focused on what you are trying to do.</p><p>Example of a formula in an abstract: $c=2 \\cdot \\pi \\cdot r$ or \\[ \\int\_{a}^{b} x^2 \\,dx \\] two chemical formulas: H<sub>2</sub>O or $(C\_5O\_2H\_8)\_n$, copyright symbol: &copy; Maguire 2021, and some superscripts: <sup>99m</sup>Tc, A<sup>\*</sup>, A<sup>&reg;</sup>, and A&trade;.</p><p>Write an abstract with the following components: </p><ul><li> What is the topic area? (optional) Introduces the subject area for the project. </li><li> Short problem statement </li><li> Why was this problem worth a ’Masters thesis project? (i.e., why is the problem both significant and of a suitable degree of difficulty for a ’Masters thesis project? Why has no one else solved it yet?) </li><li> How did you solve the problem? What was your method/insight? </li><li> Results/Conclusions/Consequences/Impact: What are your key results/conclusions? What will others do based upon your results? What can be done now that you have finished - that could not be done before your thesis project was completed?</li></ul>", "swe": "<p>Alla avhandlingar vid KTH måste ha ett abstrakt på både engelska och svenska.</p><p>If you are writing your thesis in English, you can leave this until the final version. If you are writing your thesis in Swedish then this should be done first – and you should revise as necessary along the way.</p><p>If you are writing your thesis in English, then this section can be a summary targeted at a more general reader. However, if you are writing your thesis in Swedish, then the reverse is true – your abstract should be for your target audience, while an English summary can be written targeted at a more general audience.</p><p>This means that the English abstract and Swedish sammnfattning or Swedish abstract and English summary need not be literal translations of each other.</p><p>The abstract in the language used for the thesis should be the first abstract, while the Summary/Sammanfattning in the other language can follow.</p>", "fre": "<p>Résumé en français.</p>", "spa": "<p>Résumé en espagnol.</p>", "ita": "<p>Sommario in italiano.</p>", "nor": "<p>Sammendrag på norsk.</p>", "ger": "", "dan": "<p>Abstrakt på dansk.</p><p>Zusammenfassung in Deutsch.</p>", "dut": "<p>Samenvatting in het Nederlands.</p><p>Eesti keeles kokkuvõte.</p>", "est": ""}, "keywords": {"eng": "Canvas Learning Management System, Docker containers, performance tuning ", "swe": "Canvas Lärplattform,Dockerbehållare, prestandajustering ", "fre": "5-6 mots-clés ", "spa": "5-6 Palabras claves ", "ita": "5-6 parole chiave ", "nor": "5-6 nøkkelord ", "ger": "5-6 Schlüsselwörter ", "dan": "5-6 Søgeord ", "dut": "5-6 trefwoorden ", "est": "5-6 Märksõnad "}} |

Figure : Example event.json output

# What can we do with this event.json file?

Now that you have a JSON file, you can edit the HTML to deal with equations and things that were not automatically processed by the extraction program.

Once you are happy with the JSON file contents, the next step is to generate something interesting with this data – for this we use the program JSON\_to\_calendar.py.

|  |
| --- |
| JSON\_to\_calendar.py  KTH calendar event  Canvas calendar event  Canvas announcement |

Figure : The several outputs of JSON\_to\_calendar.py

We can produce all three outputs with the command shown in Figure 16. Note that the program was run with the event.json file to produce a Canvas course announcement, as shown in Figure 17. Note that this is being run in the Canvas test instance (hence the pink bar across the bottom of the figure).

|  |
| --- |
| JSON\_to\_calendar.py -c 11 --config config-test.json |

Figure : Funning JSON\_to\_calendar.py to produce all three outputs

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| --- |
|  |

Figure : Canvas course announcement

Figure 17 and Figure 18 show the event in the Canvas calendar (when I have selected to display the events for course 11 in green).

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Figure : A course event in the Canvas calendar (the figure is zoomed in on 15 March 2021

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|  |

Figure : Zoomed view of the opened Canvas calendar event

I also edited the event.json to create an event on the following data. The result is two Calendar events as shown in KTH’s Cortina calendar (in this case, it is in the development version of the Polopoly web – as this is the only place where I can use the as of yet unreleased Cortina API which is being developed by KTH’s IT unit. Figure 21 and Figure 22 show the English and Swedish versions of the event in the calendar.s

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Figure : KTH’s Cortina calendar showing two degree project events

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Figure : English version of the calendar

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Figure : Swedish version of the calendar event

Figure 23 shows the response from doing a POST to the KTH Cortina API. Note that this is a prototype and as of the date of my experiments did not yet support having an examiner in a calendar event (hence I had to save and remove this element of the dict before passing the data to the API, then I restored this element for use by the subsequent routines).

|  |
| --- |
| {  "advisor": "A. Busy Supervisor & Another Busy Supervisor",  "contentId": "1.1010375",  "contentName": {  "en\_GB": "This is the title in the language of the thesis: An subtitle in the language of the thesis",  "sv\_SE": "Detta är den svenska översättningen av titeln: Detta är den svenska översättningen av undertiteln"  },  "dates\_endtime": "2021-03-16T13:00:00.000Z",  "dates\_starttime": "2021-03-16T12:00:00.000Z",  "lead": {  "en\_GB": "Bachelor's thesis presentation",  "sv\_SE": "Kandidate Examensarbete presentation"  },  "lecturer": "Fake A. Student & Fake B. Student",  "location": "via Zoom",  "opponent": "A. B. Normal & A. X. E. Normalè",  "organisation": {  "school": "EECS",  "department": "Datavetenskap"  },  "respondent": "",  "respondentDepartment": "",  "subjectarea": {  "en\_GB": "Canvas Learning Management System, Docker containers, performance tuning ",  "sv\_SE": "Canvas Lärplattform,Dockerbehållare, prestandajustering "  },  "seminartype": "thesis",  "paragraphs\_text": {  "en\_GB": "<p>All theses at KTH are required to have an abstract in both <i>English</i> and <i>Swedish</i>.</p> \n<p>Exchange students many want to include one or more abstracts in the language(s) used in their home institutions to avoid the need to write another thesis when returning to their home institution.</p> \n<p>Keep in mind that most of your potential readers are only going to read your title and abstract. This is why it is important that the abstract give them enough information that they can decide is this document relevant to them or not. Otherwise the likely default choice is to ignore the rest of your document.</p> \n<p>A abstract should stand on its own, i.e., no citations, cross references to the body of the document, acronyms must be spelled out, … .</p> \n<p>Write this early and revise as necessary. This will help keep you focused on what you are trying to do.</p> \n<p>Example of a formula in an abstract: $c=2 \\cdot \\pi \\cdot r$ or \\[ \\int\_{a}^{b} x^2 \\,dx \\] two chemical formulas: H<sub>2</sub>O or $(C\_5O\_2H\_8)\_n$, copyright symbol: © Maguire 2021, and some superscripts: <sup>99m</sup>Tc, A<sup>\*</sup>, A<sup>®</sup>, and A™.</p> \n<p>Write an abstract with the following components: </p> \n<ul> \n <li> What is the topic area? (optional) Introduces the subject area for the project. </li> \n <li> Short problem statement </li> \n <li> Why was this problem worth a ’Masters thesis project? (i.e., why is the problem both significant and of a suitable degree of difficulty for a ’Masters thesis project? Why has no one else solved it yet?) </li> \n <li> How did you solve the problem? What was your method/insight? </li> \n <li> Results/Conclusions/Consequences/Impact: What are your key results/conclusions? What will others do based upon your results? What can be done now that you have finished - that could not be done before your thesis project was completed?</li> \n</ul>\n",  "sv\_SE": "<p>Alla avhandlingar vid KTH måste ha ett abstrakt på både engelska och svenska.</p> \n<p>If you are writing your thesis in English, you can leave this until the final version. If you are writing your thesis in Swedish then this should be done first – and you should revise as necessary along the way.</p> \n<p>If you are writing your thesis in English, then this section can be a summary targeted at a more general reader. However, if you are writing your thesis in Swedish, then the reverse is true – your abstract should be for your target audience, while an English summary can be written targeted at a more general audience.</p> \n<p>This means that the English abstract and Swedish sammnfattning or Swedish abstract and English summary need not be literal translations of each other.</p> \n<p>The abstract in the language used for the thesis should be the first abstract, while the Summary/Sammanfattning in the other language can follow.</p>\n"  },  "uri": "https://www.kth.se"  } |

Figure : Response from the KTH Cortina API

# Change in how to enter the abstracts in LaTeX

In order to deal with both babl and Polyglossia and both bibtex and biblatex, I have changed how the abstracts should be entered. Basically the idea is to insert a \babelpolyLangStart{language\_name} before the start of the abstract and \babelpolyLangStop after the end of the abstract. These macros hide the difference between using Babel or Polyglossia. Additionally, they avoid the problem of the Overleaf GUI being confused about matching beginning and ending statements. Figure 24 and Figure 25 show examples of how to enter an abstract and keywords while Figure 26 shows the defition of the two macros.

Note that both Babel and Polyglossia expand the \abstractname into the correct version of the name for an abstract in the current language. Unfortunately, neither package has an equivalent to provide the language specific version of “keywords”, so these have to be provided by the person entering the keywords.

|  |
| --- |
| \babelpolyLangStart{swedish}  \begin{abstract}  \markboth{\abstractname}{}  \begin{scontents}[store-env=lang]  swe  \end{scontents}  \begin{scontents}[store-env=abstracts,print-env=true]  Alla avhandlingar vid KTH måste ha ett abstrakt på både engelska och svenska.  Om du skriver din avhandling på svenska ska detta göras först (och placera det som det första abstraktet) - och du bör revidera det vid behov.  If you are writing your thesis in English, you can leave this until the draft version that goes to your opponent for the written opposition. In this way you can provide the English and Swedish abstract/summary information that can be used in the announcement for your oral presentation.  If you are writing your thesis in English, then this section can be a summary targeted at a more general reader. However, if you are writing your thesis in Swedish, then the reverse is true – your abstract should be for your target audience, while an English summary can be written targeted at a more general audience.  This means that the English abstract and Swedish sammnfattning  or Swedish abstract and English summary need not be literal translations of each other.  The abstract in the language used for the thesis should be the first abstract, while the Summary/Sammanfattning in the other language can follow.  \end{scontents}  \subsection\*{Nyckelord}  \begin{scontents}[store-env=keywords,print-env=true]  Canvas Lärplattform,Dockerbehållare, prestandajustering  \end{scontents}  \end{abstract}  \babelpolyLangStop{swedish} |

Figure . Example of the revised format for entering an abstract

|  |
| --- |
| \todo[inline]{Use the relevant language for abstracts for your home university.\\  Note that you may need to augment the set of language used in polyglossia or  babel (see the file kththesis.cls). The following languages include those languages that were used in theses at KTH in 2018-2019, except for one in Chinese.\\  Remove those versions that you do not need.\\  If adding a new language, when specifying the language for the abstract use the three letter ISO 639-2 Code – specifically the "B" (bibliographic) variant of these codes (note that this is the same language code used in DiVA).  \babelpolyLangStart{french}  \begin{abstract}  \markboth{\abstractname}{}  \begin{scontents}[store-env=lang]  fre  \end{scontents}  \begin{scontents}[store-env=abstracts,print-env=true]  Résumé en français.  \end{scontents}  \subsection\*{Mots clés}  \begin{scontents}[store-env=keywords,print-env=true]  5-6 mots-clés  \end{scontents}  \end{abstract}  \babelpolyLangStop{french}  \cleardoublepage |

Figure . Second example of the revised format for entering an abstract

|  |
| --- |
| \ifxeorlua  \newcommand{\babelpolyLangStop}[1]{\end{#1}}  \else  \newcommand{\babelpolyLangStop}[1]{\end{otherlanguage}}  \fi  \ifxeorlua  \newcommand{\babelpolyLangStart}[1]{\begin{#1}}  \else  \newcommand{\babelpolyLangStart}[1]{\begin{otherlanguage}{#1}}  \fi |

Figure : The two macros used to help enter the language specification

# Adding keywords and PDF meta data

In an effort to add the PDF meta via the hyperref package, I also decided to add the keywords part of the PDF meta. However, in order to do this I had to have the keywords before the \begin{document} command in the LaTeX file. To do so, I added three new commands to the kththesis.cls file, as shown in Figure 27. The commands are used in the examplethesis.tex file to set up the keywords in both English and Swedeish as well as include a new set of LaTeX commands to store the PDF meta data (as shown in Figure 28) using a file called lib/pdf\_related\_includes.tex (shown in Figure 29). Later the keywords that have been stored are inserted into the LaTeX after their respective language abstracts as shown in Figure 30 and Figure 31. The title page of the thesis and the PDF meta data are shown in Figure 32 Finally, the keywords appear (as expected) in the for DiVA data at the end of the PDF file as shown in Figure 33.

Note that \makeatletter and \makeatother are use to include the character “@” as a letter and then return “@” to being a punction code. This use of “@” protects the internal names from being accessed outside of these two commands. More explicitly, \EnglishKeywords is a function that takes one argument, the text of the English keywords, and then stores them into “@EnglishKeywords”. Later the text can be retried with the command \InsertKeywords{english} or \InsertKeywords{swedish}.

|  |
| --- |
| % Keywords  \let\@EnglishKeywords\@empty  \newcommand{\EnglishKeywords}[1]{\def\@EnglishKeywords{#1}}  \let\@SwedishKeywords\@empty  \newcommand{\SwedishKeywords}[1]{\def\@SwedishKeywords{#1}}  \makeatletter  \newcommand{\InsertKeywords}[1]{  \IfEqCase{#1}{%  {english}{\@EnglishKeywords}  {swedish}{\@SwedishKeywords}  }[\typeout{argument must be english or swedish}]  } |

Figure : New commands in kththesis.cls

Figure 28 shows the storing of the keywords using the above commands and the include of the library to set up the PDF meta data.

|  |
| --- |
| % Enter the English and Swedish keywords here for use in the PDF meta data \_and\_ for later use  % following the respective abstract.  % Try to put the words in the same order in both to facilitate matching.  \EnglishKeywords{Canvas Learning Management System, Docker containers, performance tuning}  \SwedishKeywords{Canvas Lärplattform, Dockerbehållare, prestandajustering}  % Put the title, author, and keyword information into the PDF meta information  \include{lib/pdf\_related\_includes} |

Figure : New additions to examplethesis.text

The lib/pdf\_related\_includes.tex file contains the LaTeX to add information to the PDF file (specifically, author(s), title(s), and keywords. It uses the hyperref package and should be be included before the \begin{document}.

I want to acknowledge the inspiration of Karl Voit's template for TU Graz that inspired me to add the PDF document information. For more information about his template see <https://github.com/novoid/LaTeX-KOMA-template>

Note that this template does not use anything from his template other than the names of the information for the PDF meta fields, i.e., mytitle, myauthor, and mykeywords together with the idea of defining the corresponding newcommand to set the relevant hyperref parameters. A result is that these command names are visible to the rest of the LaTeX file.

|  |
| --- |
| \makeatletter  \ifx\@subtitle\@empty  \newcommand{\mytitle}{\@title}  \else  \newcommand{\mytitle}{\@title: \@subtitle}  \fi  \hypersetup{  pdftitle={\mytitle} % Title field  }  \ifx\@secondAuthorsLastname\@empty  \newcommand{\myauthor}{\@authorsFirstname \@authorsLastname}  \else  \ifinswedish  \newcommand{\myauthor}{\@authorsFirstname\space\@authorsLastname\space\relax och\space\@secondAuthorsFirstname \@secondAuthorsLastname}  \else  \newcommand{\myauthor}{\@authorsFirstname\space\@authorsLastname\space\relax and\space\@secondAuthorsFirstname \@secondAuthorsLastname}  \fi  \fi  \hypersetup{  pdfauthor={\myauthor} % Author field  }  % Put the alternative title (and subtitle) into the PDF Subject meta  \ifx\@altsubtitle\@empty\relax  \newcommand{\myalttitle}{\@alttitle}  \else  \newcommand{\myalttitle}{\@alttitle: \@altsubtitle}  \fi  \hypersetup{  pdfsubject={\myalttitle} % Subject field  }  \ifx\@EnglishKeywords\@empty  \ifx\@SwedishKeywords\@empty  \newcommand{\mykeywords}{}  \else  \newcommand{\mykeywords}{\@SwedishKeywords}  \fi  \else  \ifx\@SwedishKeywords\@empty  \newcommand{\mykeywords}{\@EnglishKeywords}  \else  \ifinswedish  \newcommand{\mykeywords}{\@SwedishKeywords, \@EnglishKeywords}  \else  \newcommand{\mykeywords}{\@EnglishKeywords, \@SwedishKeywords}  \fi  \fi  \fi  \makeatother  \hypersetup{  pdfkeywords={\mykeywords} % Keywords field  } |

Figure : lib/pdf\_related\_includes.tex (edited for readability)

|  |
| --- |
| \subsection\*{Keywords}  \begin{scontents}[store-env=keywords,print-env=true]  % If you set the EnglishKeywords earlier, you can retrieve them with:  % **Alternative 1:**  %\makeatletter  %\@EnglishKeywords  %\makeatother  %  % **Alternative 2:**  \InsertKeywords{english}  % If you did not set the EnglishKeywords earlier then simply enter the keywords here:  % **Alternative 3:**  % comma separate keywords, such as: Canvas Learning Management System, Docker containers, performance tuning  \end{scontents} |

Figure : Including the English language keywords below the English abstract

|  |
| --- |
| \subsection\*{Nyckelord}  \begin{scontents}[store-env=keywords,print-env=true]  % SwedishKeywords were set earlier, hence we can use alternative 2  \InsertKeywords{swedish}  \end{scontents}  \end{abstract} |

Figure : Including the Swedeish language keywords below the Swedish abstract

|  |
| --- |
|  |

Figure : The title page of the thesis and the PDF meta data

|  |
| --- |
|  |

Figure : The keywords appear as expected in the for DiVA data at the end of the PDF file

# Other variants of the JSON\_to\_calendar.py

For testing purposes, I also created functionality in JSON\_to\_calendar.py to insert a fixed event (this was my first test) and take in a MODS file. The MODS file was created from a DiVA feed of theses presented in 2020 through to the 25th of April. However, one limitation that I found is that other than myself, few people have been entering the date and time for the oral presentation. Since I wanted to test making calendar announcements, I needed data and time!

**NB**: I have assumed that each degree project presentation lasts one hour – since the KTH Cortina calendar needs both a starting and ending time.

These other variants probably should not be kept, but rather the architecture should be similar to that shown in Figure 34. Additionally, when taking data from other types of sources, one can take advantage of the data that is in a Canvas degree project course to help out the processing of the source data.

|  |
| --- |
| JSON  Extractor  JSON\_to\_calendar.py  Canvas announcement  Canvas calendar event  KTH calendar event  ZIP of LaTeX  DOCX  PDF |

Figure 34: Several possible inputs to JSON\_to\_calendar.py and its outputs

# Can someone else use these programs?

The source code is at <https://github.com/gqmaguirejr/E-learning>

Any users with the Canvas permissions to post announcements in a course and insert course calendar events can use the Canvas-related functionality. However, the KTH Cortina Calendar API requires an access key (which you have to get from the IT unit).

# LaTeX template in Overleaf

The template used to make the examples in this document is at:

<https://www.overleaf.com/read/xmrfhcchgnvq>

**NB**: This is where I do experiments with the template and is not intended to be stable.

1. All of the names (except my own) are fictitious and not meant to be associated with any real persons. However, the names of KTH’s schools and program are the actual names. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)