

Introduction to \LaTeX

Lecture 1: Hello, \LaTeX

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What is L^AT_EX

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

LaTeX (lah-tekh, lah-tek or lay-tek, a shortening of Lamport TeX) is a document preparation system. When writing, the writer uses plain text in markup tagging conventions to define the general structure of a document (such as article, book, and letter), to stylise text throughout a document (such as bold and italic), and to add citations and cross-references. A TeX distribution such as TeX Live or MikTeX is used to produce an output file (such as PDF or DVI) suitable for printing or digital distribution. Within the typesetting system, its name is stylised as L^AT_EX.

Reference: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Latex>

Installation of \LaTeX

Though there are some other distributions of \LaTeX (like MikTeX), TexLive is recommended in this lecture.

Windows & Linux

Download TeXLive on the following website (a mirror provided by HUST, Huazhong University of Science and Technology)

<http://mirror.hust.edu.cn/CTAN/systems/texlive/Images/>

MacOS

Download MacTeX on the following website

<http://tug.org/mactex/mactex-download.html>

Linux (Ubuntu or Debian)

Enter the command (fast with apt source mirror)

```
sudo apt-get install texlive-full
```

Selection of IDEs

There are various IDEs recommended that support \LaTeX , for example

Texmaker

<http://www.xmlmath.net/texmaker/>

Sublime Text

<http://www.sublimetext.com/>

Follow the instructions on

<https://www.zhihu.com/question/36038602>

Atom

<http://www.atom.io/>

And install the package `atom-latex`

They all have cross-platform support for Windows, Linux and MacOS.

Documentation on your computer

If you've installed a full version of TeXLive (as strongly recommended), the \LaTeX documentation about all you want to is in front of you.

Open the command line and input the command

`texdoc docname`

You can also use the online version <http://www.texdoc.net/>

For example, you can use the following types for the `docname`

`tex` about `TeX`

`article` about documentclass `article`

`beamer` about documentclass `beamer` (used to create slides)

`pgf` about `TikZ` and `PGF` (used to draw graphs)

Try to `texdoc` about all new things and then you'll be an expert in \LaTeX .

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A simple document

A typical (simplest) \LaTeX example is presented here.

Example

```
1 \documentclass[a4paper]{article}
2 \usepackage{amsmath} % Define various maths environments
3 \usepackage{amssymb} % Define various maths symbols
4 \usepackage{geometry} % Adjust the margin, paper size, and etc.
5 \usepackage{enumerate} % Provide different style of lists
6 \usepackage{graphicx} % Insert image of all types
7 % Use other packages and setup them here
8 \title{A simple \LaTeX\ document}
9 \author{Liu Yihao}
10 \date{\today}
11
12 \begin{document}
13     \maketitle
14     Hello, \LaTeX !
15 \end{document}
```


All begins with documentclass

Definition

In a \LaTeX file, the **first** line must be

```
\documentclass[options]{class}
```

For example, you can use the following types for the **class**

article Write a report or an science article

report Write a report

beamer Produce a lecture silde like this!

Some options can be added, for example, a typical case can be

```
\documentclass[11pt,twoside,a4paper]{article}
```

Some details about the **article** class will be introduced on the next page.
More features about other classes and options can be found in the \LaTeX Document on your own.

The article class

The `article` class is the most basic class in \LaTeX , it provides you with some normalized structure and format for report writing. So usually you will use the following command as the first line of your tex document

```
\documentclass[options]{article}
```

Some of the options values are listed below (the default values are **alerted**)

- **10pt**, **11pt**, **12pt** or other sizes - the font size of the document
- **a4paper**, **a5paper**, **letterpaper** - the size of paper
- **fleqn** - make the math equations left aligned (default middle aligned)
- **leqno** - display the serial numbers of math equations on the left (default on the right)
- **titlepage**, **notitlepage** - whether to make the title an entire page
- **onecolumn**, **twocolumn** - the number of columns of the document
- **twoside**, **oneside** - influence the position of something on the page

Other classes

Read the source code of this project and you will learn much about the `beamer` class.

When writing a `long` report, `report` class can be used to provide some more layers of document and different type settings. It's very similar to the `article` class, so it won't be specified.

There are some other document classes such as `book`, `letter` and etc., but I think you will never need them.

Magic of packages

L^AT_EX is a macro-based language, where most of useful commands are not built-in commands. These commands are defined in various packages, which should be included between `\documentclass` and `\begin {document}`.

Command

```
\usepackage[options]{package}
```

There are some very useful packages that you can **ALWAYS** include:

`amsmath` Define various maths environments

`amssymb` Define various maths symbols

`geometry` Adjust the margin, paper size, and etc.

`enumerate` Generate a list like this!

`graphicx` Insert image of all types

The usages of these and more packages will be introduced further.

Common packages

Here I provide a list of common used packages, you can start from using the commands of them after the lecture.

1	<code>\usepackage{hyperref}</code>	<i>% Extensive support for hypertext</i>
2	<code>\usepackage{float}</code>	<i>% Improved interface for floating objects</i>
3	<code>\usepackage{geometry}</code>	<i>% Flexible document dimensions</i>
4	<code>\usepackage{enumerate}</code>	<i>% Enumerate with redefinable labels</i>
5	<code>\usepackage{multirow}</code>	<i>% Tabular cells spanning multiple rows</i>
6	<code>\usepackage{multicol}</code>	<i>% Intermix single and multiple columns</i>
7	<code>\usepackage{ulem}</code>	<i>% Package for underlining</i>
8	<code>\usepackage{graphicx}</code>	<i>% Enhanced support for graphics</i>
9	<code>\usepackage{subfig}</code>	<i>% Figures broken into subfigures</i>
10	<code>\usepackage{amsmath}</code>	<i>% AMS mathematical facilities</i>
11	<code>\usepackage{amssymb}</code>	<i>% AMS symbols</i>
12	<code>\usepackage{amsfonts}</code>	<i>% AMS fonts</i>
13	<code>\usepackage{mathrsfs}</code>	<i>% Support for using RSFS fonts in maths</i>
14	<code>\usepackage{latexsym}</code>	<i>% LaTeX symbols</i>
15	<code>\usepackage{verbatim}</code>	<i>% Reimplementation of LaTeX verbatim</i>

Title, Author and Date

It's very useful to generate a title on the first page of a document, in order to achieve it, these commands should first be added between

`\documentclass` and `\begin{document}`.

Example

```
1 \title{title}
2 \author{author name}
3 \date{\today}
```

You can simply use `\date{\today}` to display your system date now.

Then in the `document environment` (will be introduced in the next section), use the command `\maketitle` to generate the title page.

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Main body of document

The main body of your document which starts with `\begin{document}` and ends with `\end{document}` is called the **document** environment. All of the contents you'd like to display should be in it, and it **MUST** be **unique** in the whole file.

Example

```
1 \begin{document}
2   \maketitle
3   \tableofcontents
4   Hello, \LaTeX !
5   % TODO: Add more contents
6   ...
7 \end{document}
```

The title page and table of contents are also added in this example. The position and order of them can be arbitrary, and there can be multiple table of contents in one document.

Dividing into sections

Command

```
1 \section{name}  
2 \subsection{name}  
3 \subsubsection{name}
```

```
1 \section*{name}  
2 \subsection*{name}  
3 \subsubsection*{name}
```

The default style of sections is like

1 Example Section Name

1.1 Example Subsection Name

1.1.1 Example Subsubsection Name

If a star(*) is added, the sequence number will be hidden, and it won't be added to the table of contents.

Note: (Sub)sections can be sorted into commands, not environments, so it doesn't have `\begin` and `\end` clauses. However, the whole contents between two (sub)sections is belonged to one (sub)section.

Other structures - Chapter, Part and Paragraph

Command

```
1 \chapter{name}  
2 \part{name}  
3 \paragraph{name}  
4 \subparagraph{name}
```

```
1 \chapter*{name}  
2 \part*{name}  
3 \paragraph*{name}  
4 \subparagraph*{name}
```

In document classes such as `report` and `book`, some outer structures of section (`\chapter` and `\part`) can be used.

`\paragraph` and `\subparagraph` are used for the title of small paragraphs in a (sub)section.

If a star(*) is added, the effect will be the same as in the sections (sequence numbers will be hidden).

Command

Definition

Command is a word which can be identified by \LaTeX and represents a certain function in output file, or in relation with some specific character or format

Environment

Definition

Environment is an encapsulated part which has a certain format so that it will not be influenced by outer context

Environment in environment

Of course, the environments can be nested.

Example

```
1  \begin{environmentOne}
2      % ...
3      \begin{environmentTwo}
4          % ...
5      \end{environmentTwo}
6      % ...
7  \end{environmentOne}
```

Questions

- A document is default in portrait layout, how to generate a document in landscape layout?
- What happens when a package is imported several times? Based on the fact that some packages use other packages as dependency, try to explain why package conflicts occur. How to avoid this problem?

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The common syntax of \LaTeX commands

All \LaTeX commands have the following syntax

$\backslash\text{commandName}$ <specialArgs>[optionalArgs]{requiredArgs}

specialArgs Seldom used in basic usage, for certain special usages in some packages

optionalArgs Used to define mode of the command, if not specified, \LaTeX will use the default mode

requiredArgs Must be filled

If you want to connect a letter after a command, a space must be appended after the command or \LaTeX won't be able to compile it correctly. But two commands can be directly connected since there is a \backslash before each command.

The common syntax of \LaTeX environments

All \LaTeX environments have the following syntax

```
1 \begin{environmentName}<specialArgs>[optionalArgs]{requiredArgs}
2     % ...
3 \end{environmentName}
```

$\text{\texttt{specialArgs}}$, $\text{\texttt{optionalArgs}}$, $\text{\texttt{requiredArgs}}$ are similar to those in a [command](#)

It is recommended to have a tab indent in each environment or your tex codes will be difficult to read by others or even **yourself**.