

Introduction to \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.

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 - Installation of \LaTeX
 - Selection of IDEs
 - Documentation on your computer
- 3 The Basic Usages

Installation of \LaTeX

Windows

Download TeXLive on the following website

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

Linux

For example, on Ubuntu (or Debian), Enter the command

`sudo apt-get install texlive-full`

MacOS

Download MacTeX on the following website

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

Selection of IDEs

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

Texmaker

<http://www.xm1math.net/texmaker/>

Sublime Text

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

Tex Studio

<http://www.texstudio.org/>

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]`

Example

`texdoc tex` - A documentation about [TeX](#)

`texdoc article` - A documentation about documentclass [article](#)

`texdoc beamer` - A documentation about documentclass [beamer](#)

`texdoc pgf` - A documentation about [TikZ](#) and [PGF](#) (used to draw graphs)

Just try to `texdoc` about all new things then you will be an expert in \LaTeX .

1 Introduction

2 Getting Started

3 The Basic Usages

- Common syntax
- Documentclass
- Document environment

The common syntax of \LaTeX commands

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

All \LaTeX commands have the following syntax

\backslash **command_name** \langle **special_args** \rangle $[$ **optional_args** $]$ $\{$ **required_args** $\}$

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

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

required_args Must be filled

The common syntax of \LaTeX environments

Definition

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

All \LaTeX environments have the following syntax

```
\begin{environment_name}<special_args>[optional_args]
```

...

```
\end{environment_name}
```

special_args Similar to commands

optional_args Similar to commands

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

book Write a book

beamer Produce a lecture silde like this!

Actually some options can be added, such as

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

It means that the font-size is 11pt and the document is two-sided on an A4 paper. More features can be found in the \LaTeX Document on your own.

The document environment

Definition

An document starts with the `document` environment. A typical example is presented below.

Example

```
\documentclass[a4paper]{article}  
\begin{document}  
...  
Hello World!  
...  
\end{document}
```

All of your contents should be in the document environment. The document environment **MUST** be **unique** in the whole file.

Basic commands

```
\\  
%  
\newpage  
\underline{text}  
\textbf{text}      text  
\textit{text}      text
```

Trivial things about size

<code>\tiny</code>	<small>tiny</small>
<code>\scriptsize</code>	<small>scriptsize</small>
<code>\footnotesize</code>	<small>footnotesize</small>
<code>\small</code>	<small>small</small>
<code>\normalsize</code>	<small>normalsize</small>
<code>\large</code>	large
<code>\Large</code>	Large
<code>\LARGE</code>	LARGE
<code>\huge</code>	huge
<code>\Huge</code>	Huge

Environments in environments

Definition

Environment can be used to show some special layouts in the document.
Most environments in \LaTeX are in the following format

```
\begin{environmentName}
```

...

```
\end{environmentName}
```

Of course, the environments can be nested.

Example

```
\begin{environmentName}
```

```
  \begin{anotherEnvironmentName}
```

...

```
  \end{anotherEnvironmentName}
```

```
\end{environmentName}
```

Magic of packages

Definition

Some environments or commands cannot be used directly. In this case, **packages** should be included between **documentclass** and **document environment**.

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

- ① `\usepackage{amsmath}` - Define various maths environments
- ② `\usepackage{amssymb}` - Define various maths symbols
- ③ `\usepackage{geometry}` - Adjust the margin, paper size, and etc.
- ④ `\usepackage{enumerate}` - Generate a list like this!
- ⑤ `\usepackage{graphicx}` - Insert image of all types

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

Dividing into sections

Definition

A \LaTeX file can be divided into sections

$\backslash\text{section}(*)\{\dots\}$

$\backslash\text{subsection}(*)\{\dots\}$

$\backslash\text{subsubsection}(*)\{\dots\}$

The default style of sections is like

1 Example Section Name

1.2 Example Subsection Name

1.2.3 Example Subsubsection Name

If a star(*) is added, the sequence number of the section, subsection or subsubsection won't be displayed.

Notice: Sections can be sorted into commands, not environments, so it doesn't have **begin** and **end** clauses.

Enumerate and Item

The equation environment

Definition

An **equation** environment contains a set of maths equations

```
\begin{equation(*)}
```

...

```
\end{equation(*)}
```

Example

$$\operatorname{curl} F = \left(\frac{\partial F_z}{\partial y} - \frac{\partial F_y}{\partial z} \right) \hat{n}_x + \left(\frac{\partial F_x}{\partial z} - \frac{\partial F_z}{\partial x} \right) \hat{n}_y + \left(\frac{\partial F_y}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial F_x}{\partial y} \right) \hat{n}_z \quad (1)$$

If a star(*) is added, the sequence number of the equation won't be displayed.

The \LaTeX script of the equation above is quite long, but not so difficult as you think so, while how I display the script to you is far more confusing, and you may check it in the tex file of the lecture slides

```
curl\ F=\left(\frac{\partial F_z}{\partial y}
-\frac{\partial F_y}{\partial z}\right)\hat{n}_x
+\left(\frac{\partial F_x}{\partial z}
-\frac{\partial F_z}{\partial x}\right)\hat{n}_y
+\left(\frac{\partial F_y}{\partial x}
-\frac{\partial F_x}{\partial y}\right)\hat{n}_z
```

In the script, only a space after `\` will be printed as a space, `\partial` prints the symbol ∂ , `\frac{...}{...}` makes a fraction, `\left(` and `\right)` makes brackets (of course they can be nested and must be in couple, but you can use two kinds of brackets on the both side, i.e., `\left[` and `\right\]`, in which you must use `\rbrace` or `\}` to print a right brace `}`

How about equations with multiple lines?

The `aligned` environment can be used.

Example

$$\begin{cases} x + y = 1 \\ x - y = 1 \end{cases} \implies \begin{cases} x = 1 \\ y = 0 \end{cases} \quad (2)$$

```
\left\lbrace\begin{aligned}
  x+y&=1\\x-y&=1
\end{aligned}\right.\Longrightarrow
\left\lbrace\begin{aligned}
  x&=1\\y&=0
\end{aligned}\right.
```

We can use a `dot(.)` when we want to insert nothing in one of the brackets.

The align/aligned enviornment

Definition

An **align** enviornment is used outside a maths enviornment like **equation**

```
\begin{align(*)}
```

...

```
\end{align(*)}
```

Definition

An **aligned** enviornment is used inside a maths enviornment like **equation**

```
\begin{equation(*)}
```

```
\begin{aligned}
```

...

```
\end{aligned}
```

```
\end{equation(*)}
```

Other properties of them are very similar.

The `align/aligned` environment is an basic align and multiline environment.

Example

$$a + b \Leftrightarrow b + a \tag{3}$$

$$(a + b) + c \Leftrightarrow a + (b + c) \tag{4}$$

```
\begin{align}
a+b & \Leftrightarrow b+a \\
(a+b)+c & \Leftrightarrow a+(b+c)
\end{align}
```

In order to make a new line, you can easily use `\\` where you'd like (but not in certain maths environments such as `equation`). `&` is used to align the equations, you can use multiple `&`s and the `&`s on every line will be aligned respectively.

Something more about equation environment

What if the space between equation and the main body paragraph is considered larger than expectation? Is there any way to modify the line spacing?

In default style of equation is like

Example

your body paragraph is supposed to be typed here

$$a \times b = c \tag{5}$$

your body paragraph is supposed to be typed here

But if we add `\setlength\abovedisplayskip` or `\belowdisplayskip(pt)` before the equation environment, we have

Example

your body paragraph is supposed to be typed here

$$a \times b = c$$

(6)

your body paragraph is supposed to be typed here

```
\setlength\abovedisplayskip{0pt}
\setlength\belowdisplayskip{0pt}
\begin{equation}
a \times b = c
\end{equation}
```

The margin between the body paragraphs and the equation will be lessened as is in the example.

Typing subscript or superscript outside an equation environment

Sometimes you may encounter such circumstance as typing subscript or superscript in your paragraph without entering an equation environment.

Example

The concentration of $[H_3O^+]$

$[H_3O^+]$ is typed in the following way,

`[H$_{3}$ O $^{+}$ $]`

in which we type every subscript with

`$_{anything you wanna enter as subscript}$`

every subscript with

`^{anything you wanna enter as subscript}$`

if we only want to type one character as the subscript or superscript `{}` can be omitted.

Draw a table

Example

Title 1	Title 2	Title 3
1	2	3

The example above goes like this:

`\begin{tabular}{|l|c|r|}` %l represents aligning left;

c represents centering;

r represents aligning right

| means the vertical frame of a column

`\hline` % hline means to draw a horizontal line for all columns

`Title 1&Title 2&Title 3` %& is used to divide contents of different columns

`\hline`

`1 & 2 & 3`

`\hline`

`\end{tabular}`

Something more about tabular

`\multirow`
`\multicolumn`
`\cline`

Table environment

Definition

A `table` environment is used to arrange the place of a tabular

```
\begin{table(*)}[htbp]
```

...

```
\end{table(*)}
```

[h] means inserting the tabular to the current place.

[t] means inserting the tabular to the top of the page.

[b] means inserting the tabular to the bottom of the page.

[p] means inserting the tabular to another new page, which is common in dealing with big table.

Insert a graph

Contributors

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