LaTeXtemplate for confirmation reports and theses

thesis or report

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Supervisors: supervisor 1
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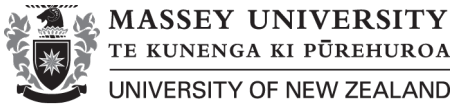

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Abstract

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1. Introduction

This is template for thesis. I created it for my own need when I had to write PhD confirmation thesis and searched for some default Massey LaTeXtemplate. To my surprise I have found that Massey do not support any LaTeXtemplate and even their instruction for how should thesis be written are sparse and weird. So I decided to improve life of other people that come after me and created this template. If you are experienced user, you might use it as starting point, it is your work and LaTeXenables great deal of personalization, so feel free to modify it, improve it and so on. If you are starting user of LaTeX, you might be grateful for a working template that looks good, is not overcombined with fancy stuff and provide good basic settings, from page layout (notably reduction of empty space), a good citation style for bibtex (APA is best) and decent titlepage.

1.1 Knitr or not knitr?

Previous version of this template (and my confirmation report) was based on knitr and associated `.rtex` files. Knitr is an `R` package that compile `.rtex` files, evaluate any `R` snippets included in them and outputs `.tex` file with evaluated snippets, these could be `R` commands and their output or even figures and tables build directly from data! Knitr is a great tool, however as my confirmation report grew bigger and more complex, it became harder to build everything from scratch with knitr. Figures build from data took very long to produce, with a more complex table design it was harder and harder to produce them with `xtable` package (I had to do quite a lot of hack to make it right) and the compilation time grew so much that I was able to go get coffee in the meantime. And if you wanted to manually edit and fix something, you couldn't.

So instead of knitr, I generated all my tables and all my figures separately, did as much as I could to make them look good with R/python/tikZ and then manually edited them (e.g., with inkscape) to get the best final look.

2. Examples

Hello, here is some text without a meaning. This text should show what a printed text will look like at this place. If you read this text, you will get no information. Really? Is there no information? Is there a difference between this text and some nonsense like “Huardest gefburn”? Kjift – not at all! A blind text like this gives you information about the selected font, how the letters are written and an impression of the look. This text should contain all letters of the alphabet and it should be written in of the original language. There is no need for special content, but the length of words should match the language.

2.1 tikZ

Tikz is awesome tool with which you can make, or write, to be precise, vector-based graphics. It is a bit hard to start, manual itself has 800 pages, but you have a whole library of examples which you can leverage, edit and then apply. See `http://www.texample.net/tikz/examples/`. It is still faster to make specific data-based graphs in R and transform them into tikz with tikzDevice package (easilly done with knitr), but for some graphs, this may be the way to go (namely if you are unable to work with standard graphical software like me and you expect to edit your graphs frequently).

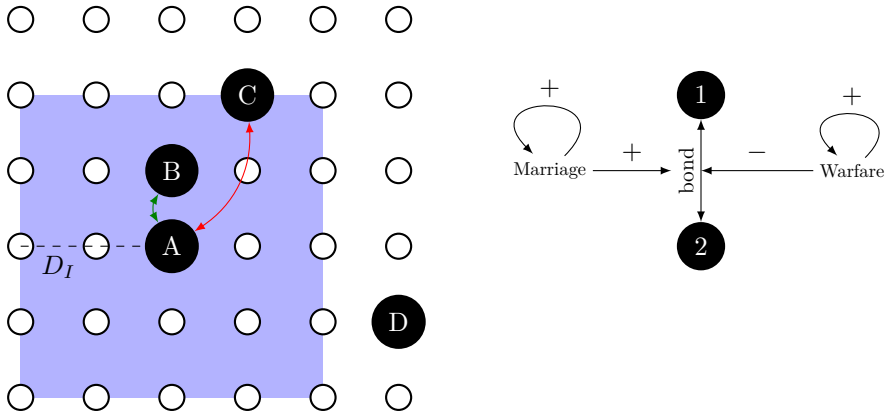

Figure 2.1: Example of two images made in tikz.

Bibliography