



Markdown slides / papers / course materials: How I learned to stop worrying about formatting and focused on the text

Hans-Martin

Why not LaTeX / beamer anymore?








- Never quite delivered on promise of focusing on structure for me
- Can't do the formatting wars with coauthors any more
- Portability limited (pdf, that's it)
- No dynamic documents
- Tough for newbies, will never need that again

Enter Slidev / mystjs

- Markdown (+ myst) syntax as readable as it gets, lack of html knowledge pushes me away from trying to do manual formatting
- mystjs has everything you need for scientific writing
- Geared at html output, easy LaTeX export for portability
- Node.js fairly easy to install
- Errors can be annoying, too (though much better than LaTeX)

What is Slidev?

Slidev is a slides maker and presenter designed for developers, consist of the following features

-  **Text-based** - focus on the content with Markdown, and then style them later
-  **Themable** - theme can be shared and used with npm packages
-  **Developer Friendly** - code highlighting, live coding with autocompletion
-  **Interactive** - embedding Vue components to enhance your expressions
-  **Recording** - built-in recording and camera view
-  **Portable** - export into PDF, PNGs, or even a hostable SPA
-  **Hackable** - anything possible on a webpage

Read more about [Why Slidev?](#)

Slidev — What I did so far

1. Installed Slidev Extension for VS Code
2. In VS Code's settings.json, set:

```
"[markdown]": {  
  "editor.formatOnSave": false,  
}
```

(see below why)

3. Installed Node.js and npm from NodeSource
4. Set up Slidev example:

```
→ mkdir md-playground  
→ cd md-playground  
→ npm init slidev  
[Ctrl + C]  
→ cd slidev  
→ npm run dev
```

5. Changed picture on title page and added a couple of slides

Some peculiarities

- Each slide has its own yaml-header, just like the overall document. Vertical whitespace around the delimiters (i.e., lines consisting of `---` will mess this up).
- To get pictures freely on the slide, use html syntax:

```

```



mystjs — What I did so far

1. Installed MyST-Markdown Extension for VS Code
2. Installed Node.js (see above)
3. Set up myst example:

```
→ cd md-playground
→ sudo npm install -g myst-cli
→ git clone https://github.com/executablebooks/mystjs-quickstart.git
→ mkdir paper
→ mkdir paper
→ mv mystjs-quickstart/* paper
→ myst start
→ myst init
```

Navigation

Hover on the bottom-left corner to see the navigation's controls panel, [learn more](#)

Keyboard Shortcuts

right / space

next animation or slide

left / shift space

previous animation or slide

up

previous slide

down

next slide


Here!



Code

Use code snippets and get the highlighting directly!^[1]

```
interface User {  
  id: number  
  firstName: string  
  lastName: string  
  role: string  
}  
  
function updateUser(id: number, update: User) {  
  const user = getUser(id)  
  const newUser = { ...user, ...update }  
  saveUser(id, newUser)  
}
```



1. [Learn More](#)

Components

You can use Vue components directly inside your slides.

We have provided a few built-in components like `<Tweet/>` and `<Youtube/>` that you can use directly. And adding your custom components is also super easy.

```
<Counter :count="10" />
```



Check out the guides for more.

```
<Tweet id="1390115482657726468" />
```



Themes

Slidev comes with powerful theming support. Themes can provide styles, layouts, components, or even configurations for tools. Switching between themes by just one edit in your frontmatter:

```
---  
theme: default  
---
```

```
---  
theme: seriph  
---
```



Read more about [How to use a theme](#) and check out the [Awesome Themes Gallery](#).

Animations

Animations are powered by [@vueuse/motion](#).

```
<div  
  v-motion  
  :initial="{ x: -80 }"  
  :enter="{ x: 0 }">  
  Slidev  
</div>
```



LaTeX

LaTeX is supported out-of-box powered by [KaTeX](#).

Inline $\sqrt{3x-1} + (1+x)^2$

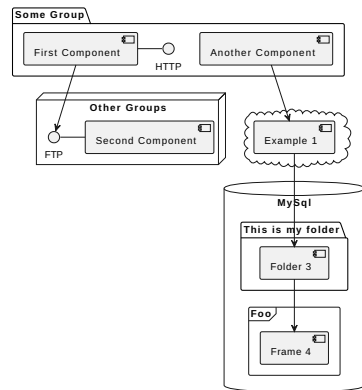
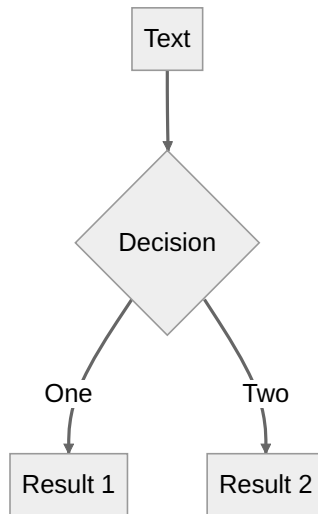
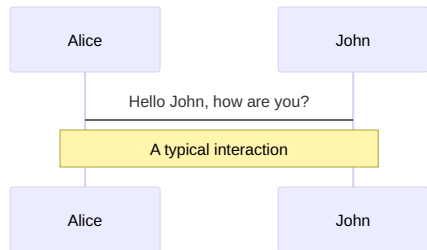
Block

$$\begin{aligned}\nabla \times \vec{\mathbf{B}} - \frac{1}{c} \frac{\partial \vec{\mathbf{E}}}{\partial t} &= \frac{4\pi}{c} \vec{\mathbf{j}} \nabla \cdot \vec{\mathbf{E}} = 4\pi\rho \\ \nabla \times \vec{\mathbf{E}} + \frac{1}{c} \frac{\partial \vec{\mathbf{B}}}{\partial t} &= \vec{\mathbf{0}} \\ \nabla \cdot \vec{\mathbf{B}} &= 0\end{aligned}$$

[Learn more](#)

Diagrams

You can create diagrams / graphs from textual descriptions, directly in your Markdown.



Learn More

Multiple Entries

You can split your slides.md into multiple files and organize them as you want using the ``src`` attribute.

``slides.md``

Page 1

Page 2 from main entry.

src: ../subpage.md

``subpage.md``

Page 2

Page 2 from another file.

[Learn more](#)

Learn More

[Documentations](#) · [GitHub](#) · [Showcases](#)