A short presentation on molecules in LATEX

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Introduction

- In these slides we show how Overleaf can be used with standard chemistry packages to easily create professional presentations.
- If you're new to LATEX, check out this free introductory course by Overleaf founder Dr John Lees-Miller: www.overleaf.com/blog/7
- You can also find more quick tips and tricks on the help pages at www.overleaf.com/help

The chemistry packages

We focus on two LATEX chemistry packages:

The chemfig package

This package provides the command which draws molecules. Created by Christian Tellechea, a detailed user guide can be found here:

www.tex.ac.uk/ctan/macros/generic/chemfig/chemfig_doc_en.pdf

The mhchem package

The mhchem package provides simple commands for typesetting chemical molecular formulae and equations. Created by Martin Hensel, a detailed user guide can be found here:

http://mirror.ox.ac.uk/sites/ctan.org/macros/latex/contrib/mhchem.pdf

Chemical equations with mhchem

- The mhchem package lets you write chemical equations in LATEX with the minimum of effort.
- The example below shows how the standard representation of a reaction (on the left) is created from the simple code on the right:

$$CO_2 + C \longrightarrow 2CO$$
 is created with $ce\{CO2 + C \rightarrow 2CO\}$

• More complicated reactions are still easy to write:

$$SO_4^{2-} + Ba^{2+} \longrightarrow BaSO_4 \downarrow$$
 is created with $\ce{SO4^2- + Ba^2+ -> BaSO4 v}$

Getting started with some chemfig coffee

It's easy to use the chemfig package for drawing complex molecules:

This is the caffeine molecule, represented clearly and neatly, and built from a single line of text:

$$\left(-CH_3\right)-*5(-N=-N(-CH_3)-*-(-CH_3)-=)--(-CH_3)-=\right)$$

If that looks quite daunting, we can learn from simpler molecules...how about a single water molecule?

Experiments with water and rings

To see how the **chemfig** package creates the drawings from your code, let us look at the simple water molecule:

$$H_2O$$
 is created with \chemfig{H_2O}

The simple LATEX code on the right is automatically converted into the molecular formula for water on the left.

Rings are similarly easy to code - consider the examples below:

$$\begin{bmatrix}
E & D \\
A & C
\end{bmatrix} = \text{chemfig}\{A*5(-B-C-D-E-)\}$$

$$= \text{chemfig}\{*6(=-=-=-)\}$$

Where to go next...

- This short example was designed to introduce you to using Overleaf for scientific presentations.
- This is made possible by the many great packages that have been developed for LATEX, including the two we focused on here (plus the Beamer package used for the overall presentation style).
- For more help on using LATEX, see the links on the Overleaf help page: www.overleaf.com/help or check out our free introductory course: www.overleaf.com/blog/7.

Follow @overleaf on Twitter for all the latest news and updates.

Happy LATEXing!