

# *A very brief introduction to Overleaf!*

This document describes some of the features of Overleaf. It is part of an interactive presentation.

**what?** Cloud-based  $\text{\LaTeX}$ editor.

**why?**  $\text{\LaTeX}$ can be a chunky program to run, and produces loads of log files and aux files. Overleaf abstracts you from this.

**how?** sign up with your email.  $\rightarrow$  imperial email means you will have access to the pro version.

## *Features*

- No setup, installation, or package management: good to go.
- Text editor made purposefully for  $\text{\LaTeX}$  <sup>1</sup>
- Templates for everything: you don't have to start from scratch.
- integrated version control, to revert to previous versions of your document.

<sup>1</sup> doesn't mean its the best.

Premium features are available if you create an account with your @ic.ac.uk email address. Among these:

- Synch with Dropbox
- Synch with Reference Manager Zotero and Mendeley. <sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup> Very beautiful video with a very bad copy of "Fast Car" as background music.

*Example* Create a new project and demonstrate some basic stuff.

- Initialize a project by selecting a template. <sup>3</sup>
- Add some text, compile.
- Add another file to the project, and run that instead.
- Add a mistake on purpose that troubles the interpreter and show how to debug.
- That said, show how to clone locally on your computer.

<sup>3</sup> for example: Newsletter  $\rightarrow$  Handout design inspired by Edward Tufte

*Why not Overleaf?* Overleaf is great for newcomers to  $\text{\LaTeX}$ , as it allows to focus on the syntax and structure of their document rather than installation. You may grow out of it as you become more comfortable with the language and want to exploit more features <sup>4</sup>. Note that local installation can be tricky.

<sup>4</sup> Copilot, and the ease of your favorite text editor

- It differs by OS.
- $\text{\LaTeX}$ installation can be CHUNKY
- I suggest TiniTex at your own risk.