

natsci — Science notation style guide

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1 Introduction

This style guide outlines some \LaTeX basics and some typesetting conventions using the `natsci` package. It is aimed at English and Czech users, but should be easily adaptable for everyone. This document should be read side-by-side with its source code.

2 General

Normal text is written as it is and line breaks in the code are treated only as spaces. The number of spaces between words does not matter.

However, a completely empty line signifies a new paragraph. Note that it must be completely empty (may contain only spaces). Any comments or commands count as non-empty.

Alternatively, a new paragraph can be created by a command, but that is usually not necessary. Sometimes

you want a line break without a new paragraph. That is done using two backslashes.

Different styles of text are **bold**, *italics*, *emphasised* (usually italics, but can be globally changed), ***bold italics***.

2.1 Escaping characters

There are some characters that have meaning in \LaTeX and have to be “escaped” when you actually want to display them. These are `&`, `%`, `$`, `#`, `_`, `{`, `}`, `~`, `^`, `\`. The empty curly braces are not necessary, but prevent disappearance of spaces that follow them. (If you don’t want a space after them, you can omit the braces.)

2.2 Unicode characters

The package uses $\text{Xe}\text{\LaTeX}$, which can directly typeset the whole of Unicode. However, the characters need to be supported by the font, and there is not a single font that would cover the whole of Unicode. This means that one would have to manually switch fonts if characters outside of the body font are needed. This can be done automatically for predefined Unicode ranges using the `ucharclasses` package, as demonstrated for the Han characters (漢字) in the header of this file.

2.3 Unicode abbreviations

There are some Unicode characters that have \TeX shorthands consisting of ASCII characters. These are more explicit and easier to type than the actual Unicode characters, which is why we shall use them.

Space sizes. There are different sizes of spaces in typesetting which are represented by different characters in Unicode. \LaTeX automatically inserts a larger space following a full stop. This is appropriate following a sentence, but not for other uses of full stop, e.g. in abbreviations. There, the space should be escaped using a backslash, which achieves a normal sized space. Compare e.g. `\space` to `\,e.g.` `\space`. This is only in English language.

Non-breaking spaces. In some cases, spaces should not change into line breaks. This is done using the tilde symbol. Let's say that we don't want the initials to separate, like in A. Přáda. This also suppresses the large spacing after a full stop that is present in English.

Dashes and hyphens are typed by 1 to 3 ASCII hyphens. For hy-phe-na-ted words use a single one. For ranges of numbers, use two, which give you an en-dash (e.g. 1–2). For pauses — em-dashes are used, which are represented by three hyphens.

English quotation marks are created using backticks for the front and apostrophes for the back, like ‘this’ or “this”. Make sure that you don't use the typewriter double quote ", which can cause troubles. Czech quotation marks, however, are typed using the double-quote character followed by quotations as previously, like „this“. (This works only in Czech texts.)

Non-breaking hyphens Sometimes there are hyphenated words that should not be split across lines. We use the `extdash` package and the hyphens are done as follows: 2-propanol.

2.4 References

You can refer to other places in the document using the `\ref` command. This refers to a place labelled with the appropriate `\label` command. This refers to section 2.3 on page 2. If these labels are inside numbered environments like sections, subsections, equations, figures or tables, they carry the appropriate number in the `\ref` command and the page number in the `\pageref` command. It is customary to name labels with prefixes `eq:`, `fig:` and `tab:` for equations, figures and tables respectively.

2.5 Footnotes

Footnotes are simple done like this.* You can write the footnote text†outside of the paragraph, if appropriate.

*My first footnote.

†My second footnote

3 Mathematical equations

L^AT_EX has a special math mode that needs to be triggered by a command.

Inline mathematics is written either using dollar signs like this $x = y$ (this is the old T_EX macro) or using escaped parentheses $x = y$. These two are completely equivalent, even though the latter one is somewhat neater and makes it easier to search for a missing one.

Display mathematics is written either using escaped brackets.

$$x = y$$

or using the `equation*` environment.

$$x = y$$

These two are equivalent. The `*` means that the equation is not automatically numbered. Please refrain from using the old T_EX double dollar macro `$$ x=y $$`. This is poorly defined and breaks things. For automatically numbered equations, use the `\equation` environment.

$$x = y \tag{1}$$

Note that empty lines prior to `\[` or `\begin{equation}` matter. Display equations are parts of paragraphs or paragraphs themselves, and the spacing reflects this. Also, note that spaces can be used to separate individual commands, but just like in normal mode, any number of spaces counts as a single space. Other environments that you may want to use are `align` (aligned equations, arrays of equations), `multline` (not a typo) (one equation split across line) and `gather` (not-aligned equations, one per line). (Please don't use `array`, it causes problems.)

If you want to number equations manually, you use the `tag` command

$$x = y \tag{4}$$

4 Mathematical typesetting conventions

The document uses `unicode-math`, which means that you can type mathematical symbols directly using their Unicode characters. However, since there are no Unicode keyboards, it is usually more convenient to use the related ASCII macros.

Variables All variables are typeset in *italics/slanted/oblique*. This includes fundamental constants that do not vary. (We can imagine a hypothetical situation when they do.)

$$x, y, i, j, e \text{ (elementary charge), } c \text{ (the speed of light)}$$

Vector variables are typeset in ***bold italics***. (They are still variables.) For this, use the `vc` command.

$$\mathbf{F} = m\mathbf{a}$$

Matrix/tensor variables are typeset in bold sans-serif font. For these the command `mat` was defined. (In addition, a command `transp` was defined for transpose T)

$$\mathbf{c}^T \mathbf{H} \mathbf{c} = E$$

Non-variables All other objects, like operators, labels, abbreviations, function names or units, must be typed upright. This also applies to mathematical constants that are usually denoted by letters, like e (Euler’s number), i (imaginary unit), π (circumference of a circle of a unit diameter). Basic functions, like trigs and logs have their own commands. For labels or phrases, `text` command is used. For differentials d , e , i and π , new commands were defined for their upright versions `ue`, `ud`, `ui`, `upi`. Similarly, the difference, the upright capital delta is used Δ , which has been assigned the macro `uDelta`. For derivatives, the package `diffcoeff` provides a simpler notation than explicitly writing fractions. See examples below.

$$\sin x, \ln \Delta H_{\text{fus}}^{\ominus}, \int dx, e^{i\pi}, \mathbf{A}^{\top}, \frac{df(x)}{dx}, \frac{d^3f}{dx^3} \Big|_{x=0}, \left(\frac{\partial^3 f(x,y)}{\partial x^3} \right)_y$$

Also note the standard state symbol \ominus , which has been assigned the `std` macro.

Mathematical alphabets If you want a more direct control, below is the list of all the mathematical alphabets that exist in Unicode. (These commands can also be used without the curly braces, in which case they apply to the next symbol, like this \mathcal{L} . However, with curly braces it is more explicit what you mean.)

$aA\xi\Xi$	$aA\xi\Xi$	$aA\xi\Xi$	$aA\xi\Xi$	$aA\xi\Xi$	$\mathbf{aA\xi\Xi}$	$aA\xi\Xi$	$aA\xi\Xi$
$\mathbf{aA\xi\Xi}$	$\mathbf{aA\xi\Xi}$	$\mathbf{aA\xi\Xi}$	$\mathfrak{aA\xi\Xi}$	$aA\xi\Xi$	$a\mathcal{A}\xi\Xi$	$a\mathcal{A}\xi\Xi$	$a\mathcal{A}\xi\Xi$
$a\mathcal{A}\xi\Xi$	$\mathfrak{a}\mathfrak{A}\xi\Xi$	$\mathfrak{a}\mathfrak{A}\xi\Xi$	$aA\xi\Xi$	$\mathbf{aA\xi\Xi}$	$aA\xi\Xi$	$\mathbf{aA\xi\Xi}$	

Units and decimal numbers For the forming of numerical values and units, the package `siunitx` is used. The main advantage is the ability to globally change the decimal separator between dot and comma, or the way units are typeset. This can be used e.g. in making of different language versions. Therefore, all decimal numbers and numbers with units should be typeset as follows:

12 345.678 90	12 345,678 90	$1 \pm 2i$
0.3×10^{45}	$0.3 \cdot 10^{45}$	kJ mol^{-1}
$1525.3 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$	$10 \mu\text{m}$	$10 \mu\text{m}$
$10 \mu\text{l}$	10°C	$1525.3 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$
$15.3 \text{ J mol}^{-1} \text{ K}^{-1}$	$15.3 \text{ Jmol}^{-1} \text{ K}^{-1}$	$1525.3 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$
4.5°	$1^\circ 2' 3''$	

Note that the units are correctly typeset in upright font with a non-breaking space between the number and the unit. It does not matter whether decimal comma or dot is used in the source code, the output will follow the package setting. Units can be either selected by typing their abbreviations separated by dots with explicit powers, or by specific commands as demonstrate above.

Table 1: Multiplication symbols recommended by different authorities

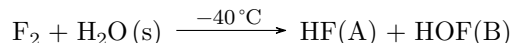
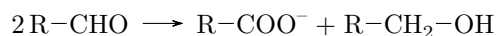
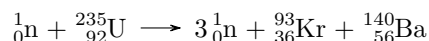
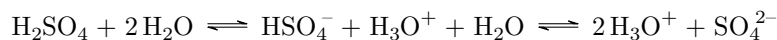
	ISO	SI (BIPM)	IUPAP	IUPAC	NIST
letter symbols	nothing, space, ·, ×, /	nothing, space, ·, ×, /	nothing, ·, ×, /	nothing, space, ·, ×, /	nothing, space, ·, ×, /
numbers with decimal dots	×	×	×	? (uses ×)	×
numbers with decimal comas	×, ·	×	×, ·	? (uses ×)	×, ·
units	space, ·, /, nothing (when unambiguous)	space, ·, /	space, ·, /	space, ·, /	space, ·, /
notes	cannot do $a \times b^{-1}$ for any of above				

5 Chemistry typesetting

The package used is `chemmacros`. Chemical formulas are then enclosed in the `ch` command, like this H_2O . This works also in the math mode like in

$$\Delta G_{\text{fus}}^{\ominus}(\text{H}_2\text{O}).$$

Alternatively, for full reactions, one can use the `reaction` and `reaction*` environments. (* again to avoid numbering)



However, the package can do much more, so feel free to explore



6 Literature citations

For citations, the package recommended today, is `biblatex` with `biber` backend. The citations are then imported from a separate `.bib` file, which can be automatically generated from a citation manager, like Zotero, Mendeley or EndNote.

AS citation commands, one can use either superscripts, which is mainly when the reference is not explicitly a part of the sentence.¹ Alternatively, you can mention them in sentence, like ref [2]. You can also reference in full like D. I. Mendeleyev, *Zeitschrift für Chemie*, 1869, **12**, 405–406 or in a footnote like this.[‡]

References

- (1) H. Potter and A. Dumbledore, *Journal of Magical Chemistry*, 2007, **58**, 101–114, DOI: 10.1143/JPSJ.58.101.
- (2) G. Gandalf and W. Saruman, *Journal of Middle-earth*, 2012, **3567**, 5568–9999, DOI: 10.1143/JPSJ.58.101.
- (3) D. I. Mendeleyev, *Zeitschrift für Chemie*, 1869, **12**, 405–406.
- (4) L. Öhrström and J. Reedijk, *Pure and Applied Chemistry*, 2016, **88**, 1225–1229, DOI: 10.1515/pac-2016-0501.

[‡]L. Öhrström and J. Reedijk, *Pure and Applied Chemistry*, 2016, **88**, 1225–1229, DOI: 10.1515/pac-2016-0501.