

A Gentle Introduction to L^AT_EX: Formatting Basics

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Plan for this session

Now that we have gained some familiarity with what L^AT_EX *is*, we are going to cover how to work with Overleaf and the basics of formatting:

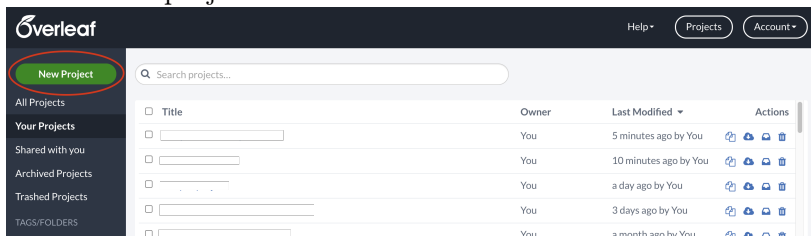
- Getting started with Overleaf
- Document structure
- Environments
- Formatting documents and text
- Lists
- Figures
- Tables
- Equations
- Citations and cross-referencing
- Working with templates

NOTE: This guide is *not* meant to be a comprehensive overview of everything you can do in L^AT_EX. We will cover some of the basics you need to get started with typesetting in this session, and suggest some resources for learning more.

Getting started with Overleaf

When starting a project in Overleaf, you'll often do one of the following:

1. Start a new project from scratch



2. Choose from one of Overleaf's many templates (<https://www.overleaf.com/latex/templates>)
3. Upload a template from other sources (e.g. conferences, journals)

Document structure

Every L^AT_EX document has a **preamble** and a **body**, which contain the following information:

1. The **preamble** contains information on the *document class* (e.g. `article`, `presentation`, `book`) and *front matter* (e.g. definitions, packages, settings).

```
1 %% Preamble %%
2
3 % Document class (e.g. article, presentation, book)
4 \documentclass{article}
5 \usepackage[utf8]{inputenc}
6
7 % Front matter (definitions, packages, settings)
8 \usepackage[utf8]{inputenc}
9 \usepackage[T1]{fontenc}
10 \usepackage[english]{babel}
11
12 \usepackage{graphics, graphicx, listings, xcolor}
```

2. The document **body** contains information on the *main matter*, or the content used to produce output.

```
14 %% Body %%
15
16 \title{My Project}
17 \author{Your Name Here}
18 \date{\today}
19
20 \begin{document}
21
22 % Tell LaTeX to print out the title/author/date info
23 \maketitle
24
25 % Body text
26 Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit, sed do
27 eiusmod tempor incididunt ut labore et dolore magna aliqua.
28 \end{document}
```

Environments

What are environments? Environments are used for blocks (e.g. `text`, `table`, `figure`) in documents. You can use pre-set environments or create your own.

Environments are defined by opening and closing tags. Opening tags start with `\begin{}` and closing tags start with `\end{}`.

EXAMPLE: Environment with centered text

```
1 \begin{center}
2 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!
3 \end{center}
```

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!

Using packages enables you to work with additional environments. While you can customize formatting by defining environments¹, it is worth looking into whether it already exists in a CTAN package.

¹See appendix.

Formatting documents and text

Sections

L^AT_EX can organize documents into chapters and sections. Levels of depth are:

- `\part{}`
- `\chapter{}`
- `\section{}`
- `\subsection{}`
- `\subsubsection{}`
- `\paragraph{}`
- `\subparagraph{}`

In most (/shorter) documents, `\section{}` is the top-level command.

Numbered vs. unnumbered sections. By default, the `\section{}` command will return a numbered section. Sometimes, you don't want that. For unnumbered sections, use the `\section*{}` command.

Paragraphs

To start a new paragraph, leave a blank line in between two blocks of text.

EXAMPLE: Two paragraphs

```
1 Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit, sed do eiusmod tempor
incidunt ut labore et dolore magna aliqua. Ut enim ad minim veniam, quis nostrud
exercitation ullamco laboris nisi ut aliquip ex ea commodo consequat. Duis aute irure
dolor in reprehenderit in voluptate velit esse cillum dolore eu fugiat nulla
pariatur. Excepteur sint occaecat cupidatat non proident, sunt in culpa qui officia
deserunt mollit anim id est laborum.
2
3 Duis non convallis orci, a pellentesque nunc. Fusce ac odio justo. Nullam et
ullamcorper sapien, nec consequat augue. Duis facilisis quam ut est convallis laoreet
. Vestibulum porta magna lectus, ac ultricies mi vulputate nec. Nunc quis cursus
ipsum. Suspendisse vel maximus libero. Fusce rutrum rutrum mi ultricies gravida. Cras
vel malesuada velit. Praesent risus libero, cursus in odio ut, bibendum tincidunt
diam. Mauris iaculis congue sapien non consectetur. Aliquam porta nec lacus ut porta.
In vestibulum bibendum elit sed dapibus. Morbi posuere imperdiet lacus.
```

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit, sed do eiusmod tempor incidunt ut labore et dolore magna aliqua. Ut enim ad minim veniam, quis nostrud exercitation ullamco laboris nisi ut aliquip ex ea commodo consequat. Duis aute irure dolor in reprehenderit in voluptate velit esse cillum dolore eu fugiat nulla pariatur. Excepteur sint occaecat cupidatat non proident, sunt in culpa qui officia deserunt mollit anim id est laborum.

Duis non convallis orci, a pellentesque nunc. Fusce ac odio justo. Nullam et ullamcorper sapien, nec consequat augue. Duis facilisis quam ut est convallis laoreet. Vestibulum porta magna lectus, ac ultricies mi vulputate nec. Nunc quis cursus ipsum. Suspendisse vel maximus libero. Fusce rutrum rutrum mi ultricies gravida. Cras vel malesuada velit. Praesent risus libero, cursus in odio ut, bibendum tincidunt diam. Mauris iaculis congue sapien non consectetur. Aliquam porta nec lacus ut porta. In vestibulum bibendum elit sed dapibus. Morbi posuere imperdiet lacus.

Paragraph alignment. Paragraphs are justified by default, which means that space is added between words to make sure that each line is aligned with both margins. If you don't want your text to be justified, it is possible to center (**center**), left align (**flushleft**), and right align (**flushright**) your text.

EXERCISE: Let's try out what we learned! Using your paper/writing sample:

1. Open this project and make a copy: <https://bit.ly/3lTe6UX>
 2. Rename the title and add your name as author.
 3. Create a new section titled "Introduction", and paste in the first paragraph of your paper.
 4. Create a second section, and paste in the first two paragraphs from the body section of your paper.
-

Spacing lines, paragraphs, and pages

Commonly used constructions for spacing in L^AT_EX are listed in Table 1.

Table 1: Common spacing constructions

command	result
<code>\newpage</code>	starts a new page at the specified point
<code>\newline</code>	ends a line without justifying the text
<code>\linebreak</code>	ends a line and justifies it
<code>\</code>	add space between words
<code>\hspace</code>	adds horizontal space of a given size
<code>\vspace</code>	adds vertical space of a given size
<code>\smallskip</code>	adds a little extra vertical space between paragraphs
<code>\medskip</code>	adds some extra vertical space between paragraphs
<code>\bigskip</code>	adds a lot of extra vertical space between paragraphs

Line spacing

You can use the `setspace` package to change the spacing in your document.

- `\doublespacing`
- `\onehalfspacing`
- `\setstretch{1.25}` (custom spacing)

NOTE: Indicate line spacing for an entire document after the `\documentclass{}` line. Changing line spacing for part of a document occurs within the text.

Paragraph spacing. You can change the default spacing between paragraphs with the following `\setlength{}` commands in the preamble after the `\documentclass{}` line:

```
1 \setlength{\parindent}{4em}
2 \setlength{\parskip}{1em}
```

Footnotes

Adding footnotes to your document is relatively straight forward; add the `\footnote{}` command in-line.

EXAMPLE: Footnotes

```
1 Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit, sed do eiusmod tempor incididunt
   ut labore et dolore magna aliqua\footnote{Id velit ut tortor pretium. Vitae
   ultricies leo integer malesuada nunc vel}.
```

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit, sed do eiusmod tempor incididunt ut labore et dolore magna aliqua².

Text formatting

Font styles. As with other types of documents, simple text formatting helps to emphasize parts of the text. In \LaTeX , you can emphasize text in **bold**, *italic*, underlined, and **monospace**. You can also combine commands to yield (for example) ***bold and italic*** text. You can also format text as ^{superscript} or _{subscript}.

EXAMPLE: commands used to emphasize text

```
1 \textit{Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet},
2 \textbf{consectetur adipiscing elit}.
3 \underline{Praesent volutpat dictum commodo}.
4 \textsc{Mauris dignissim sagittis orci eu viverra}.
5 Maecenas sollicitudin libero vel augue blandit hendrerit.
6 \texttt{Praesent id blandit orci}.
7 \textbf{\textit{Proin velit mauris, fermentum vitae ornare ut, vulputate et augue}}}.
8 \textsubscript{Mauris a eros et velit tempus commodo. In hac habitasse platea dictumst.}
9 \textsuperscript{Suspendisse sodales purus nec nisl dapibus tristique. Suspendisse
   potenti.}
```

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, **consectetur adipiscing elit**. Praesent volutpat dictum commodo. MAURIS DIGNISSIM SAGITTIS ORCI EU VIVERRA. Maecenas sollicitudin libero vel augue blandit hendrerit. Praesent id blandit orci. ***Proin velit mauris, fermentum vitae ornare ut, vulputate et augue***. Suspendisse sodales purus nec nisl dapibus tristique. Mauris a eros et velit tempus commodo. In hac habitasse platea dictumst.

Text size. You can also change the (relative) size of text in your document, from \backslash Huge to \backslash tiny.

texblog.org	\backslash Huge
texblog.org	\backslash huge
texblog.org	\backslash LARGE
texblog.org	\backslash Large
texblog.org	\backslash large
texblog.org	\backslash normalsize (default)
texblog.org	\backslash small
texblog.org	\backslash footnotesize
texblog.org	\backslash scriptsize
texblog.org	\backslash tiny

Figure 1: Reference sheet for text sizes (Source: texblog)

²Id velit ut tortor pretium. Vitae ultricies leo integer malesuada nunc vel

Lists

L^AT_EX has several environments for lists—ordinal (numbered), unordered (bullet points), and nested. The different types of lists are illustrated in the following examples.

Ordered lists use the `\enumerate{}` environment:

```
1 \begin{enumerate}
2   \item This is the first item.
3   \item This is the second item.
4 \end{enumerate}
```

1. This is the first item.
2. This is the second item.

Unordered lists use the `\itemize{}` environment:

```
1 \begin{itemize}
2   \item Red
3   \item Yellow
4   \item Blue
5 \end{itemize}
```

- Red
- Yellow
- Blue

Nested lists can use any combination of ordered or unordered lists:

```
1 \begin{enumerate}
2   \item This is the first item.
3     \begin{itemize}
4       \item Red
5       \item Yellow
6     \end{itemize}
7   \item This is the second item.
8     \begin{itemize}
9       \item Blue
10      \item Green
11    \end{itemize}
12 \end{enumerate}
```

1. This is the first item.
 - Red
 - Yellow
2. This is the second item.
 - Blue
 - Green

NOTE: You can **reduce the line spacing in lists** by using the `enumitem` package. Add `\usepackage{enumitem}` to your preamble to enable this option in your workflow. For example:

```
1 \begin{enumerate}[noitemsep]
2   \item This is the first item.
3   \item This is the second item.
4 \end{enumerate}
```

1. This is the first item.
2. This is the second item.

EXERCISE: Let's add on to what we started in our projects:

1. Double space the entire document.
2. Add a footnote.
3. Emphasize some of the text in your document in **bold**.
4. Increase the size of your title.
5. Generate a list.

Figures

The environment for adding in figures is as follows:

```
1 \begin{figure}
2   \centering
3   \includegraphics{FIGURE_PATH}
4   \caption{CAPTION}
5   \label{fig:MY_LABEL}
6 \end{figure}
```

The three parts of this environment are:

- **Figure path:** The relative path of your image
- **Caption** placed above/below the figure (depending on where it is in the figure environment)
- **Figure label** for cross-referencing a figure in your text (we'll get to this later).

Sizing. The figure you're loading in is usually not the size you want it to be in your document. In the `\includegraphics{}` line of your figure environment, you can specify the width and/or height of a figure. You can specify the width of a figure relative to the width of a text:

```
1 \begin{figure}
2   \centering
3   \includegraphics[width = 0.7\textwidth]{FIGURE_PATH}
4   \caption{CAPTION}
5   \label{fig:MY_LABEL}
6 \end{figure}
```

Positioning. L^AT_EX puts figures and tables into *floats*, which are containers for content that cannot be broken over a page. Unless specified otherwise, the algorithm determines the optimal placement of a float on the page and the text around it. This can be annoying at first until you get the hang of it, but consider this: Isn't it *more* annoying when a Word document is ruined because an image was moved by a centimeter?

There are some ways to “friendly force” L^AT_EX to comply with your wishes, such as the commands `h` (here), `t` (top), `b` (bottom), and `p` (page). If you *really* want L^AT_EX to place a figure in a particular spot, add a `!` to the end. L^AT_EX may still refuse to comply with your wishes if it thinks a figure is better placed elsewhere.

```
1 \begin{figure}[h!]
```

If you want to go a step further and force an image to be fixed in the exact spot it is placed in your document, use the `float` package. Add `\usepackage{float}` to your preamble, and add `[H]` to the beginning of your figure environment to force the placement of a figure:

```
1 \begin{figure}[H]
```

EXAMPLE: Putting everything we’ve learned about figures together

```
1 \begin{figure}[H]
2   \centering
3   \includegraphics[width = 0.7\textwidth]{course-material/img/prf1-major.png}
4   \caption{Performance across classes for a text classifier}
5   \label{fig:prf1-major}
6 \end{figure}
```

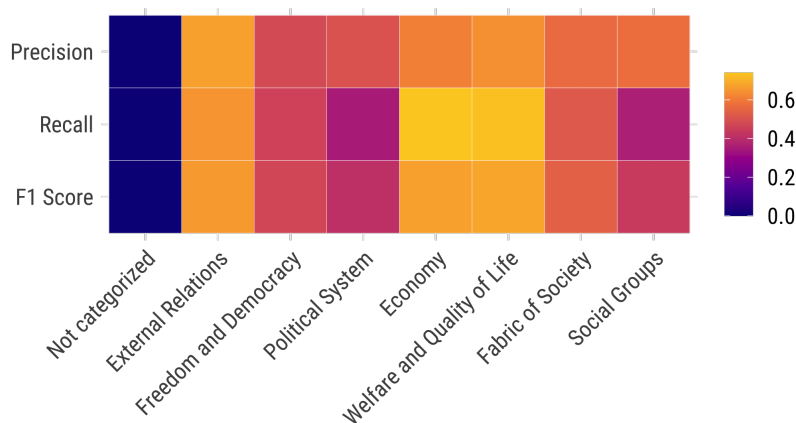


Figure 2: Performance across classes for a text classifier

Tables

Programming tables in L^AT_EX from scratch is not very straightforward. Examine the code below to understand the basic logic:

1. The `tabular` is wrapped into a `table` float.
 2. Then follows a formatting operator, which tells the program to center the tabular on within the float.
 3. Upon initializing the tabular, we tell L^AT_EX how many columns there are (3), that they should be right (r), center (c), and center (c) oriented, and that we want vertical lines (|).
 4. Finally, we include the body of each row, with the `&` symbol delimiting the content for each cell.
- Below, see the code that is used to create Table 2.

```
1 \begin{table}[!htbp]
2   \centering
```



```

3 \caption{The classic ‘Prisoner’s Dilemma’}
4 \begin{tabular}{|l|c|c|}
5 \hline
6 {\bf Player I / Player II} & Cooperate & Defect \\
7 \hline
8 Cooperate & (5,5) & (-10, 10) \\
9 \hline
10 Defect & (10,-10) & (-5,-5) \\
11 \hline
12 \end{tabular}
13 \label{tab_prison}
14 \end{table}

```

Table 2: The classic “Prisoner’s Dilemma”

Player I / Player II	Cooperate	Defect
Cooperate	(5,5)	(-10, 10)
Defect	(10,-10)	(-5,-5)

Best practices for tables. The best way to intuitively understand formatting tabular material is to either (1) copy good examples or (2) use a tool that makes table generation easier. Some of these tools are:

- Tables Generator: A website for manually constructing tables
- Excel2LaTeX: A macro for generating L^AT_EX tables from MS Excel
- The `stargazer` package in R
- The `esttab` and `estout` commands in Stata

EXAMPLE: Summary statistics table created by `stargazer`

```

1 % Table created by stargazer v.5.2 by Marek Hlavac, Harvard University. E-mail:
  hlavac at fas.harvard.edu
2 % Date and time: Wed, May 02, 2018 - 11:28:28 PM
3 \begin{table}[!htbp] \centering
4 \caption{Summary statistics table created by the \texttt{stargazer} package in \
  \texttt{R}.}
5 \label{}
6 \begin{tabular}{@{\extracolsep{5pt}}lcccc}
7 \hline
8 \hline \hline
9 Statistic & \multicolumn{1}{c}{N} & \multicolumn{1}{c}{Mean} & \multicolumn{1}{c}{St.
  Dev.} & \multicolumn{1}{c}{Min} & \multicolumn{1}{c}{Max} \\
10 \hline \hline
11 rating & 30 & 64.633 & 12.173 & 40 & 85 \\
12 complaints & 30 & 66.600 & 13.315 & 37 & 90 \\
13 privileges & 30 & 53.133 & 12.235 & 30 & 83 \\
14 learning & 30 & 56.367 & 11.737 & 34 & 75 \\
15 raises & 30 & 64.633 & 10.397 & 43 & 88 \\
16 critical & 30 & 74.767 & 9.895 & 49 & 92 \\
17 advance & 30 & 42.933 & 10.289 & 25 & 72 \\
18 \hline \hline
19 \multicolumn{6}{\textit{Source}: \href{https://mran.revolutionanalytics.com/
  snapshot/2018-05-03/web/checks/check_results_stargazer.html}\texttt{stargazer}
  package documentation}}
20 \end{tabular}
21 \end{table}

```

Table 3: Summary statistics table created by the `stargazer` package in R.

Statistic	N	Mean	St. Dev.	Min	Max
rating	30	64.633	12.173	40	85
complaints	30	66.600	13.315	37	90
privileges	30	53.133	12.235	30	83
learning	30	56.367	11.737	34	75
raises	30	64.633	10.397	43	88
critical	30	74.767	9.895	49	92
advance	30	42.933	10.289	25	72

Source: `stargazer` package documentation

Equations

One of the biggest advantages of using L^AT_EX is its capacity for math typesetting³. Equations and math symbols can either be written in-line using the \$ sign as a wrapper, or as their own environments.

Mathematical symbols. To enter math symbols, you either:

1. enter them directly from the keyboard (e.g.: =, <, >), or
2. use a command (e.g. `\leq` stands for \leq)

You can also reference Greek letters by typing a backslash \ followed by the name of the letter. For example: `\alpha` yields α

Simple math formulas. Listed here are some of the most commonly used constructions for mathematical formulas.

Table 4: Commonly used constructions in math formulas

command	example	result
<code>^{} </code>	<code>x^{2}</code>	x^2
<code>_{} </code>	<code>x_{2}</code>	x_2
<code>\frac{}{} </code>	<code>\frac{1}{2}</code>	$\frac{1}{2}$
<code>\sqrt{} </code>	<code>\sqrt{9}</code>	$\sqrt{9}$
<code>\sum_{}^{} </code>	<code>\sum_{k=1}^n k</code>	$\sum_{k=1}^n k$
<code>\int_{}^{} </code>	<code>\int_0^1 x \, dx</code>	$\int_0^1 x \, dx$
<code>\lim_{} </code>	<code>\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} e^x</code>	$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} e^x$
<code>\ln </code>	<code>\ln x</code>	$\ln x$
<code>\cos </code>	<code>\cos</code>	\cos
<code>\pi </code>	<code>\pi r^2</code>	πr^2
<code>\infty </code>	<code>+\infty</code>	$+\infty$
<code>\varepsilon </code>	<code>x_2 + \varepsilon</code>	$x_2 + \varepsilon$

³For the most common math symbols, see <http://web.ift.uib.no/Teori/KURS/WRK/TeX/symALL.html>.

In-line equations. Below is an example of a short, in-line equation.

```
1 The formula for the Pythagorean theorem is:  $a^2 + b^2 = c^2$ .
```

The formula for the Pythagorean theorem is: $a^2 + b^2 = c^2$.

Math environments. Like figures and tables, equations can also be set in their own environments. Below are a few examples of math environments.

The `displaymath` environment displays an equation on its own line.

```
1 \begin{displaymath}
2 {TFIDF}_{t,d} = (1 + \log tf_{t,d}) \cdot \log \frac{N}{df_t}
3 \end{displaymath}
```

$$TFIDF_{t,d} = (1 + \log tf_{t,d}) \cdot \log \frac{N}{df_t}$$

The `equation` environment numbers the formula, which can be useful for cross-referencing⁴.

```
1 \begin{equation}
2 {TFIDF}_{t,d} = (1 + \log tf_{t,d}) \cdot \log \frac{N}{df_t}
3 \end{equation}
```

$$TFIDF_{t,d} = (1 + \log tf_{t,d}) \cdot \log \frac{N}{df_t} \tag{1}$$

NOTE: Like tables, generating equations isn't the most intuitive. Instead of writing equations from scratch, I usually use an online equation editor (e.g.: <https://latex.codecogs.com/>).

⁴We will revisit cross-referencing tables/figures/equations later.

EXERCISE: Let's add some figures, tables, and equations to our document.

1. Upload figures from your paper to your Overleaf project in the **figures/** folder.
2. Insert the figure into your paper.
3. Generate a table, and add it to your paper. This can be done in any way you'd like.
4. Recreate the following equation: $y = x_1\beta_1 + x_2\beta_2 + \varepsilon$

Academic writing with L^AT_EX

L^AT_EX allows for the integration of bibliographies, and the capacity to cross-reference items by their label. With this workflow, a lot of time is saved when dealing with citations, tables, figures, and equations.

Citations

The steps to include bibliographies in your documents are as follows:

1. Specify the desired citation format.
2. Specify the **.bib** file from which the bibliography is drawn, using the `\bibliography{}` command.

Often placed at the end of the document⁵, these steps look like the following:

```
1 \bibliographystyle{apsr}
2 \bibliography{bibliography.bib}
```

L^AT_EX packages for citation management. There are several packages available in L^AT_EX for citation management. Most journals use **bibtex** and **natbib**⁶. Others might use **biblatex** if providing localization in several languages is important for the compilation of a document. In this session, we'll review commands from the **natbib** package for citation management. Table 5 outlines the most commonly used commands from this package.

References in the BibTeX format. To cite your references in-text, there needs to be a corresponding entry in your ***.bib** file. You can generate entries in several ways, including:

- Copying the BibTeX entry from Google Scholar
- Generating references with reference management software (e.g. Zotero, Mendeley)

⁵Bibliography code is placed at the end of a document *unless* appendix material is included.

⁶BibTeX is the original citation management software for formatting lists of references in L^AT_EX, while **natbib** is a package for customizing citations while using BibTeX.

Table 5: The most common natbib commands

command	result
<code>\citet{xie2018r}</code>	Xie et al. (2018)
<code>\citep{xie2018r}</code>	(Xie et al., 2018)
<code>\citep[chap. 2]{xie2018r}</code>	(Xie et al., 2018, chap. 2)
<code>\citep[see][]{xie2018r}</code>	(see Xie et al., 2018)
<code>\cite[see][chap. 2]{xie2018r}</code>	(see Xie et al., 2018, chap. 2)
<code>\citet*{xie2018r}</code>	Xie, Allaire, and Grolemond (2018)
<code>\citep*{xie2018r}</code>	(Xie, Allaire, and Grolemond, 2018)
<code>\citep{xie2018r, lamport1986latex}</code>	(Xie, Allaire, and Grolemond, 2018; Lamport, 1986)

Note: The exact format of in-text citations match the citation style specified in a document.

EXAMPLE: In-text citations

```
1 Building on the {\LaTeX} software developed by \citet{lamport1986latex}, \citet{xie2018r}
   developed the ‘‘R Markdown’’ document format for typesetting documents in multiple
   formats.
```

Building on the L^AT_EX software developed by Lamport (1986), Xie et al. (2018) developed the ‘‘R Markdown’’ document format for typesetting documents in multiple formats.

```
1 There are several ways to typeset documents across multiple formats \citep[e.g.][]{
   lamport1986latex, xie2018r}.
```

There are several ways to typeset documents across multiple formats (e.g. Lamport, 1986; Xie et al., 2018).

Cross-referencing

It is possible to refer to sections, figures, tables, and equations using the `\label` and `\ref` commands. This is especially useful when you are not sure what the order your tables or figures might be in; the numbers that reference each item will automatically update with cross-referencing in L^AT_EX.

EXAMPLE: Cross-referencing figures

Figure 3 has the label `fig:hertie-logo`, as shown below:

```
1 \begin{figure}[H]
2   \centering
3   \includegraphics[width = 0.6\textwidth]{course-material/img/hertie-logo.png}
4   \caption{The Hertie School logo}
5   \label{fig:hertie-logo}
6 \end{figure}
```



Figure 3: The Hertie School logo

Referencing this figure in-line would look something like this:

```
1 Figure \ref{fig:hertie-logo} illustrates the Hertie School logo.
```

Figure 3 illustrates the Hertie School logo.

EXERCISE: Let's cite and cross-reference some things:

1. Add a BibTeX entry to the `bibliography.bib` file.
 2. Reference this entry somewhere in your text.
 3. Add a label to your figure.
 4. Cross-reference your figure in the text.
-

Working with templates

It is often easier to start with a template when using L^AT_EX. Useful resources for finding templates are:

- The Overleaf Gallery: <https://www.overleaf.com/gallery/>
- LaTeX Templates: <http://www.latextemplates.com/cat/articles>
- Your university (if they have templates)
- Official conference/journal websites
- Google (normally a last resort)
- GitHub (sometimes, usually better for Markdown/RMarkdown templates)
- Friends and colleagues!

How to work with templates. You can use Overleaf templates to start projects on the platform. Otherwise, most templates can be downloaded through zip files. Some tips and tricks for templates:

- Take note of the comments the template author wrote (if any)
- When in doubt, leave the style files alone!
- If you want to experiment with customizing templates, make a copy of template files before doing so.
- Don't waste your time looking for the perfect template. Find one that's good enough, finish writing the content itself, then consider tweaking the template if you still have time.

References

Lamport, L. (1986). *LaTeX: User's Guide & Reference Manual*. Addison-Wesley.

Xie, Y., J. J. Allaire, and G. Grolemond (2018). *R Markdown: The Definitive Guide*. CRC Press.

Appendix

A Defining your own environment

The syntax for creating your own custom environment is:

```
1 \newenvironment{<env-name>}[<n-args>][<default>]{<begin-code>}{<end-code>}
```

EXAMPLE: Suppose you wanted to create an environment for putting text in a box. Defining such an environment would look like this:

```
1 \newenvironment{boxed}  
2   {\begin{center}  
3     \begin{tabular}{|p{0.9\textwidth}|}  
4       \hline\\  
5     }  
6     {  
7       \\\hline  
8     \end{tabular}  
9     \end{center}  
10  }
```

Once our boxed environment is defined, we can use it:

```
1 \begin{boxed}  
2 Hello, here is some text without a meaning.  
3 \end{boxed}
```

Hello, here is some text without a meaning.

NOTE: Before defining your environment, look up whether it already exists, and what packages need to be used. **Functionalities can be added to your document by using packages** (`\usepackage{}`).

B Abstracts

The abstract environment, often placed under the `\maketitle` command, is fairly straightforward to add. For example:

```
1 \begin{abstract}  
2   Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit, sed do eiusmod tempor  
   incididunt ut labore et dolore magna aliqua. Ut enim ad minim veniam, quis nostrud  
   exercitation ullamco laboris nisi ut aliquip ex ea commodo consequat. Duis aute irure  
   dolor in reprehenderit in voluptate velit esse cillum dolore eu fugiat nulla  
   pariatur. Excepteur sint occaecat cupidatat non proident, sunt in culpa qui officia  
   deserunt mollit anim id est laborum. In metus vulputate eu scelerisque felis  
   imperdiet proin fermentum leo. Morbi enim nunc faucibus a pellentesque. Tortor  
   condimentum lacinia quis vel eros donec ac odio tempor. A lacus vestibulum sed arcu  
   non odio. Tincidunt dui ut ornare lectus sit amet est placerat in. Nulla pharetra  
   diam sit amet nisl suscipit adipiscing bibendum. Purus non enim praesent elementum  
   facilisis leo vel. Urna nec tincidunt praesent semper feugiat nibh sed. Diam in arcu  
   cursus euismod quis viverra nibh cras pulvinar. Id consectetur purus ut faucibus.  
   Nisi vitae suscipit tellus mauris.  
3 \end{abstract}
```

Abstract

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit, sed do eiusmod tempor incididunt ut labore et dolore magna aliqua. Ut enim ad minim veniam, quis nostrud exercitation ullamco laboris nisi ut aliquip ex ea commodo consequat. Duis aute irure dolor in reprehenderit in voluptate velit esse cillum dolore eu fugiat nulla pariatur. Excepteur sint occaecat cupidatat non proident, sunt in culpa qui officia deserunt mollit anim id est laborum. In metus vulputate eu scelerisque felis imperdiet proin fermentum leo. Morbi enim nunc faucibus a pellentesque. Tortor condimentum lacinia quis vel eros donec ac odio tempor. A lacus vestibulum sed arcu non odio. Tincidunt dui ut ornare lectus sit amet est placerat in. Nulla pharetra diam sit amet nisl suscipit adipiscing bibendum. Purus non enim praesent elementum facilisis leo vel. Urna nec tincidunt praesent semper feugiat nibh sed. Diam in arcu cursus euismod quis viverra nibh cras pulvinar. Id consectetur purus ut faucibus. Nisi vitae suscipit tellus mauris.