

Simplifying tasks in linux

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1 L^AT_EX

Here are few commands I found useful for making L^AT_EX editing and compiling easier. Following snippet of code should be yanked and pasted in ' /.bash'profile' file and sourced if the terminal is not restarted using the command

```
source ~/.bash_profile
```

- Define where biber/bibtex should search for '.bib' file without specifying the path separately in each document.

```
export BIBINPUTS = $BIBINPUTS:<directory>
```

- Define where pdflatex should search for '.sty' files without specifying the path separately in each document.

```
export TEXINPUTS = $TEXINPUTS:<directory>
```

- Find and compile the latex file in current directory

```
alias lxc = "pdflatex *.tex"
```

- Run biber for latex document

```
alias lxb = "biber $(ls *.tex | cut -f 1 -d ' ')"
```

- Find and compile latex file twice in current directory

```
alias lxcc = "lxc ; lxc"
```

- Compile latex and run biber

```
alias lxcb = "lxc ; lxb ; lxc ; lxc"
```

- Open the pdf file generated by latex.

```
alias lxo="open $(ls *.tex | cut -f 1 -d ' ').pdf"
```

*Remarks : Do not use "open *.pdf" command to open generated pdf file as there might be older instances of pdf files stored by online sync manager in case of conflict.*

2 Terminal

I prefer terminal against finder/explorer to navigate through directories. These set of commands, if saved in ” /.bash`profile” file and sourced, preclude typing long commands repetitively.

- Create aliases for frequently visited directories.

```
alias <variable-name>="cd <directory>"
```

- To open applications like MATLAB without navigating to the folder, export the location to \$PATH variable.

```
export PATH=$PATH:/Applications/MATLAB_R2018b.app/bin/
```

- If you use editor like VIM to write MATLAB scripts, you might prefer to open MATLAB within terminal itself. This should not be put in ”.bash`profile” file unless you want to automatically start MATLAB.

```
matlab -nodesktop
```