# **Doconce Description**

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## 1 What Is Doconce?

Doconce is two things:

- 1. Doconce is a very simple and minimally tagged markup language that looks like ordinary ASCII text (much like what you would use in an email), but the text can be transformed to numerous other formats, including HTML, Pandoc, Google wiki, LATEX, PDF, reStructuredText (reST), Sphinx, Epytext, and also plain text (where non-obvious formatting/tags are removed for clear reading in, e.g., emails). From reST you can (via rst2\* programs) go to XML, HTML, LATEX, PDF, OpenOffice, and from the latter (via unoconv) to RTF, numerous MS Word formats (including MS Office Open XML), DocBook, PDF, MediaWiki, XHTML. From Pandoc one can generate Markdown, reST, LATEX, HTML, PDF, DocBook XML, OpenOffice, GNU Texinfo, MediaWiki, RTF, Groff, and other formats.
- 2. Doconce is a working strategy for never duplicating information. Text is written in a single place and then transformed to a number of different destinations of diverse type (software source code, manuals, tutorials, books, wikis, memos, emails, etc.). The Doconce markup language support this working strategy. The slogan is: "Write once, include anywhere".

#### Here are some Doconce features:

- Doconce markup does include tags, so the format is more tagged than Markdown and Pandoc, but less than reST, and very much less than LATEX and HTML.
- Doconce can be converted to plain *untagged* text, often desirable for computer programs and email.
- Doconce has good support for copying in parts of computer code directly from the source code files via regular expressions for the start and end lines.
- Doconce has full support for LATEX math and integrates well with big LATEX projects (books).

- Doconce is almost self-explanatory and is a handy starting point for generating documents in more complicated markup languages, such as Google wiki, LATEX, and Sphinx. A primary application of Doconce is just to make the initial versions of a Sphinx or wiki document.
- Contrary to the similar (and superior) Pandoc translator, Doconce supports Sphinx, Google wiki, Creole wiki (for bitbucket.org), lots of computer code environments in LaTeX, and a special exercise syntax. Doconce also also runs preprocessors (including Mako) such that the author can mix ordinary text with programming construction for generating parts of the text.

Doconce was particularly written for the following sample applications:

- Large books written in LATEX, but where many pieces (computer demos, projects, examples) can be written in Doconce to appear in other contexts in other formats, including plain HTML, Sphinx, wiki, or MS Word.
- Software documentation, primarily Python doc strings, which one wants to appear as plain untagged text for viewing in Pydoc, as reStructuredText for use with Sphinx, as wiki text when publishing the software at web sites, and as LATEX integrated in, e.g., a thesis.
- Quick memos, which start as plain text in email, then some small amount
  of Doconce tagging is added, before the memos can appear as Sphinx web
  pages, MS Word documents, or in wikis.

History: Doconce was developed in 2006 at a time when most popular markup languages used quite some tagging. Later, almost untagged markup languages like Markdown and Pandoc became popular. Doconce is not a replacement of Pandoc, which is a considerably more sophisticated project. Moreover, Doconce was developed mainly to fulfill the needs for a flexible source code base for books with much mathematics and computer code.

Disclaimer: Doconce is a simple tool, largely based on interpreting and handling text through regular expressions. The possibility for tweaking the layout is obviously limited since the text can go to all sorts of sophisticated markup languages. Moreover, because of limitations of regular expressions, some formatting of Doconce syntax may face problems when transformed to HTML, LATEX, Sphinx, and similar formats.

# 2 Installation of Doconce and its Dependencies

#### 2.1 Doconce

Doconce itself is pure Python code hosted at http://code.google.com/p/doconce. Its installation from the Mercurial (hg) source follows the standard procedure:

	rminal
# Doconce hg clone https://doconce.googlecode cd doconce sudo python setup.py install cd	
	it is recommended to use the above pro- s, make sure to update to the most recent
	rminal
cd doconce hg pull hg update sudo python setup.py install	
Debian GNU/Linux users can also	run
Te	rminal
sudo apt-get install doconce	
This installs the latest release and not On Ubuntu one needs to run	the most updated and bugfixed version.
sudo add-apt-repository ppa:scitools sudo apt-get update sudo apt-get install doconce	rminals/ppa
2.2 Dependencies	
<b>Preprocessors.</b> If you make use of t must be installed:	he Preprocess preprocessor, this program
Те	rminal
svn checkout http://preprocess.goog.cd preprocess cd doconce sudo python setup.py install cd	
A much more advanced alternative most conveniently done by pip,	to Preprocess is Mako. Its installation is
	rminal
pip install Mako	<del></del>

This command requires pip to be installed. On Debian Linux systems, such as Ubuntu, the installation is simply done by

```
sudo apt-get install python-pip
```

Alternatively, one can install from the pip source code.

Ptex2tex for LaTeX Output. To make LaTeX documents with very flexible choice of typesetting of verbatim code blocks you need ptex2tex, which is installed by

```
svn checkout http://ptex2tex.googlecode.com/svn/trunk/ ptex2tex cd ptex2tex sudo python setup.py install
```

It may happen that you need additional style files, you can run a script, cp2texmf.sh:

```
cd latex sh cp2texmf.sh # copy stylefiles to ~/texmf directory cd ../..
```

This script copies some special stylefiles that that ptex2tex potentially makes use of. Some more standard stylefiles are also needed. These are installed by

```
sudo apt-get install texlive-latex-extra
```

on Debian Linux (including Ubuntu) systems. TeXShop on Mac comes with the necessary stylefiles (if not, they can be found by googling and installed manually in the "/texmf/tex/latex/misc directory).

Note that the doconce ptex2tex command, which needs no installation beyond Doconce itself, can be used as a simpler alternative to the ptex2tex program.

The *minted IATEX* style is offered by ptex2tex and doconce ptext2tex is popular among many users. This style requires the package Pygments to be installed:

```
hg clone ssh://hg@bitbucket.org/birkenfeld/pygments-main pygments cd pygments sudo python setup.py install
```

If you use the minted style together with ptex2tex, you have to enable it by the -DMINTED command-line argument to ptex2tex. All use of the minted style requires the -shell-escape command-line argument when running LATEX, i.e., latex -shell-escape or pdflatex-shell-escape.

reStructuredText (reST) Output. The rst output from Doconce allows further transformation to LaTeX, HTML, XML, OpenOffice, and so on, through the docutils package. The installation of the most recent version can be done by

svn checkout http://docutils.svn.sourceforge.net/svnroot/docutils/trunk/docutils
cd docutils
sudo python setup.py install
cd ..

To use the OpenOffice suite you will typically on Debian systems install

sudo apt-get install unovonv libreoffice libreoffice-dmaths

There is a possibility to create PDF files from reST documents using Re-

There is a possibility to create PDF files from reST documents using ReportLab instead of LATEX. The enabling software is rst2pdf. Either download the tarball or clone the svn repository, go to the rst2pdf directory and run the usual sudo python setup.py install.

Output to sphinx requires of course Sphinx, installed by

hg clone https://bitbucket.org/birkenfeld/sphinx
cd sphinx
sudo python setup.py install
cd ..

Markdown and Pandoc Output. The Doconce format pandoc outputs the document in the Pandoc extended Markdown format, which via the pandoc program can be translated to a range of other formats. Installation of Pandoc, written in Haskell, is most easily done by

sudo apt-get install pandoc

**Epydoc Output.** When the output format is **epydoc** one needs that program too, installed by

Remark. Several of the packages above installed from source code are also available in Debian-based system through the apt-get install command. However, we recommend installation directly from the version control system repository as there might be important updates and bug fixes. For svn directories, go to the directory, run svn update, and then sudo python setup.py install. For Mercurial (hg) directories, go to the directory, run hg pull; hg update, and then sudo python setup.py install.

#### 2.3 Demos

The current text is generated from a Doconce format stored in the

docs/manual/manual.do.txt

file in the Doconce source code tree. We have made a demo web page where you can compare the Doconce source with the output in many different formats: HTML, LATEX, plain text, etc.

The file make.sh in the same directory as the manual.do.txt file (the current text) shows how to run doconce format on the Doconce file to obtain documents in various formats.

Another demo is found in

docs/tutorial/tutorial.do.txt

In the tutorial directory there is also a make.sh file producing a lot of formats, with a corresponding web demo of the results.

## 3 From Doconce to Other Formats

Transformation of a Doconce document mydoc.do.txt to various other formats applies the script doconce format:

Terminal> doconce format format mydoc.do.txt

or just

Terminal> doconce format format mydoc

The make or preprocess programs are always used to preprocess the file first, and options to make or preprocess can be added after the filename. For example,

Terminal> doconce format latex mydoc -Dextra\_sections -DVAR1=5 # preprocess Terminal> doconce format latex yourdoc extra\_sections=True VAR1=5 # mako

The variable FORMAT is always defined as the current format when running preprocess. That is, in the last example, FORMAT is defined as latex. Inside the Doconce document one can then perform format specific actions through tests like #if FORMAT == "latex".

Inline comments in the text are removed from the output by

Terminal> doconce format latex mydoc --skip\_inline\_comments

One can also remove all such comments from the original Doconce file by running:

Terminal> doconce remove\_inline\_comments mydoc

This action is convenient when a Doconce document reaches its final form and comments by different authors should be removed.

#### 3.1 HTML

Making an HTML version of a Doconce file mydoc.do.txt is performed by

Terminal> doconce format html mydoc

The resulting file mydoc.html can be loaded into any web browser for viewing.

#### 3.2 Pandoc

Output in Pandoc's extended Markdown format results from

Terminal> doconce format pandoc mydoc

The name of the output file is mydoc.mkd. From this format one can go to numerous other formats:

Terminal> pandoc -R -t mediawiki -o mydoc.mwk mydoc.mkd

Pandoc supports latex, html, odt (OpenOffice), docx (Microsoft Word), rtf, texinfo, to mention some. The -R option makes Pandoc pass raw HTML or LATEX to the output format instead of ignoring it. See the Pandoc documentation for the many features of the pandoc program.

Pandoc is useful to go from IATEX mathematics to, e.g., HTML or MS Word. There are two ways (experiment to find the best one for your document): doconce format pandoc and then translating using pandoc, or doconce format latex, and then going from IATEX to the desired format using pandoc. Here is an example on the latter strategy:

```
Terminal> doconce format latex mydoc
Terminal> doconce ptex2tex mydoc
Terminal> pandoc -f latex -t docx -o mydoc.docx mydoc.tex
```

When we go through pandoc, only single equations or align\* environments are well understood.

Quite some doconce replace and doconce subst edits might be needed on the .mkd or .tex files to successfully have mathematics that is well translated to MS Word. Also when going to reStructuredText using Pandoc, it can be advantageous to go via LATEX.

Here is an example where we take a Doconce snippet (without title, author, and date), maybe with some unnumbered equations, and quickly generate HTML with mathematics displayed my MathJax:

```
Terminal> doconce format pandoc mydoc
Terminal> pandoc -t html -o mydoc.html -s --mathjax mydoc.mkd
```

The -s option adds a proper header and footer to the mydoc.html file. This recipe is a quick way of makeing HTML notes with (some) mathematics.

## 3.3 **№**T<sub>E</sub>X

Making a LATEX file mydoc.tex from mydoc.do.txt is done in two steps:

**Step 1.** Filter the doconce text to a pre-LaTeX form mydoc.p.tex for the ptex2tex program (or doconce ptex2tex):

```
Terminal> doconce format latex mydoc
```

LaTeX-specific commands ("newcommands") in math formulas and similar can be placed in files newcommands.tex, newcommands\_keep.tex, or newcommands\_replace.tex (see Section 5.12). If these files are present, they are included in the LATeX document so that your commands are defined.

Step 2. Run ptex2tex (if you have it) to make a standard LATEX file,

Terminal	
Terminal> ptex2tex mydoc	
In case you do not have ptex2tex, you may run a (very) simplified version:	
Terminal> doconce ptex2tex mydoc	
Note that Doconce generates a .p.tex file with some preprocessor macrothat can be used to steer certain properties of the LATEX document. For example to turn on the Helvetica font instead of the standard Computer Modern for run	le
Terminal> ptex2tex -DHELVETICA mydoc Terminal> doconce ptex2tex mydoc -DHELVETICA # alternative	

The title, authors, and date are by default typeset in a non-standard way to enable a nicer treatment of multiple authors having institutions in common. However, the standard LATEX "maketitle" heading is also available through -DLATEX\_HEADING=traditional. A separate titlepage can be generate by -DLATEX\_HEADING=titlepage.

Other preprocessor variables are BOOK for the "book" documentclass rather than the standard "article" (necessary if you apply chapter headings), PALATINO for the palatino font, A4PAPER for A4 paper size, A6PAPER for A6 paper size (suitable for reading on small devices), MOVIE15 for inclusion of the movie15 LATEX package, and MINTED for inclusion of the minted package (which requires latex or pdflatex to be run with the -shell-escape option).

The ptex2tex tool makes it possible to easily switch between many different fancy formattings of computer or verbatim code in LATEX documents. After any bc! command in the Doconce source you can insert verbatim block styles as defined in your .ptex2tex.cfg file, e.g., bc sys! for a terminal session, where sys is set to a certain environment in .ptex2tex.cfg (e.g., CodeTerminal). There are about 40 styles to choose from, and you can easily add new ones.

Also the doconce ptex2tex command supports preprocessor directives for processing the .p.tex file. The command allows specifications of code environments as well. Here is an example:

```
Terminal doconce ptex2tex mydoc -DLATEX_HEADING=traditional \
-DPALATINO -DA6PAPER \
"sys=\begin{quote}\begin{verbatim}@\end{verbatim}\end{quote}" \
fpro=minted fcod=minted shcod=Verbatim envir=ans:nt
```

Note that @ must be used to separate the begin and end IATEX commands, unless only the environment name is given (such as minted above, which implies \begin{minted}{fortran} and \end{minted} as begin and end for blocks inside bc fpro! and ec!). Specifying envir=ans:nt means that all other environments are typeset with the anslistings.sty package, e.g., bc cppcod! will then result in \begin{c++}. If no environments like sys, fpro, or the common envir are defined on the command line, the plain \begin{verbatim} and \end{verbatim} used.

Step 2b (optional). Edit the mydoc.tex file to your needs. For example, you may want to substitute section by section\* to avoid numbering of sections, you may want to insert linebreaks (and perhaps space) in the title, etc. This can be automatically edited with the aid of the doconce replace and doconce subst commands. The former works with substituting text directly, while the latter performs substitutions using regular expressions. Here are two examples:

```
Terminal doconce replace 'section{' 'section*{' mydoc.tex
Terminal> doconce subst 'title\{(.+)Using (.+)\}' \
    'title{\g<1> \\\ [1.5mm] Using \g<2>' mydoc.tex
```

A lot of tailored fixes to the LATEX document can be done by an appropriate set of text replacements and regular expression substitutions. You are anyway encourged to make a script for generating PDF from the LATEX file.

Step 3. Compile mydoc.tex and create the PDF file:

```
Terminal> latex mydoc
Terminal> latex mydoc
Terminal> makeindex mydoc  # if index
Terminal> bibitem mydoc  # if bibliography
Terminal> latex mydoc
Terminal> dvipdf mydoc
```

If one wishes to run ptex2tex and use the minted LATEX package for type-setting code blocks (Minted\_Python, Minted\_Cpp, etc., in ptex2tex specified through the \*pro and \*cod variables in .ptex2tex.cfg or \$HOME/.ptex2tex.cfg), the minted LATEX package is needed. This package is included by running ptex2tex with the -DMINTED option:

When running doconce ptex2tex mydoc envir=minted (or other minted specifications with doconce ptex2tex), the minted package is automatically included so there is no need for the -DMINTED option.

#### 3.4 PDFLaTeX

Running pdflatex instead of latex follows almost the same steps, but the start is

```
Terminal> doconce format latex mydoc

Then ptex2tex is run as explained above, and finally

Terminal> pdflatex -shell-escape mydoc
Terminal> makeindex mydoc # if index
Terminal> bibitem mydoc # if bibliography
Terminal> pdflatex -shell-escape mydoc
```

## 3.5 Plain ASCII Text

We can go from Doconce "back to" plain untagged text suitable for viewing in terminal windows, inclusion in email text, or for insertion in computer source code:

```
Terminal> doconce format plain mydoc.do.txt # results in mydoc.txt
```

#### 3.6 reStructuredText

Going from Doconce to reStructuredText gives a lot of possibilities to go to other formats. First we filter the Doconce text to a reStructuredText file mydoc.rst:

Terminal> doconce format rst mydoc.do.txt

We may now produce various other formats:

```
Terminal> rst2html.py mydoc.rst > mydoc.html # html
Terminal> rst2latex.py mydoc.rst > mydoc.tex # latex
Terminal> rst2xml.py mydoc.rst > mydoc.xml # XML
Terminal> rst2odt.py mydoc.rst > mydoc.odt # OpenOffice
```

The OpenOffice file mydoc.odt can be loaded into OpenOffice and saved in, among other things, the RTF format or the Microsoft Word format. However, it is more convenient to use the program unovonv to convert between the many formats OpenOffice supports on the command line. Run

```
Terminal> unoconv --show
```

to see all the formats that are supported. For example, the following commands take mydoc.odt to Microsoft Office Open XML format, classic MS Word format, and PDF:

```
Terminal> unoconv -f ooxml mydoc.odt
Terminal> unoconv -f doc mydoc.odt
Terminal> unoconv -f pdf mydoc.odt
```

Remark about Mathematical Typesetting. At the time of this writing, there is no easy way to go from Doconce and LATEX mathematics to reST and further to OpenOffice and the "MS Word world". Mathematics is only fully supported by latex as output and to a wide extent also supported by the sphinx output format. Some links for going from LATEX to Word are listed below.

- http://ubuntuforums.org/showthread.php?t=1033441
- http://tug.org/utilities/texconv/textopc.html
- http://nileshbansal.blogspot.com/2007/12/latex-to-openofficeword.html

## 3.7 Sphinx

Sphinx documents demand quite some steps in their creation. We have automated most of the steps through the doconce sphinx\_dir command:

```
Terminal doconce sphinx_dir author="authors' names" \
    title="some title" version=1.0 dirname=sphinxdir \
    theme=mytheme file1 file2 file3 ...
```

The keywords author, title, and version are used in the headings of the Sphinx document. By default, version is 1.0 and the script will try to deduce authors and title from the doconce files file1, file2, etc. that together represent the whole document. Note that none of the individual Doconce files file1, file2, etc. should include the rest as their union makes up the whole document. The default value of dirname is sphinx-rootdir. The theme keyword is used to set the theme for design of HTML output from Sphinx (the default theme is 'default').

With a single-file document in mydoc.do.txt one often just runs

Terminal> doconce sphinx\_dir mydoc

and then an appropriate Sphinx directory sphinx-rootdir is made with relevant files.

The doconce sphinx\_dir command generates a script automake-sphinx.py for compiling the Sphinx document into an HTML document. One can either run automake-sphinx.py or perform the steps in the script manually, possibly with necessary modifications. You should at least read the script prior to executing it to have some idea of what is done.

The doconce sphinx\_dir script copies directories named figs or figures over to the Sphinx directory so that figures are accessible in the Sphinx compilation. If figures or movies are located in other directories, automake-sphinx.py must be edited accordingly. Files, to which there are local links (not http: or file: URLs), must be placed in the \_static subdirectory of the Sphinx directory. The utility doconce sphinxfix\_localURLs is run to check for local links in the Doconce file: for each such link, say dir1/dir2/myfile.txt it replaces the link by \_static/myfile.txt and copies dir1/dir2/myfile.txt to a local \_static directory (in the same directory as the script is run). However, we recommend instead that the writer of the document places files in \_static or lets a script do it automatically. The user must copy all \_static/\* files to the \_static subdirectory of the Sphinx directory. It may be wise to always put files, to which there are local links in the Doconce document, in a \_static or \_static-name directory and use these local links. Then links do not need to be modified when creating a Sphinx version of the document.

Doconce comes with a collection of HTML themes for Sphinx documents. These are packed out in the Sphinx directory, the conf.py configuration file for Sphinx is edited accordingly, and a script make-themes.sh can make HTML documents with one or more themes. For example, to realize the themes fenics and pyramid, one writes

Terminal> ./make-themes.sh fenics pyramid

The resulting directories with HTML documents are \_build/html\_fenics and \_build/html\_pyramid, respectively. Without arguments, make-themes.sh makes all available themes (!).

If it is not desirable to use the autogenerated scripts explained above, here is the complete manual procedure of generating a Sphinx document from a file mydoc.do.txt.

**Step 1.** Translate Doconce into the Sphinx format:

Terminal> doconce format sphinx mydoc

**Step 2.** Create a Sphinx root directory either manually or by using the interactive sphinx-quickstart program. Here is a scripted version of the steps with the latter:

```
Terminal
mkdir sphinx-rootdir
sphinx-quickstart <<EOF
sphinx-rootdir
Name of My Sphinx Document
Author
version
version
.rst
index
у
n
n
n
n
у
'n
n
у
у
ĚOF
```

The autogenerated conf.py file may need some edits if you want to specific layout (Sphinx themes) of HTML pages. The doconce sphinx\_dir generator makes an extended conv.py file where, among other things, several useful Sphinx extensions are included.

Step 3. Copy the mydoc.rst file to the Sphinx root directory:

Terminal> cp mydoc.rst sphinx-rootdir

If you have figures in your document, the relative paths to those will be invalid when you work with mydoc.rst in the sphinx-rootdir directory. Either edit mydoc.rst so that figure file paths are correct, or simply copy your figure directories to sphinx-rootdir. Links to local files in mydoc.rst must be modified to links to files in the \_static directory, see comment above.

**Step 4.** Edit the generated index.rst file so that mydoc.rst is included, i.e., add mydoc to the toctree section so that it becomes

```
.. toctree::
:maxdepth: 2
```

(The spaces before mydoc are important!)

**Step 5.** Generate, for instance, an HTML version of the Sphinx source:

```
make clean # remove old versions
make html
```

Sphinx can generate a range of different formats: standalone HTML, HTML in separate directories with index.html files, a large single HTML file, JSON files, various help files (the qthelp, HTML, and Devhelp projects), epub, LATEX, PDF (via LATEX), pure text, man pages, and Texinfo files.

**Step 6.** View the result:

Terminal> firefox \_build/html/index.html

Note that verbatim code blocks can be typeset in a variety of ways depending the argument that follows bc!: cod gives Python (code-block:: python in Sphinx syntax) and cppcod gives C++, but all such arguments can be customized both for Sphinx and LATEX output.

#### 3.8 Wiki Formats

There are many different wiki formats, but Doconce only supports three: Googlecode wiki, MediaWiki, and Creole Wiki. These formats are called gwiki, mwiki, and cwiki, respectively. Transformation from Doconce to these formats is done by

```
Terminal> doconce format gwiki mydoc.do.txt
Terminal> doconce format mwiki mydoc.do.txt
Terminal> doconce format cwiki mydoc.do.txt
```

The Googlecode wiki document, mydoc.gwiki, is most conveniently stored in a directory which is a clone of the wiki part of the Googlecode project. This is far easier than copying and pasting the entire text into the wiki editor in a web browser.

When the Doconce file contains figures, each figure filename must in the .gwiki file be replaced by a URL where the figure is available. There are instructions in the file for doing this. Usually, one performs this substitution automatically (see next section).

From the MediaWiki format one can go to other formats with aid of mwlib. This means that one can easily use Doconce to write Wikibooks and publish these in PDF and MediaWiki format. At the same time, the book can also be published as a standard LaTeX book or a Sphinx web document.

## 3.9 Tweaking the Doconce Output

Occasionally, one would like to tweak the output in a certain format from Doconce. One example is figure filenames when transforming Doconce to reStructuredText. Since Doconce does not know if the .rst file is going to be filtered to LATEX or HTML, it cannot know if .eps or .png is the most appropriate image filename. The solution is to use a text substitution command or code with, e.g., sed, perl, python, or scitools subst, to automatically edit the output file from Doconce. It is then wise to run Doconce and the editing commands from a script to automate all steps in going from Doconce to the final format(s). The make.sh files in docs/manual and docs/tutorial constitute comprehensive examples on how such scripts can be made.

# 4 The Doconce Markup Language

The Doconce format introduces four constructs to markup text: lists, special lines, inline tags, and environments.

#### 4.1 Lists

An unordered bullet list makes use of the \* as bullet sign and is indented as follows

- \* item 1
- \* item 2
  - \* subitem 1, if there are more lines, each line must be intended as shown here

```
* subitem 2, also spans two lines
```

\* item 3

This list gets typeset as

- $\bullet$  item 1
- item 2
  - subitem 1, if there are more lines, each line must be intended as shown here
  - subitem 2, also spans two lines
- item 3

In an ordered list, each item starts with an o (as the first letter in "ordered"):

- o item 1
- o item 2
  - \* subitem 1
  - \* subitem 2
- o item 3

resulting in

- 1. item 1
- 2. item 2
  - subitem 1
  - subitem 2
- 3. item 3

Ordered lists cannot have an ordered sublist, i.e., the ordering applies to the outer list only.

In a description list, each item is recognized by a dash followed by a keyword followed by a colon:

```
- keyword1: explanation of keyword1
- keyword2: explanation
    of keyword2 (remember to indent properly
    if there are multiple
    lines)
```

The result becomes

**keyword1:** explanation of keyword1

**keyword2:** explanation of keyword2 (remember to indent properly if there are multiple lines)

## 4.2 Special Lines

The Doconce markup language has a concept called *special lines*. Such lines starts with a markup at the very beginning of the line and are used to mark document title, authors, date, sections, subsections, paragraphs., figures, movies, etc.

Heading with Title and Author(s). Lines starting with TITLE:, AUTHOR:, and DATE: are optional and used to identify a title of the document, the authors, and the date. The title is treated as the rest of the line, so is the date, but the author text consists of the name and associated institution(s) with the syntax

```
name at institution1 and institution2 and institution3
```

The at with surrounding spaces is essential for adding information about institution(s) to the author name, and the and with surrounding spaces is essential as delimiter between different institutions. An email address can optionally be included, using the syntax

```
name Email: somename@site.net at institution1 and institution2
```

Multiple authors require multiple AUTHOR: lines. All information associated with TITLE: and AUTHOR: keywords must appear on a single line. Here is an example:

```
TITLE: On an Ultimate Markup Language
AUTHOR: H. P. Langtangen at Center for Biomedical Computing, Simula Research Laboratory and
AUTHOR: Kaare Dump Email: dump@cyb.space.com at Segfault, Cyberspace Inc.
AUTHOR: A. Dummy Author
DATE: November 9, 2016
```

Note how one can specify a single institution, multiple institutions, and no institution. In some formats (including rst and sphinx) only the author names appear. Some formats have "intelligence" in listing authors and institutions, e.g., the plain text format:

```
Hans Petter Langtangen [1, 2]
Kaare Dump (dump@cyb.space.com) [3]
A. Dummy Author
```

- [1] Center for Biomedical Computing, Simula Research Laboratory
- [2] Department of Informatics, University of Oslo
- [3] Segfault, Cyberspace Inc.

Similar typesetting is done for LATEX and HTML formats.

The current date can be specified as today.

**Section Headings.** Section headings are recognized by being surrounded by equal signs (=) or underscores before and after the text of the headline. Different section levels are recognized by the associated number of underscores or equal signs (=):

 $\bullet$  9 = characters for chapters

- 7 for sections
- 5 for subsections
- 3 for subsubsections
- 2 underscrores (only! it looks best) for paragraphs (paragraph heading will be inlined)

Headings can be surrounded by as many blanks as desired.

Doconce also supports abstracts. This is typeset as a paragraph, but *must* be followed by a section heading (everything up to the first section heading is taken as part of the text of the abstract).

Here are some examples:

```
__Abstract.__ The following text just attempts to exemplify various section headings.

======= Example on a Chapter Heading =======

Some text.

===== Example on a Section Heading ======

The running text goes here.

===Example on a Subsection Heading =====

The running text goes here.

===Example on a Subsubsection Heading===

The running text goes here.

__A Paragraph.__ The running text goes here.
```

## 5 Special Lines

#### 5.1 Figures

Figures are recognized by the special line syntax

```
FIGURE: [filename, height=xxx width=yyy scale=zzz] possible caption
```

The filename can be without extension, and Doconce will search for an appropriate file with the right extension. If the extension is wrong, say .eps when requesting an HTML format, Doconce tries to find another file, and if not, the given file is converted to a proper format (using ImageMagick's convert utility).

The height, width, and scale keywords (and others) can be included if desired and may have effect for some formats. Note the comma between the sespecifications and that there should be no space around the = sign.

Note also that, like for TITLE: and AUTHOR: lines, all information related to a figure line must be written on the same line. Introducing newlines in a long

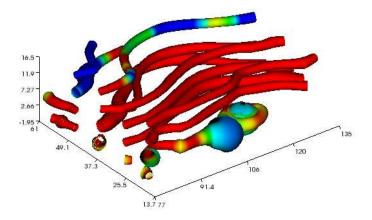


Figure 1: Streamtube visualization of a fluid flow.

caption will destroy the formatting (only the part of the caption appearing on the same line as FIGURE: will be included in the formatted caption).

Combining several image files into one can be done by the convert and montage programs from the ImageMagick suite:

```
montage file1.png file2.png ... file4.png -geometry +2+2 result.png
montage file1.png file2.png -tile x1 result.png
montage file1.png file2.png -tile 1x result.png
convert -background white file1.png file2.png +append tmp.png
```

Use +append for stacking left to right, -append for top to bottom. The positioning of the figures can be controlled by -gravity.

#### 5.2 Movies

Here is an example on the MOVIE: keyword for embedding movies. This feature works well for the latex, html, rst, and sphinx formats. Other formats try to generate some HTML file and link to that file for showing the movie.

```
MOVIE: [filename, height=xxx width=yyy] possible caption
```

The LATEX format results in a file that can either make use of the movie 15 package (requires the PDF to be shown in Acrobat Reader) or just a plain

figs/mjolnir.mpeg

Figure 2:

address to the movie. The HTML, reST, and Sphinx formats will play the movie right away by embedding the file in a standard HTML code, provided the output format is HTML. For all other formats a URL to an HTML file, which can play the code, is inserted in the output document.

When movies are embedded in the PDF file via LATEX and the movie15 package wanted, one has to turn on the preprocessor variable MOVIE15. There is an associated variable EXTERNAL\_MOVIE\_VIEWER which can be defined to launch an external viewer when displaying the PDF file (in Acrobat Reader):

Terminal> ptex2tex -DMOVIE15 -DEXTERNAL\_MOVIE\_VIEWER mydoc

The HTML, reST, and Sphinx formats can also treat filenames of the form myframes\*.png. In that case, an HTML file for showing the sequence of frames is generated, and a link to this file is inserted in the output document. That is, a simple "movie viewer" for the frames is made.

Many publish their scientific movies on YouTube, and Doconce recognizes YouTube URLs as movies. When the output is an HTML file, the movie will be embedded, otherwise a URL to the YouTube page is inserted. You should equip the MOVIE: command with the right width and height of embedded YouTube movies (the parameters appear when you request the embedded HTML code for the movie on the YouTube page).

#### 5.3 Copying Computer Code from Source Files

Another type of special lines starts with **@@@CODE** and enables copying of computer code from a file directly into a verbatim environment, see Section 5.10 below.

## 5.4 Inline Tagging

Doconce supports tags for *emphasized phrases*, **boldface phrases**, and **verbatim text** (also called type writer text, for inline code) plus  $\text{LAT}_{EX}/\text{TeX}$  inline mathematics, such as  $\nu = \sin(x)$ .

Emphasized text is typeset inside a pair of asterisk, and there should be no spaces between an asterisk and the emphasized text, as in

\*emphasized words\*

Boldface font is recognized by an underscore instead of an asterisk:

\_several words in boldface\_ followed by \*ephasized text\*.

The line above gets typeset as **several words in boldface** followed by *ephasized* text.

Verbatim text, typically used for short inline code, is typeset between backticks:

```
'call myroutine(a, b)' looks like a Fortran call while 'void myfunc(double *a, double *b)' must be C.
```

The typesetting result looks like this: call myroutine(a, b) looks like a Fortran call while void myfunc(double \*a, double \*b) must be C.

It is recommended to have inline verbatim text on the same line in the Doconce file, because some formats (LATEX and ptex2tex) will have problems with inline verbatim text that is split over two lines.

Watch out for mixing back-ticks and asterisk (i.e., verbatim and emphasized code): the Doconce interpreter is not very smart so inline computer code can soon lead to problems in the final format. Go back to the Doconce source and modify it so the format to which you want to go becomes correct (sometimes a trial and error process - sticking to very simple formatting usually avoids such problems).

Web addresses with links are typeset as

```
some URL like "Doconce": "http://code.google.com/p/doconce"
```

which appears as some URL like Search Google. The space after colon is optional. Links to files ending in .txt, .html, .pdf, .py, .f, .f77, .f90, .f95, .sh, .csh, .ksh, .zsh, .c, .cpp, .cxx, .pl, and .java follows the same setup:

```
see the "Doconce Manual": "manual.do.txt".
```

which appears as see the Doconce Manual. However, linking to local files like this needs caution:

- In the html format the links work well if the files are supplied with the .html with the same relative location.
- In the latex and pdflatex formats, such links in PDF files will unless the .tex file has a full URL specified through a \hyperbaseurl command and the linked files are located correctly relative to this URL. Otherwise full URL must be used in links.
- In the sphinx format, local files to which there are links should only be located in a \_static or \_static-name subdirectory.

As a consequence, we strongly recommend that one copies the relevant files to a \_static or \_static-name directory and makes links to files in this directory only (name is the nickname of the Doconce document, usually the name of the parent directory or main document). Other links to files should use the full URL (unless one knows that only the html format is of relevance).

If you want a link to a local source code file and have it viewed in the browser rather than being downloaded, we recommend to transform the source code file to HTML format by running pygmentize, e.g.,

Terminal

Terminal> pygmentize -1 bash -f html -0 full,style=emacs \
-o \_static/make.sh.html subdir/make.sh

Then you can link to \_static/make.sh.html instead of subdir/make.sh. Here is an example where the reader has the file available as src/myprog.py in her software and the document links to \_static/myprog.py:

```
See the code URL: "src/myprog.py" ("view: "_static/myprog.py.html").
```

Links to files with other extensions are typeset with the filename as link text. The syntax consists of the keyword URL, followed by a colon, and then the filename enclosed in double quotes:

```
URL: "manual.html"
```

resulting in the link manual.html.

Similarly, to have the URL address itself as link text, put an "URL" or URL before the address enclosed in double quotes:

```
Click on this link: URL: "http://code.google.com/p/doconce".
```

resulting in Click on this link: http://code.google.com/p/doconce.

Doconce also supports inline comments in the text:

```
[name: comment]
```

where name is the name of the author of the command, and comment is a plain text text. (hpl: Note that there must be a space after the colon, otherwise the comment is not recognized. Inline comments can span several lines, if desired.) The name and comment are visible in the output unless doconce format is run with a command-line argument --skip\_inline\_comments (see Chapter 3 for an example). Inline comments are helpful during development of a document since different authors and readers can comment on formulations, missing points, etc. All such comments can easily be removed from the .do.txt file (see Chapter 3).

Inline mathematics is written as in LATEX, i.e., inside dollar signs. Many formats leave this syntax as it is (including to dollar signs), hence nice math formatting is only obtained in LATEX, HTML, MediaWiki, and Sphinx (Epytext has some inline math support that is utilized). However, mathematical expressions in LATEX syntax often contains special formatting commands, which may appear annoying in plain text. Doconce therefore supports an extended inline math syntax where the writer can provide an alternative syntax suited for formats close to plain ASCII:

```
Here is an example on a linear system {\bf A}{\bf x} = {\bf b} \bf b}{\bf x}=b, where \bf x is an \bf x is an \bf x in and \bf x and \bf x and \bf x and \bf x are vectors of length \bf x.
```

That is, we provide two alternative expressions, both enclosed in dollar signs and separated by a pipe symbol, the expression to the left is used in formats with

IATEX support (latex, pdflatex, html, sphinx, mwiki), while the expression to the right is used for all other formats. The above text is typeset as "Here is an example on a linear system  $\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$ , where  $\mathbf{A}$  is an  $n \times n$  matrix, and  $\mathbf{x}$  and  $\mathbf{b}$  are vectors of length n."

#### 5.5 Comments

Comments intended to be visible in the output document and read by readers are known as *inline comments* in Doconce and described in Section 5.4.

Here we address comments in the Doconce source file that are not intended to be visible in the output document. Basic comment lines start with the hash #:

```
#
# Here are some comment lines that do not affect any formatting.
# These lines are converted to comments in the output format.
#
```

Such comment lines may have some side effects in the rst and sphinx formats because following lines are taken as part of the comment if there is not a blank line after the comment.

The Mako preprocessor supports comments that are filtered out *before* Doconce starts translating the document. Such comments are very valuable as they will never interfere with the output format and they are only present in the Doconce source. Mako has two types of comments: lines starting with a double hash ## and lines enclosed by the <%doc> (beginning) and <%doc/> (closing) tags.

If you need a lot of comments in the Doconce file, consider using Mako comments instead of the single hash, unless you want to comments to be in the source code of the output document.

#### 5.6 Cross-Referencing

References and labels are supported. The syntax is simple:

```
label{section:verbatim} # defines a label
For more information we refer to Section ref{section:verbatim}.
```

This syntax is close that that of labels and cross-references in LaTeX. When the label is placed after a section or subsection heading, the plain text, Epytext, and StructuredText formats will simply replace the reference by the title of the (sub)section. All labels will become invisible, except those in math environments. In the rst and sphinx formats, the end effect is the same, but the "label" and "ref" commands are first translated to the proper reST commands by doconce format. In the HTML and (Google Code) wiki formats, labels become anchors and references become links, and with LaTeX "label" and "ref" are just equipped with backslashes so these commands work as usual in LaTeX.

It is, in general, recommended to use labels and references for (sub)sections, equations, and figures only. By the way, here is an example on referencing

Figure 1 (the label appears in the figure caption in the source code of this document). Additional references to Sections 5.11 and 5.12 are nice to demonstrate, as well as a reference to equations, say (??)–(??). A comparison of the output and the source of this document illustrates how labels and references are handled by the format in question.

Hyperlinks to files or web addresses are handled as explained in Section 5.4.

## 5.7 Index and Bibliography

An index can be created for the latex, rst, and sphinx formats by the idx keyword, following a LaTeX-inspired syntax:

```
idx{some index entry}
idx{main entry!subentry}
idx{'verbatim_text' and more}
```

The exclamation mark divides a main entry and a subentry. Backquotes surround verbatim text, which is correctly transformed in a LATEX setting to

```
\index{verbatim\_text0\texttt{\rm\smaller verbatim\_text and more}}
```

Everything related to the index simply becomes invisible in plain text, Epytext, StructuredText, HTML, and wiki formats. Note: idx commands should be inserted outside paragraphs, not in between the text as this may cause some strange behaviour of reST and Sphinx formatting. As a recommended rule, index items are naturally placed right after section headings, before the text begins, while index items related to a paragraph should be placed above the paragraph one a separate line (and not in between the text or between the paragraph heading and the text body, although this works fine if LATEX is the output format).

Literature citations also follow a LaTeX-inspired style:

```
as found in cite{Larsen_1986, Nielsen_Kjeldstrup_1999}.
```

Citation labels can be separated by comma. In IATEX, this is directly translated to the corresponding cite command; in reST and Sphinx the labels can be clicked, while in all the other text formats the labels are consecutively numbered so the above citation will typically look like

```
as found in [3][14]
```

if Larsen\_1986 has already appeared in the 3rd citation in the document and Nielsen\_Kjeldstrup\_1999 is a new (the 14th) citation. The citation labels can be any sequence of characters, except for curly braces and comma.

The bibliography itself is specified by the special keyword BIBFILE:, followed by a BibTeX file with extension .bib, a corresponding reST bibliography with extension .rst, or simply a Python dictionary written in a file with extension .py. The dictionary in the latter file should have the citation labels as keys, with corresponding values as the full reference text for an item in the bibliography. Doconce markup can be used in this text, e.g.,

```
{
    'Nielsen_Kjeldstrup_1999': """
    K. Nielsen and A. Kjeldstrup. *Some Comments on Markup Languages*.
URL:"http://some.where.net/nielsen/comments", 1999.
    """
    'Larsen_1986':
    """

O. B. Larsen. On Markup and Generality.
    *Personal Press*. 1986.
    """
}
```

In the latex and pdflatex formats, the .bib file will be used in the standard BibTeX way. In the rst and sphinx formats, the .rst file will be copied into the document at the place where the BIBFILE: keyword appears, while all other formats will make use of the Python dictionary typeset as an ordered Doconce list inserted at the BIBFILE: line in the document.

Only one file with bibliographic references can be used. It is recommended to create all references in BibTeX format. Say the file is myfile.bib. Insert BIBFILE: myfile.bib at the end of the file (for instance). Then make a LATEX document and check that the references appear correctly. A next step can be to create the .rst file, either by manual editing of myfile.bbl or using doconce bbl2rst myfile.bbl to automate (most of) this editing. From the myfile.rst file it is easy to create myfile.py with the dictionary version of the references.

Conversion of BibTeX databases to reST format can be done by the bibliograph.parsing tool.

Finally, we here test the citation command and bibliography by citing a book [1], a paper [2], and both of them simultaneously [1, 2].

(somereader: comments, citations, and references in the latex style is a special feature of doconce:-))

#### 5.8 Tables

A table like

time	velocity	acceleration
0.0	1.4186	-5.01
2.0	1.376512	11.919
4.0	1.1E + 1	14.717624

is built up of pipe symbols and dashes:

	velocity	acceleration
0.0	1.4186   1.376512   1.1E+1	-5.01   11.919   14.717624

The pipes and column values do not need to be aligned (but why write the Doconce source in an ugly way?). In the line below the heading, one can insert

the characters c, r, or 1 to specify the alignment of the columns (centered, right, or left, respectively). Similar character can be inserted in the line above the header to algn the headings. Pipes | can also be inserted to indicate vertical rules in LATEX tables (they are ignored for other formats). Note that not all formats offer alignment of heading or entries in tables (rst and sphinx are examples). Also note that Doconce tables are very simple: neither entries nor headings can span several columns or rows. When that functionality is needed, one can make use of the preprocessor and if-tests on the format and insert format-specific code for tables.

## 5.9 Exercises, Problems, or Projects

Doconce has special support for three types of "exercises", named *exercise*, *problem*, or *project*. These are all typeset as special kind of sections. Such sections start with a subsection or subsubsection headline, indicated by 3 or 5 = characters, and last up to the next headline or the end of the file. The headline itself must consists of the word "Exercise", "Problem", or "Project", followed by a colon and a title of the exercise, problem, or project. The next line(s) may contain a label and specification of the name of result file (if the answer to the exercise is to be handed it) and a solution file:

```
==== Project: Determine the Distance to the Moon ===== label{proj:moondist} file=earth2moon.pdf solution=eart2moon_sol.do.txt

Here goes the running text of the project...

__Hint 1.__ Do not plan a travel to the moon.

__Hint 2.__ Wikipedia is always helpful.
```

Doconce will recognize the exercise, problem, or project *title*, the *label*, the *result file*, the *solution file* (if any of these three entities is present), the *text*, and a sequence of *hints*. Tailored formatting of exercises in special output formats can make use of this. For example, one can image web formats where the hints are displayed one by one when needed and where the result file can be uploaded. One can also think of mechanisms for downloading the solution file if the result file meets certain criteria. Doconce does not yet generate such functionality in any output format, but this is an intended future feature to be impelemented.

Because exercises, problems, and projects are typeset as ordinary sections (this is the most general approach that will work for many formats), one must refer to an exercise, problem, or project by its label, which normally will translate to the section number (in LATEX, for instance) or a link to the title of the section. The *title* is typeset without any leading "Exercise:", "Problem:", or "Project:" word, so that references like "see Problem ..." works well in all formats ("..." will be a number in LATEX and the problem title in most other formats).

It is recommended to collect all exercises as subsetions (or subsubsections) under a section (or subsection) named "Exercises", "Problems", or "Projects".

## 5.10 Blocks of Verbatim Computer Code

Blocks of computer code, to be typeset verbatim, must appear inside a "begin code" bc! keyword and an "end code" ec! keyword. Both keywords must be on a single line and *start at the beginning of the line*. Before such a code block there must be a plain sentence (at least if successful transformation to reST and ASCII-type formats is desired). For example, a code block cannot come directly after a section/paragraph heading or a table.

There may be an argument after the bc! tag to specify a certain environment (for ptex2tex or Sphinx) for typesetting the verbatim code. For instance, bc dat! corresponds to the data file environment and bc cod! is typically used for a code snippet. There are some predefined environments explained below. If there is no argument specifying the environment, one assumes some plain verbatim typesetting (for ptex2tex this means the ccq environment, which is defined in the config file .ptex2tex.cfg, while for Sphinx it defaults to the python environment).

Since the config file for ptex2tex can define what some environment maps onto with respect to typesetting, a similar possibility is supported for Sphinx as well. The argument after bc! is in case of Sphinx output mapped onto a valid Pygments language for typesetting of the verbatim block by Pygments. This mapping takes place in an optional comment to be inserted in the Doconce source file, e.g.,

# sphinx code-blocks: pycod=python cod=fortran cppcod=c++ sys=console

Here, three arguments are defined: pycod for Python code, cod also for Python code, cppcod for C++ code, and sys for terminal sessions. The same arguments would be defined in .ptex2tex.cfg for how to typeset the blocks in LaTeX using various verbatim styles (Pygments can also be used in a LaTeX context).

By default, pro is used for complete programs in Python, cod is for a code snippet in Python, while xcod and xpro implies computer language specific typesetting where x can be f for Fortran, c for C, cpp for C++, sh for Unix shells, pl for Perl, m for Matlab, cy for Cython, and py for Python. The argument sys means by default console for Sphinx and CodeTerminal (ptex2tex environent) for LATEX. Other specifications are dat for a data file or print out, and ipy for interactive Python sessions (the latter does not introduce any environment in sphinx output, as interactive sessions are automatically recognized and handled). All these definitions of the arguments after bc! can be redefined in the .ptex2tex.cfg configuration file for ptex2tex/LATEX and in the sphinx code-blocks comments for Sphinx. Support for other languages is easily added.

The enclosing ec! tag of verbatim computer code blocks must be followed by a newline. A common error in list environments is to forget to indent the plain text surrounding the code blocks. In general, we recommend to use paragraph headings instead of list items in combination with code blocks (it usually looks better, and some common errors are naturally avoided).

Here is a verbatim code block with Python code (pycod style):

```
# regular expressions for inline tags:
inline_tag_begin = r'(?P<begin>(^|\s+))'
    inline_tag_end = r'(?P < end > [.,?!;:) \s])'
    INLINE_TAGS = {
         'emphasize':
         r'%\s\*(?P<subst>[^ '][^*']*)\*%\s' % \
         (inline_tag_begin, inline_tag_end),
         'verbatim':
         r'%s'(?P<subst>[^ ][^']*)'%s' % \
         (inline_tag_begin, inline_tag_end),
         'bold':
         r'%s_(?P<subst>[^ '][^_']*)_%s' % \
         (inline_tag_begin, inline_tag_end),
    }
And here is a C++ code snippet (cppcod style):
    void myfunc(double* x, const double& myarr) {
         for (int i = 1; i < myarr.size(); i++) {</pre>
             myarr[i] = myarr[i] - x[i]*myarr[i-1]
    }
```

Computer code can be copied directly from a file, if desired. The syntax is then

```
@@@CODE myfile.f
@@@CODE myfile.f fromto: subroutine\s+test@^C\s{5}END1
```

The first line implies that all lines in the file myfile.f are copied into a verbatim block, typset in a bc Xpro! environment, where X is the extension of the filename, here f (i.e., the environment becomes bc fpro! and will typically lead to some Fortran-style formatting in Linux and Sphinx). The second line has a fromto: directive, which implies copying code between two lines in the code, typset within a jbc Xcod' environment (again, X is the filename extension, implying the type of file). Note that the pro and cod arguments are only used for LATEX and Sphinx output, all other formats will have the code typeset within a plain bc! environment.) Two regular expressions, separated by the @ sign, define the "from" and "to" lines. The "from" line is included in the verbatim block, while the "to" line is not. In the example above, we copy code from the line matching subroutine test (with as many blanks as desired between the two words) and the line matching C END1 (C followed by 5 blanks and then the text END1). The final line with the "to" text is not included in the verbatim block.

Let us copy a whole file (the first line above):

```
c a comment
subroutine test()
integer i
real*8 r
r = 0
do i = 1, i
r = r + i
end do
return
```

```
C END1

program testme call test()
return
```

Let us then copy just a piece in the middle as indicated by the from to: directive above:

Note that the "to" line is not copied into the Doconce file, but the "from" line is. Sometimes it is convenient to also neglect the "from" line, a feature that is allowed by replacing fromto: by from-to ("from with minus"). This allows for copying very similar code segments throughout a file, while still distinguishing between them. Copying the second set of parameters from the text

```
# --- Start Example 1 ---
c = -1
A = 2
p0 = 4
simulate_and_plot(c, A, p0)
# --- End Example 1 ---

# --- Start Example 2 ---
c = -1
A = 1
p0 = 0
simulate_and_plot(c, A, p0)
# --- End Example 2 ---
```

is easy with

```
from-to: Start Example 2@End Example 2
```

With only fromto: this would be impossible.

(Remark for those familiar with ptex2tex: The from-to syntax is slightly different from that used in ptex2tex. When transforming Doconce to LATEX, one first transforms the document to a .p.tex file to be treated by ptex2tex. However, the @@@CODE line is interpreted by Doconce and replaced by the mentioned pro or cod environment which are defined in the ptex2tex configuration file.)

## 5.11 Later Street Fig. 5.11 Later Street Blocks of Mathematical Text

Blocks of mathematical text are like computer code blocks, but the opening tag is bt! (begin TeX) and the closing tag is et!. It is important that bt! and et! appear on the beginning of the line and followed by a newline.

```
\begin{align}
{\hat u} = \frac{1}{w} 
{\hat v} = \hat v = \hat
```

Here is the result of the above bt! - et! block:

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = \nabla^2 u + f, \tag{1}$$

$$\frac{\partial v}{\partial t} = \nabla \cdot (q(u)\nabla v) + g \tag{2}$$

$$\frac{\partial v}{\partial t} = \nabla \cdot (q(u)\nabla v) + g \tag{2}$$

The support of LATEX mathematics varies among the formats. Output latex and pdflatex has of course full support. The html format supports single equations and multiple equations via the align environment, also with labels. Although sphinx, like html, employs MathJax, it does not support labels in align environments. Markdown (pandoc format) allows single equations and inline mathematics. Going from Doconce to MS Word is most easily done by outputting in the latex format and then using the Pandoc program to translate from IATEX to MS Word (note that only a subset of IATEX will be translated correctly).

If the document targets formats with and without support of LaTEX mathematics, one can use the preprocessor to typeset the mathematics in two versions. After #if FORMAT in ("latex", "pdflatex", "html", "sphinx", "mwiki", "pandoc") one places LATEX mathematics, and after #else one can write inline mathematics in a way that looks nice in plain text and wiki formats without support for mathematical typesetting.

Mathematics for PowerPoint/OpenOffice. If you have LATEX mathematics written in Doconce, it is fairly easy to generate PNG images of all mathematical formulas and equations for use with PowerPoint or OpenOffice presentations.

- 1. Make a Sphinx version of the Doconce file.
- 2. Go to the Sphinx directory and load the conf.py file into a browser.
- 3. Search for "math" and comment out the 'sphinx.ext.mathjax' (enabled by default) and 'matplotlib.sphinxext.mathmpl' (disabled by default) lines, and uncomment the 'sphinx.ext.pngmath' package. This is the package that generates small PNG pictures of the mathematics.
- 4. Uncomment the line with pngmath\_dvipng\_args = and set the PNG resolution to -D 200 when the purpose is to generate mathematics pictures for slides.
- 5. Run make html.
- 6. Look at the HTML source file in the \_build/html directory: all mathematics are in img tags with src= pointing to a PNG file and alt= pointing

to the LATEX source for the formula in question. This makes it very easy to find the PNG file that corresponding to a particular mathematical expression.

#### 5.12Macros (Newcommands)

Doconce supports a type of macros via a LaTeX-style newcommand construction. The newcommands defined in a file with name newcommand\_replace.tex are expanded when Doconce is filtered to other formats, except for LATEX (since LATEX performs the expansion itself). Newcommands in files with names newcommands.tex and newcommands\_keep.tex are kept unaltered when Doconce text is filtered to other formats, except for the Sphinx format. Since Sphinx understands LATEX math, but not newcommands if the Sphinx output is HTML, it makes most sense to expand all newcommands. Normally, a user will put all newcommands that appear in math blocks surrounded by bt! and et! in newcommands\_keep.tex to keep them unchanged, at least if they contribute to make the raw IATEX math text easier to read in the formats that cannot render LATEX. Newcommands used elsewhere throughout the text will usually be placed in newcommands\_replace.tex and expanded by Doconce. The definitions of newcommands in the newcommands\*.tex files must appear on a single line (multi-line newcommands are too hard to parse with regular expressions).

**Example.** Suppose we have the following commands in newcommand\_replace.tex:

```
\newcommand{\beqa}{\begin{eqnarray}}
\newcommand{\eeqa}{\end{eqnarray}}
\newcommand{\ep}{\thinspace . }
\newcommand{\uvec}{\vec u}
\mbox{\newcommand}_{Q}_{\pmb}_{Q}
```

and these in newcommands\_keep.tex:

```
\mbox{\newcommand}(x){\pmb{x}}
\newcommand{\normalvec}{\pmb{n}}
\newcommand{\Ddt}[1]{\frac{D#1}{dt}}
```

The LATEX block

```
\beqa
\x\cdot\normalvec &=& 0, label{my:eq1}\\\Ddt{\uvec} &=& \Q \ep label{my:eq2}
\Ddt{\uvec} \&=\& \Q \e
```

will then be rendered to

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = \nabla^2 u + f,$$

$$\frac{\partial v}{\partial t} = \nabla \cdot (q(u)\nabla v) + g$$
(3)

$$\frac{\partial v}{\partial t} = \nabla \cdot (q(u)\nabla v) + g \tag{4}$$

in the current format.

## 5.13 Preprocessing Steps

Doconce allows preprocessor commands for, e.g., including files, leaving out text, or inserting special text depending on the format. Two preprocessors are supported: preprocess (http://code.google.com/p/preprocess) and make (http://www.makotemplates.org/). The former allows include and if-else statements much like the well-known preprocessor in C and C++ (but it does not allow sophisticated macro substitutions). The latter preprocessor is a very powerful template system. With Mako you can automatically generate various type of text and steer the generation through Python code embedded in the Doconce document. An arbitrary set of name=value command-line arguments (at the end of the command line) automatically define Mako variables that are substituted in the document.

Doconce will detect if preprocess or Mako commands are used and run the relevant preprocessor prior to translating the Doconce source to a specific format.

The preprocess and make programs always have the variable FORMAT defined as the desired output format of Doconce (html, latex, plain, rst, sphinx, epydoc, st). It is then easy to test on the value of FORMAT and take different actions for different formats. For example, one may create special LATEX output for figures, say with multiple plots within a figure, while other formats may apply a separate figure for each plot. Below is an example (see the Doconce source code of this document to understand how preprocess is used to create the example).

Other user-defined variables for the preprocessor can be set at the command line as explained in Section 3.

More advanced use of make can include Python code that may automate the writing of parts of the document.

#### 5.14 Splitting Documents into Smaller Pieces

Long documents are conveniently split into smaller Doconce files. However, there must be a master document including all the pieces, otherwise references to sections and the index will not work properly. The master document is preferably a file just containing a set of preprocessor include statements of the form #include "file.do.txt". The preprocessor will put together all the pieces so that Doconce sees a long file with the complete text.

For reST and Sphinx documents it is a point to have separate .rst files and an index file listing the various .rst that build up the document. To generate the various .rst files one should not run Doconce on the individual .do.txt files, because then references and index entries are not treated correctly. Instead, run Doconce on the master file and invoke the script doconce split\_rst to split the long, complete .rst into pieces. This process requires that each #include "file.do.txt line in the master file is preceded by a "marker line" having the syntax #>>>>> part: file >>>>>>, where file is the filename without extension. The number of greater than signs is not important, but it

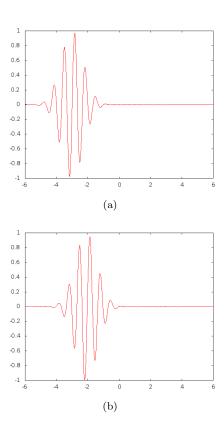


Figure 3: Wavepackets at time (a)  $0.1~\mathrm{s}$  and (b)  $0.2~\mathrm{s}$ .

has to be a comment line and it has to contain the keyword part:.

Here is an example. Say the name of the master file is master.do.txt. The following Bash script does the job: We run

```
doconce format sphinx master
# Split master.rst into parts
# as defined by #>>>> part: name >>>> lines
files='doconce split_rst master.rst'
dir=sphinxm-rootdir
if [ ! -d $dir ]; then
  doconce sphinx_dir dirname=$dir author='me and you' \
          version=1.0 theme=default $files
  sh automake-sphinx.sh
else
  for file in $files; do
   cp $file.rst $dir
  done
  cd $dir
 make html
  cd ..
fi
```

The autogenerated automake-sphinx.sh file (by doconce sphinx\_dir) is compatible with a master .rst file split into pieces as long as the complete set of pieces in correct order is given to doconce sphinx\_dir. This set is the output of doconce split\_rst, which we catch in a variable files above.

#### 5.15 Missing Features

Doconce does not aim to support sophisticated typesetting, simply because sophisticated typesetting usually depend quite strongly on the particular output format chosen. When a particular feature needed is not supported by Doconce, it is recommended to hardcode that feature for a particular format and use the if-else construction of the preprocessor. For example, if a sophisticated table is desired in LATEX output, test on the FORMAT variable (#if FORMAT == "latex") in the Doconce code and insert the table in LATEX format. The else or elif branches may have the table in other formats or a simplified version in the Doconce table format. Similarly, if certain adjustments are needed, like pagebreaks in LATEX, hardcode that in the Doconce format (and recall that this is really LATEX dependent - pagebreaks are not relevant HTML formats).

Instead of inserting special code in the Doconce document, one can alternatively script editing of the output from Doconce. That is, we develop a Python or Bash script that runs the translation of a Doconce document to a ready docoment in another format. Inside this script, we may edit and fine-tune the output from Doconce.

As an example, say you want a table of contents in the LATEX output (Doconce does not support table of contents). By inserting a recognizable comment in the Doconce source, say

```
# table of contents
```

we can use this comment to edit the LaTeX file. First, we run Doconce doconce format latex mydoc to produce mydoc.p.tex. Then we use the doconce replace and doconce subst commands to replace the comment by the comment plus the table of contents command, or just the latter:

```
Terminal> doconce replace '% table of contents' '\tableofcontents' mydoc.p.tex
```

The doconce replace from\_text to\_text filename command performs a character-by-character replacement (using the replace method in string objects in Python). If we want to preserve the comment and add a new line with \tableofcontents, we should use doconce subst, which applies regular expressions for substitutions and thereby understands the newline character:

```
Terminal> doconce subst '% table of contents' \
    '% table of contents\n\\tableofcontents' mydoc.p.tex
```

Note the double backshlash in front of the t character: without it we would get a tab and no backslash. The doconce subst is a powerful way to automatically edit the output from Doconce and fine-tune a LATEX document. Use of comment lines to identify portions of the file to be edited is a smart idea. Alternatively, the relevant LATEX constructions can be inserted directly in the Doconce file using if-else preprocessor directives.

#### 5.16 Header and Footer

Some formats use a header and footer in the document. LATEX and HTML are two examples of such formats. When the document is to be included in another document (which is often the case with Doconce-based documents), the header and footer are not wanted, while these are needed (at least in a LATEX context) if the document is stand-alone. We have introduce the convention that if TITLE: or #TITLE: is found at the beginning of the line (i.e., the document has, or has an intention have, a title), the header and footer are included, otherwise not.

## 5.17 Emacs Doconce Formatter

The file misc/.doconce-mode.el in the Doconce source distribution gives a "Doconce Editing Mode" in Emacs. The file is a rough edit of the reST Editing Mode for Emacs. Some Doconce features are recognized, but far from all, and sometimes portions of Doconce text just appear as ordinary text.

Here is how to get the Doconce Editing Mode in Emacs.

Step 1. Download the Doconce tarball from code.google.com/p/doconce, pack it out and go to the root directory.

Step 2. Copy the doconce-mode.el file to the home directory:

```
cp misc/.doconce-mode.el $HOME
```

#### Step 3. Add these lines to \$HOME/.emacs:

```
(load-file "~/hg/.doconce-mode.el")
(setq auto-mode-alist(cons '("\\.do\\.txt$" . doconce-mode) auto-mode-alist))
```

Emacs will now recognize files with extension .do.txt and enter the Doconce Editing Mode.

## 6 Troubleshooting

#### 6.1 Disclaimer

Doconce has some support for syntax checking. If you encounter Python errors while running doconce format, the reason for the error is most likely a syntax problem in your Doconce source file. You have to track down this syntax problem yourself.

However, the problem may well be a bug in Doconce. The Doconce software is incomplete, and many special cases of syntax are not yet discovered to give problems. Such special cases are also seldom easy to fix, so one important way of "debugging" Doconce is simply to change the formatting so that Doconce treats it properly. Doconce is very much based on regular expressions, which are known to be non-trivial to debug years after they are created. The main developer of Doconce has hardly any time to work on debugging the code, but the software works well for his diverse applications of it.

#### 6.2 General Problems

Something goes wrong in the preprocessing step. Doconce automatically removes the file \_\_tmp.do.txt, which is the resulting of the preprocessing stge and the file to examine if something goes wrong in this stage (i.e., when make and/or preprocess is run). Add the --debug flag at the end of the doconce command to (both make a debug file and) avoid that \_\_tmp.do.txt is deleted.

**Figure captions are incomplete.** If only the first part of a figure caption in the Doconce file is seen in the target output format, the reason is usually that the caption occupies multiple lines in the Doconce file. The figure caption must be written as *one line*, at the same line as the FIGURE keyword.

**Preprocessor directives do not work.** Make sure the preprocessor instructions, in Preprocess or Mako, have correct syntax. Also make sure that you do not mix Preprocess and Mako instructions. Doconce will then only run Preprocess.

**Problems with boldface and emphasize.** Two boldface or emphasize expressions after each other are not rendered correctly. Merge them into one common expression.

Links to local directories do not work. Links of the type

```
see the "examples directory": "src/examples"
```

do not work well. You need to link to a specific HTML file:

```
see the "examples directory": "src/examples/index.html"
```

Links are not typeset correctly. Not all formats will allow formatting of the links. Verbatim words in links are allowed if the whole link is typeset in verbatim:

```
see the directory "'examples'": "src/examples/index.html".
```

However, the following will not be typeset correctly:

```
see the "'examples' directory": "src/examples/index.html"
```

The back-ticks must be removed, or the text can be reformulated as in the line above it.

Inline verbatim code is not detected. Make sure there is a space before the first back-tick.

Strange non-English characters. Check the encoding of the .do.txt file with the Unix file command or with

```
Unix> doconce guess_encoding myfile.do.txt
```

If the encoding is utf-8, convert to latin-1 using either of the Unix commands

```
Unix> doconce change_encoding utf-8 LATIN1 myfile.do.txt
Unix> iconv -f utf-8 -t LATIN1 myfile.do.txt --output newfile
```

Wrong Norwegian charcters. When Doconce documents have characters not in the standard ASCII set, the format of the file must be LATIN1 and not UTF-8. See the section "Strange non-English characters" above for how to run doconce change\_encoding to change the encoding of the Doconce file.

Inline verbatim text is not formatted correctly. Make sure there is whitespace surrounding the text in back-ticks.

Too short underlining of reST headlines. This may happen if there is a paragraph heading without proceeding text before some section heading.

Found !bt but no tex blocks extracted (BUG). This message points to a bug, but has been resolved by removing blank lines between the text and the first bt! (inserting the blanks again did not trigger the error message again...).

#### 6.3 Problems with code or Tex Blocks

Code or math block errors in reST. First note that a code or math block must come after some plain sentence (at least for successful output in reST), not directly after a section/paragraph heading, table, comment, figure, or movie, because the code or math block is indented and then become parts of such constructions. Either the block becomes invisible or error messages are issued

Sometimes reST reports an "Unexpected indentation" at the beginning of a code block. If you see a bc!, which should have been removed when running doconce format sphinx, it is usually an error in the Doconce source, or a problem with the rst/sphinx translator. Check if the line before the code block ends in one colon (not two!), a question mark, an exclamation mark, a comma, a period, or just a newline/space after text. If not, make sure that the ending is among the mentioned. Then bc! will most likely be replaced and a double colon at the preceding line will appear (which is the right way in reST to indicate a verbatim block of text).

Strange errors around code or TeX blocks in reST. If idx commands for defining indices are placed inside paragraphs, and especially right before a code block, the reST translator (rst and sphinx formats) may get confused and produce strange code blocks that cause errors when the reST text is transformed to other formats. The remedy is to define items for the index outside paragraphs.

Something is wrong with a verbatim code block. Check first that there is a "normal" sentence right before the block (this is important for reST and similar "ASCII-close" formats).

Code/TeX block is not shown in reST format. A comment right before a code or tex block will treat the whole block also as a comment. It is important that there is normal running text right before bt! and bc! environments.

Verbatim code blocks inside lists look ugly. Read the Section 5.10 above. Start the bc! and ec! tags in column 1 of the file, and be careful with indenting the surrounding plain text of the list item correctly. If you cannot resolve the problem this way, get rid of the list and use paragraph headings instead. In fact, that is what is recommended: avoid verbatim code blocks inside lists (it makes life easier).

LATEX code blocks inside lists look ugly. Same solution as for computer code blocks as described in the previous paragraph. Make sure the bt! and et! tags are in column 1 and that the rest of the non-LaTeX surrounding text is correctly indented. Using paragraphs instead of list items is a good idea also here.

## 6.4 Problems with reST/Sphinx Output

Lists do not appear in .rst files. Check if you have a comment right above the list. That comment will include the list if the list is indentend. Remove the comment.

Error message "Undefined substitution..." from reST. This may happen if there is much inline math in the text. reST cannot understand inline LaTeX commands and interprets them as illegal code. Just ignore these error messages.

Warning about duplicate link names. Link names should be unique, but if (e.g.) "file" is used as link text several places in a reST file, the links still work. The warning can therefore be ignorned.

Inconsistent headings in reST. The rst2\*.py and Sphinx converters abort if the headers of sections are not consistent, i.e., a subsection must come under a section, and a subsubsection must come under a subsection (you cannot have a subsubsection directly under a section). Search for ===, count the number of equality signs (or underscores if you use that) and make sure they decrease by two every time a lower level is encountered.

No code environment appears before "bc ipy" blocks. The bc ipy! directive behaves this way for sphinx output because interactive sessions are automatically handled. If this is not appropriate, shift to bc cod! or another specification of the verbatim environment.

#### 6.5 Problems with LATEX Output

Error when running latex: You must 'pygmentize' installed. This points to the used of the Minted style for typesetting verbatim code. You need to run

```
Terminal> latex -shell-escape file
```

if you have run ptex2tex with the -DMINTED option and turned on the use of the Minted style (and therefore pygmentize program).

The LATEX file does not compile. If the problem is undefined control sequence involving

```
{\fontsize{10pt}{10pt}\verb!...!}
```

the cause is usually a verbatim inline text (in back-ticks in the Doconce file) spans more than one line. Make sure, in the Doconce source, that all inline verbatim text appears on the same line.

Inline verbatim gives error. Check if the inline verbatim contains typical LATEX commands, e.g.,

```
some text with '\usepackage{mypack}' is difficult because
ptex2tex will replace this by {\fontsize{10pt}{10pt}\verb!\usepackage{mypack}!} and
then replace this by
{\fontsize{10pt}{10pt}\verb!\usepackage{mypack!}}
which is wrong because ptex2tex applies regex that don't
capture the second }
```

The remedy is to place verbatim LATEX commands in verbatim blocks - that is safe.

Errors in figure captions. Such errors typically arise from unbalanced curly braces, or dollar signs around math, and similar LATEX syntax errors.

(Note that verbatim font is likely to cause trouble inside figure captions, but Doconce will automatically replace verbatim text in back-ticks by a proper texttt command (since verbatim font constructions does not work inside figure captions) and precede underscores by backslash.)

Chapters are ignored. The default LATEX style is "article". If you chapters in the Doconce file, you need to run ptex2tex with the option -DBOOK to set the LATEX documentstyle to "book".

I want to tune the top of the LATEX file. The top of the LATEX file, as generated by Doconce, is very simple. If this LATEX code is not sufficient for your needs, there are two ways out of it:

- 1. Make a little Bash script that performs a series of doconce subst (regular expressions) or doconce replace (regular text) substitutions to change the text automatically (you probably have to repeat these edits so automating them is a good idea).
- 2. Place the title, author(s), and date of the Doconce file in a separate file and use the preprocessor to include the rest. The rest is then one or more Doconce files without title, author(s), and date. This means that the doconce format latex command does not generate the LATEX intro (preamble) and outro, just the core text, for these files. Make a new file by hand with the appropriate LATEX intro and outro text and include the various text pieces in this file. To make the LATEX document, you compile all Doconce files into LATEX code, except the "top" Doconce file that includes the others. That file is not used for LATEX output, but replaced by the hand-written LATEX "top" file.

## 6.6 Problems with gwiki Output

Strange nested lists in gwiki. Doconce cannot handle nested lists correctly in the gwiki format. Use nonnested lists or edit the .gwiki file directly.

Lists in gwiki look ugly in the gwiki source. Because the Google Code wiki format requires all text of a list item to be on one line, Doconce simply concatenates lines in that format, and because of the indentation in the original Doconce text, the gwiki output looks somewhat ugly. The good thing is that this gwiki source is seldom to be looked at - it is the Doconce source that one edits further.

## 6.7 Debugging

Given a problem, extract a small portion of text surrounding the problematic area and debug that small piece of text. Doconce does a series of transformations of the text. The effect of each of these transformation steps are dumped to a logfile, named \_doconce\_debugging.log, if the to doconce format after the filename is debug. The logfile is inteded for the developers of Doconce, but may still give some idea of what is wrong. The section "Basic Parsing Ideas" explains how the Doconce text is transformed into a specific format, and you need to know these steps to make use of the logfile.

## 7 Basic Parsing Ideas

The (parts of) files with computer code to be directly included in the document are first copied into verbatim blocks.

All verbatim and TeX blocks are removed and stored elsewhere to ensure that no formatting rules are not applied to these blocks.

The text is examined line by line for typesetting of lists, as well as handling of blank lines and comment lines. List parsing needs some awareness of the context. Each line is interpreted by a regular expression

```
(?P<indent> *(?P<listtype>[*o-] )? *)(?P<keyword>[^:]+?:)?(?P<text>.*)\s?
```

That is, a possible indent (which we measure), an optional list item identifier, optional space, optional words ended by colon, and optional text. All lines are of this form. However, some ordinary (non-list) lines may contain a colon, and then the keyword and text group must be added to get the line contents. Otherwise, the text group will be the line.

When lists are typeset, the text is examined for sections, paragraphs, title, author, date, plus all the inline tags for emphasized, boldface, and verbatim text. Plain substitutions based on regular expressions are used for this purpose.

The final step is to insert the code and TeX blocks again (these should be untouched and are therefore left out of the previous parsing).

It is important to keep the Doconce format and parsing simple. When a new format is needed and this format is not obtained by a simple edit of the definition of existing formats, it might be better to convert the document to reST and then to XML, parse the XML and write out in the new format. When the Doconce format is not sufficient to getting the layout you want, it is suggested to filter the document to another, more complex format, say reST or LaTeX, and work further on the document in this format.

## 7.1 A Glimpse of How to Write a New Translator

This is the HTML-specific part of the source code of the HTML translator:

```
FILENAME_EXTENSION['html'] = '.html' # output file extension
BLANKLINE['html'] = '\n'
                                              # blank input line => new paragraph
INLINE_TAGS_SUBST['html'] = {
                                              # from inline tags to HTML tags
    # keep math as is:
'math': None, # indicates no substitution

--'\archaein\comp\graphygeuhst><
                         r'\g<begin><em>\g<subst></em>\g<end>',
     'emphasize':
                         r'\g<begin><b>\g<subst></b>\g<end>',
     'bold':
     'verbatim':
                        r'\g<begin><tt>\g<subst></tt>\g<end>'
                         r'\g<begin><a href="\g<url>">\g<link></a>',
     'URL':
                         r'<h1>\g<subst></h1>',
     'section':
     'subsection':
                         r'<h3>\g<subst></h3>',
     'subsubsection': r'<h5>\g<subst></h5>',
                      r'<b>\g<subst></b>. '
     'paragraph':
     'title':
                         r'<title>\g<subst></title>\n<center><h1>\g<subst></h1></center>',
     'date':
                         r'<center><h3>\g<subst></h3></center>',
                         r'<center><h3>\g<subst></h3></center>',
     'author':
# how to replace code and latex blocks by html () environment:
def html_code(filestr):
    c = re.compile(r'^!bc(.*?)\n', re.MULTILINE)
     filestr = c.sub(r'<!-- BEGIN VERBATIM BLOCK \g<1>-->\n', filestr)
     filestr = re.sub(r'!ec\n'
    r'\n<! -- END VERBATIM BLOCK -->\n', filestr)
c = re.compile(r'^!bt\n', re.MULTILINE)
     filestr = c.sub(r'\n', filestr)
     filestr = re.sub(r'!et\n', r'\n', filestr)
return filestr
CODE['html'] = html_code
# how to typeset lists and their items in html:
LIST['html'] = {
     'itemize':
{'begin': '\n\n', 'item': '', 'end': '\n\n'},
     'enumerate': {'begin': '\n\n', 'item': '', 'end': '\n\n'}, 'description':
     {'begin': '\n<dl>\n', 'item': '<dt>%s<dd>', 'end': '</dl>\n\n'},
# how to type set description lists for function arguments, return
# values, and module/class variables:
ARGLIST['html'] = {
    'parameter': '<b>argument</b>',
     'keyword': '<b>keyword argument</b>',
'return': '<b>return value(s)</b>',
'instance variable': '<b>instance variable</b>',
'class variable': '<b>class variable</b>',
'module variable': '<b>module variable</b>',
# document start:
INTRO['html'] = """
<html>
<body bgcolor="white">
# document ending:
OUTRO['html'] = """
</body>
</html>
```

# 7.2 Typesetting of Function Arguments, Return Values, and Variables

As part of comments (or doc strings) in computer code one often wishes to explain what a function takes of arguments and what the return values are. Similarly, it is desired to document class, instance, and module variables. Such arguments/variables can be typeset as description lists of the form listed below and placed at the end of the doc string. Note that argument, keyword argument, return, instance variable, class variable, and module variable are the only legal keywords (descriptions) for the description list in this context. If the output format is Epytext (Epydoc) or Sphinx, such lists of arguments and variables are nicely formatted.

- argument x: x value (float),
   which must be a positive number.
- keyword argument tolerance: tolerance (float) for stopping the iterations.
- return: the root of the equation (float), if found, otherwise None.
- instance variable eta: surface elevation (array).
- class variable items: the total number of MyClass objects (int).
- module variable debug: True: debug mode is on; False: no debugging (bool variable).

The result depends on the output format: all formats except Epytext and Sphinx just typeset the list as a list with keywords.

**module variable x:** x value (float), which must be a positive number.

module variable tolerance: tolerance (float) for stopping the iterations.

## References

- [1] H. P. Langtangen. A Primer on Scientific Programming with Python. Springer, 2009.
- [2] H. Osnes and H. P. Langtangen. An efficient probabilistic finite element method for stochastic groundwater flow. Advances in Water Resources, 22:185–195, 1998.

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