

Doconce: Document Once, Include Anywhere

Author: Hans Petter Langtangen

Date: Sep 13, 2012

- When writing a note, report, manual, etc., do you find it difficult to choose the typesetting format? That is, to choose between plain (email-like) text, wiki, Word/OpenOffice, LaTeX, HTML, reStructuredText, Sphinx, XML, etc. Would it be convenient to start with some very simple text-like format that easily converts to the formats listed above, and then at some later stage eventually go with a particular format?
- Do you need to write documents in varying formats but find it difficult to remember all the typesetting details of various formats like [LaTeX](#), [HTML](#), [reStructuredText](#), [Sphinx](#), and [wiki](#)? Would it be convenient to generate the typesetting details of a particular format from a very simple text-like format with minimal tagging?
- Do you have the same information scattered around in different documents in different typesetting formats? Would it be a good idea to write things once, in one format, stored in one place, and include it anywhere?

If any of these questions are of interest, you should keep on reading.

The Doconce Concept

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 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.

What Does Doconce Look Like?

Doconce text looks like ordinary text, but there are some almost invisible text constructions that allow you to control the formatting. Here are some examples.

- Bullet lists arise from lines starting with an asterisk.
- *Emphasized words* are surrounded by asterisks.
- **Words in boldface** are surrounded by underscores.
- Words from computer code are enclosed in back quotes and then `typeset verbatim (in a monospace font)`.
- Section headings are recognized by equality (=) signs before and after the title, and the number of = signs indicates the level of the section: 7 for main section, 5 for subsection, and 3 for subsubsection.
- Paragraph headings are recognized by a double underscore before and after the heading.
- The abstract of a document starts with *Abstract* as paragraph heading, and all text up to the next heading makes up the abstract,
- Blocks of computer code can easily be included by placing `!bc` (begin code) and `!ec` (end code) commands at separate lines before and after the code block.
- Blocks of computer code can also be imported from source files.
- Blocks of LaTeX mathematics can easily be included by placing `!bt` (begin TeX) and `!et` (end TeX) commands at separate lines before and after the math block.
- There is support for both LaTeX and text-like inline mathematics.
- Figures and movies with captions, simple tables, URLs with links, index list, labels and references are supported.
- Invisible comments in the output format can be inserted throughout the text.
- Visible comments can be inserted so that authors and readers can comment upon the text (and at any time turn on/off output of such comments).
- There is special support for advanced exercises features.
- With a simple preprocessor, Preprocess or Mako, one can include other documents (files) and large portions of text can be defined in or out of the text.
- With the Mako preprocessor one can even embed Python code and use this to steer generation of Doconce text.

Here is an example of some simple text written in the Doconce format:

```
===== A Subsection with Sample Text =====  
label{my:first:sec}
```

Ordinary text looks like ordinary text, and the tags used for `_boldface_` words, `*emphasized*` words, and `'computer'` words look

natural in plain text. Lists are typeset as you would do in an email,

- * item 1
- * item 2
- * item 3

Lists can also have automatically numbered items instead of bullets,

- o item 1
- o item 2
- o item 3

URLs with a link word are possible, as in "hpl":"http://folk.uio.no/hpl". If the word is URL, the URL itself becomes the link name, as in "URL":"tutorial.do.txt".

References to sections may use logical names as labels (e.g., a "label" command right after the section title), as in the reference to Section ref{my:first:sec}.

Doconce also allows inline comments such as [hpl: here I will make some remarks to the text] for allowing authors to make notes. Inline comments can be removed from the output by a command-line argument (see Section ref{doconce2formats} for an example).

Tables are also supported, e.g.,

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

lines beginning with # are comment lines

The Doconce text above results in the following little document:

A Subsection with Sample Text

Ordinary text looks like ordinary text, and the tags used for **boldface** words, *emphasized* words, and computer words look natural in plain text. Lists are typeset as you would do in an email,

- item 1
- item 2
- item 3

Lists can also have numbered items instead of bullets, just use an o (for ordered) instead of the asterisk:

1. item 1
2. item 2
3. item 3

URLs with a link word are possible, as in [hpl](#). If the word is URL, the URL itself becomes the link name, as in [tutorial.do.txt](#).

References to sections may use logical names as labels (e.g., a “label” command right after the section title), as in the reference to the section [A Subsection with Sample Text](#).

Doconce also allows inline comments such as (**hpl**: here I will make some remarks to the text) for allowing authors to make notes. Inline comments can be removed from the output by a command-line argument (see the section [From Doconce to Other Formats](#) for an example).

Tables are also supported, e.g.,

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

Mathematics and Computer Code

Inline mathematics, such as $v = \sin(x)$, allows the formula to be specified both as LaTeX and as plain text. This results in a professional LaTeX typesetting, but in other formats the text version normally looks better than raw LaTeX mathematics with backslashes. An inline formula like $v = \sin(x)$ is typeset as:

$\nu = \sin(x)$ | $v = \sin(x)$

The pipe symbol acts as a delimiter between LaTeX code and the plain text version of the formula.

Blocks of mathematics are better typeset with raw LaTeX, inside `!bt` and `!et` (`begin tex` / `end tex`) instructions. The result looks like this:

```
\begin{align}
\{\partial u \over \partial t\} &= \nabla^2 u + f, \text{label{myeq1}} \\
\{\partial v \over \partial t\} &= \nabla \cdot (q(u) \nabla v) + g \\
\end{align}
```

Of course, such blocks only looks nice in formats with support for LaTeX mathematics, and here the align environment in particular (this includes `latex`, `pdflatex`, `html`, and `sphinx`). The raw LaTeX syntax appears in simpler formats, but can still be useful for those who can read LaTeX syntax.

You can have blocks of computer code, starting and ending with `!bc` and `!ec` instructions, respectively. Such blocks look like:

```
from math import sin, pi
def myfunc(x):
    return sin(pi*x)

import integrate
I = integrate.trapezoidal(myfunc, 0, pi, 100)
```

A code block must come after some plain sentence (at least for successful output to sphinx, rst, and ASCII-close formats), not directly after a section/paragraph heading or a table.

It is possible to add a specification of an environment for typesetting the verbatim code block, e.g., `!bc xxx` where `xxx` is an identifier like `pycod` for code snippet in Python, `sys` for terminal session, etc. When Doconce is filtered to LaTeX, these identifiers are used as in `ptex2tex` and defined in a configuration file `.ptext2tex.cfg`, while when filtering to Sphinx, one can have a comment line in the Doconce file for mapping the identifiers to legal language names for Sphinx (which equals the legal language names for Pygments):

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

By default, `pro` and `cod` are `python`, `sys` is `console`, while `xpro` and `xcod` are computer language specific for `x` in `f` (Fortran), `c` (C), `cpp` (C++), `pl` (Perl), `m` (Matlab), `sh` (Unix shells), `cy` (Cython), and `py` (Python).

One can also copy computer code directly from files, either the complete file or specified parts. Computer code is then never duplicated in the documentation (important for the principle of avoiding copying information!). A complete file is typeset with `!bc pro`, while a part of a file is copied into a `!bc cod` environment. What `pro` and `cod` mean is then defined through a `.ptex2tex.cfg` file for LaTeX and a `sphinx code-blocks` comment for Sphinx.

Another document can be included by writing `#include "mynote.do.txt"` on a line starting with (another) hash sign. Doconce documents have extension `do.txt`. The `do` part stands for doconce, while the trailing `.txt` denotes a text document so that editors gives you the right writing enviroment for plain text.

Macros (Newcommands), Cross-References, Index, and Bibliography

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 LaTeX 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).

Recent versions of Doconce also offer cross referencing, typically one can define labels below (sub)sections, in figure captions, or in equations, and then refer to these later. Entries in an index can be defined and result in an index at the end for the LaTeX and Sphinx formats. Citations to literature, with an accompanying bibliography in a file, are also supported. The syntax of labels, references, citations, and the bibliography closely resembles that of LaTeX, making it easy for Doconce documents to be

integrated in LaTeX projects (manuals, books). For further details on functionality and syntax we refer to the `doc/manual/manual.do.txt` file (see the [demo page](#) for various formats of this document).

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 `mako` or `preprocess` programs are always used to preprocess the file first, and options to `mako` 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"`.

The command-line arguments `--no-preprocess` and `--no-mako` turn off running `preprocess` and `mako`, respectively.

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.

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.

The HTML style is defined in the header of the file. The default style has blue section headings and white background. With the `--html-solarized` command line argument, the [solarized](#) color palette is used.

If the Pygments package (including the `pygmentize` program) is installed, code blocks are typeset with aid of this package. The command-line argument `--no-pygments-html` turns off the use of Pygments and makes code blocks appear with plain (pre) HTML tags. The option `--pygments-html-linenos` turns on line numbers in Pygments-formatted code blocks.

The HTML file can be embedded in a template if the Doconce document does not have a title (because then there will be no header and footer in the HTML file). The template file must contain valid HTML code and can have three “slots”: `%(title)s` for a title, `%(date)s` for a date, and `%(main)s` for the main body of text, i.e., the Doconce document translated to HTML. The title becomes the first heading in the Doconce document, and the date is extracted from the `DATE:` line, if present. With the template feature one can easily embed the text in the look and feel of a website. The template can be extracted from the source code of a page at the site; just insert `%(title)s` and `%(date)s` at appropriate places and replace the main bod of text by `%(main)s`. Here is an example:

```
Terminal> doconce format html mydoc --html-template=mytemplate.html
```

Pandoc and Markdown

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 --toc 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, while the `--toc` option generates a table of contents. See the [Pandoc documentation](#) for the many features of the pandoc program.

Pandoc is useful to go from LaTeX 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 LaTeX 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 making HTML notes with (some) mathematics.

LaTeX

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

Note: putting code blocks inside a list is not successful in many

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 the section [Macros \(Newcommands\)](#), [Cross-References](#), [Index](#), and [Bibliography](#)). 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> 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 macros that 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 font, run:

```
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`.

Preprocessor variables to be defined or undefined are

- `BOOK` for the “book” documentclass rather than the standard “article” class (necessary if you apply chapter headings)
- `PALATINO` for the Palatino font
- `HELVETIA` for the Helvetica font
- `A4PAPER` for A4 paper size
- `A6PAPER` for A6 paper size (suitable for reading on small devices)
- `MOVIE15` for using the `movie15` LaTeX package to display movies
- `PREAMBLE` to turn the LaTeX preamble on or off (i.e., complete document or document to be included elsewhere)
- `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 LaTeX 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 encouraged 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 typesetting 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:

```
Terminal> ptex2tex -DMINTED mydoc
```

In this case, `latex` must be run with the `-shell-escape` option:

```

Terminal> latex -shell-escape mydoc
Terminal> latex -shell-escape mydoc
Terminal> makeindex mydoc      # if index
Terminal> bibitem mydoc       # if bibliography
Terminal> latex -shell-escape mydoc
Terminal> dvipdf mydoc

```

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.

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

```

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

```

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 `unoconv` 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>

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=sphinx_dir \
          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:

```
mkdir sphinx-rootdir
sphinx-quickstart <<EOF
sphinx-rootdir
n
-
Name of My Sphinx Document
Author
version
version
.rst
index
n
y
n
n
n
n
y
n
n
y
y
```

```
Y
EOF
```

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

    mydoc
```

(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.

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.

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.

Demos

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

```
docs/tutorial/tutorial.do.txt
```

The file `make.sh` in the `tutorial` directory of the Doconce source code contains a demo of how to produce a variety of formats. The source of this tutorial, `tutorial.do.txt` is the starting point. Running `make.sh` and studying the various generated files and comparing them with the original `tutorial.do.txt` file, gives a quick introduction to how Doconce is used in a real case. [Here](#) is a sample of how this tutorial looks in different formats.

There is another demo in the `docs/manual` directory which translates the more comprehensive documentation, `manual.do.txt`, to various formats. The `make.sh` script runs a set of translations.

Installation of Doconce and its Dependencies

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:

```
# Doconce
hg clone https://doconce.googlecode.com/hg/ doconce
cd doconce
sudo python setup.py install
cd ..
```

Since Doconce is frequently updated, it is recommended to use the above procedure and whenever a problem occurs, make sure to update to the most recent version:

```
cd doconce
hg pull
hg update
sudo python setup.py install
```

Debian GNU/Linux users can also run:

```
sudo apt-get install doconce
```

This installs the latest release and not the most updated and bugfixed version. On Ubuntu one needs to run:

```
sudo add-apt-repository ppa:scitools/ppa
sudo apt-get update
sudo apt-get install doconce
```

Dependencies

Preprocessors

If you make use of the [Preprocess](#) preprocessor, this program must be installed:

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

A much more advanced alternative to Preprocess is [Mako](#). Its installation is most conveniently done by pip:

```
pip install Mako
```

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* LaTeX 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 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`.

system-message

WARNING/2 in tutorial.rst, line 1014
Duplicate explicit target name: "sphinx".

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:

```
svn co https://epydock.svn.sourceforge.net/svnroot/epydock/trunk/epydock epydock
cd epydock
sudo make install
cd ..
```

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`.