

User's Manual for `oxdoc`

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`oxdoc` is a small software package generating documentation in HTML format from comments in `ox` source code. It is inspired by Sun Microsystems' Javadoc. To use `oxdoc`, the user needs to write comments in `ox` sourcecode in a special format and run the `oxdoc` application to extract these comments and generate a comprehensive HTML (web page) document of the available functions and classes in the original code.

`oxdoc` is free software and comes with ABSOLUTELY NO WARRANTY. You are welcome to redistribute it under certain conditions. See the LICENSE file for distribution details.

1 Installation

1.1 Prerequisites

Since `oxdoc` was written in Java, you should have Java installed on your computer. The Java Runtime Environment (JRE) can be downloaded from www.java.com/getjava. The fact that `oxdoc` is a Java program means that it can in principle be used on any operating system, including Windows and Linux. In this section, the installation process for the Windows 2000 or XP operating systems will be described. For Linux and other operating systems, we will describe the manual installation process which is slightly more complicated.

In order to use \LaTeX generated formulas, a copy of \LaTeX is required as well. A free Windows distribution called MiKTeX can be downloaded from <http://www.miktex.org/>.

`oxdoc` uses a program called `dvipng` to generate PNG (Portable Network Graphics) files from \LaTeX code. The full installation of MiKTeX comes with a version of this programs, but other distributions may not have it readily available. If you use a non-full installation of MiKTeX, make sure to select `dvipng` during the installation.

1.2 Installation on Windows 2000/XP using the Setup program

In order to install `oxdoc`, download `setup-0.975alpha.exe` file from the SourceForge website, run it, and follow the instructions. In order to use \LaTeX formulas, make sure to specify the location of MiKTeX (or any other \LaTeX distribution). The setup program automatically creates a program group in the start menu from which the `oxdoc` graphical user interface is available.

1.3 Manual installation on Windows

Follow the following steps to manually install `oxdoc`:

1. Unzip the package `oxdoc-xxx-bin.zip` into a suitable folder. For example, `c:\program files\oxdoc`.
2. Edit the file `oxdoc.bat` and alter the `oxdoc` variable in this file. This file looks as follows:

```
@echo off
set oxdoc=c:\program files\oxdoc
java -classpath "%oxdoc%\bin\oxdoc.jar;%oxdoc%\bin\jregex.jar" ...
OxDocCmd %*
```

The second line in this file has to point to the directory in which the `oxdoc` files have been unzipped. The same holds for the file `oxdocgui.bat`.

3. Optionally, copy the files `oxdoc.bat` and `oxdocgui.bat` into a folder in the Windows search path, e.g. `c:\windows`. This way, it is possible to run `oxdoc` from any folder in the command prompt.
4. Edit `oxdoc.xml` in the `bin` directory. This file contains general settings for `oxdoc`. See the Configuration section for more information.

To test whether `oxdoc` works, run the batch file `oxdoc.bat` from the command line. It should display a short description of the program options.

1.4 Manual installation on Linux

Follow the following steps to manually install `oxdoc`:

1. Unzip the package `oxdoc-xxx-bin.tar.gz` into a suitable folder. For example, the `oxdoc` folder in your user directory.
2. Edit `oxdoc.xml` in the `bin` directory. This file contains general settings for `oxdoc`. See the Configuration section for more information.

To test whether `oxdoc` works, run the script file `oxdoc` from the `bin` directory. It should display a short description of the program options.

2 Using `oxdoc`

Although `oxdoc` is a command line utility at its core, the easiest way to work with it is to use the graphical user interface (GUI). If you installed `oxdoc` using the setup program in Windows, this interface can be accessed from the Start menu.

2.1 Running `oxdoc`

Using `oxdoc` is rather easy. Generating documentation for an `ox` project requires running `oxdoc` and specifying the names of the files you want to generate documentation from. For example, suppose you have a number of `ox` files in a folder. From there, run

```
oxdoc *.ox
```

from the command prompt in that folder. `oxdoc` generates a set of HTML files, of which `default.html` is the project home file. It also creates a new style sheet file `oxdoc.css`.

It is advisable to specify an output directory for your project. This can be done by creating a new `oxdoc.xml` file in your project directory. See Configuration for more information on that.

2.2 Writing documentation

Now you know how to run `oxdoc`, it's time to write some comments in your code. Documentation comments consist of the normal `ox` comments, but instead of using `/*` and `*/`, we use `/**` and `*/`. Documentation comments must be placed directly above class definitions and function definitions. For example:

```
1  /** The multivariate Normal distribution  $\mathcal{N}(\mu, \Sigma)$ .
2  An instance of a NormalDistribution class generates realizations of a random
3  variable  $X$  with probability density function
4   $f(x) = |\Sigma|^{-1/2} (2\pi)^{-n/2} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2}(x-\mu)'\Sigma^{-1}(x-\mu)\right)$ .
5
6
7  @author Y. Zwols
8
9  @example To generate 20 samples from a standard normal distribution,
10 the following code can be used:
11 <pre>
12 decl Dist = new NormalDistribution(0, 1);
13 decl Z = Dist.Generate(20);
14 </pre>
15 */
16 class NormalDistribution {
17     decl m_vMu, m_mSigma;
18     NormalDistribution(const vMu, const mSigma);
19     virtual Generate(const cT);
20     virtual Dim();
21 }
22
23 /** Create a new instance of the NormalDistribution class with parameters  $\mu$ 
24 and  $\Sigma$ .
25 @param vMu The mean  $\mu$  of the normal distribution
26 @param mSigma The variance/covariance matrix
27 @comments The dimension of the multivariate normal distribution is deduced
28 from the dimensions of the arguments. */
```

```

29 NormalDistribution::NormalDistribution(const vMu, const mSigma) {
30     expectMatrix("vMu", vMu, rows(vMu), 1);
31     expectMatrix("mSigma", mSigma, rows(vMu), rows(vMu));
32     m_vMu = vMu;
33     m_mSigma = mSigma;
34 }
35
36 /** Generate a vector of realizations. The length of the sample is given
37 by the argument cT.
38 @param cT Number of samples
39 **/
40 NormalDistribution::Generate(const cT) {
41     return rann(cT, Dim());
42 }
43
44 /** The dimension of the multivariate normal distribution.
45 @comments This is deduced from the arguments given to the constructor. **/
46 NormalDistribution::Dim() {
47     return rows(m_vMu);
48 }

```

This example shows most of the features. Every documentation block is written between `/**` and `*/` signs; HTML tags can be used, e.g. to add markup, or include images. Also, documentation blocks are divided into small sections by `@` commands. For example, parameters can be described in the `@param` section, and extra comments are given in the `@comments` section.

Also, the first sentence of the comment block is taken as a summary of the documentation block. This first sentence appears in e.g. the project home page and the methods table. `oxdoc` recognizes the first sentence by scanning for a period followed by a white space. This may have some undesired effects when a period in the first sentence doesn't indicate the end of a sentence, e.g. in the sentence

```
This class implements Dr. John's method. It solves linear equations.
```

Here, the part `This class implements Dr.` will be taken as a summary. This can be avoided by placing ` ` (a non-breaking space) just after `Dr.:`

```
This class implements Dr.&nbsp;John's method. It solves linear equations.
```

Moreover, it is possible to include any HTML tag. This may be useful for including of images, or adding more intricate mark up.

2.3 Types of documentation blocks

There are different types of documentation blocks. Depending on the position of the blocks, they are treated differently. The following blocks are available:

- `@author` specifies the author of the file. For usage, see the listing above.
- `@comments` gives comments. For usage, see the listing above.
- `@example` gives an example. For usage, see the listing above.
- `@param` describes a parameter or argument of a function. The first word after the `@param` keyword is treated as the name of the parameter. More than one parameter can be described by adding more `@param` sections.

- `@returns` describes the return value.
- `@see` gives cross references. References have to match the exact name of other entities. Multiple references have to be separated by commas.

```

1  /** Abstract distribution class
2      @see NormalDistribution, UniformDistribution */
3  class Distribution {
4      ...
5  }
```

2.4 Using \LaTeX formulas

Formulas can be inserted by writing them between single or double dollar (\$) signs. For example:

```

1  <pre>
2  /** Calculate the OLS estimates for the model $y = X\beta$.
3      @returns The OLS estimate $\hat{\beta} = (X'X)^{-1}X'y$.
4      */
5  regression(X, y) {
6      return invert(X'X)*X'y;
7  }
8  </pre>
```

Single dollar signs are used for inline formulae, whereas double dollar signs are used for equations on separate lines, analogously to \LaTeX . They are implemented as `align*` environments.

The way `oxdoc` processes these formulas can be changed. There are three options:

1. Plain. The formulas are copied as-is into the HTML text. This is not recommended.
2. \LaTeX . This uses the \LaTeX installation on the computer. If you didn't install `oxdoc` using the setup program, you should specify the location of `latex` and `dvipng` in `oxdoc.xml` (see also the configuration section).
3. MathML.

2.5 Cross-referencing

Making cross references within comments is done by placing a symbol between ' signs. It is important to specify the whole name of the item to be referenced. Global functions and classes are identified by their full names (this is case sensitive!) without arguments, and class methods are identified by the form `classname::method`. For example, if there is a method `isOk()` in the class `Lumberjack`, this method is referenced to by `'Lumberjack::isOk'`. The same holds for the `@see` sections. Note that in `@see` sections, no ' signs should be used.

2.6 Customizing lay-out

The lay-out of `oxdoc`'s output can be controlled by editing the `oxdoc.css` file in your output directory. `Oxdoc` creates a default lay-out file if it is not present, but it won't overwrite changes you make to that file.

3 Configuration

3.1 Location of configuration files

`oxdoc` is configured by means of the file `oxdoc.xml`. `oxdoc` looks for this file at two locations:

1. the directory in which `oxdoc.jar` is located (e.g. `c:\program files\oxdoc\bin`);
2. the current working directory.

Whenever available, settings are loaded from these files in that order. Parameters set in the current working directory configuration file override the general settings in the `oxdoc` folder.

It is a good idea to put computer-specific settings in the `bin` directory and project-specific settings in project directories.

3.2 Lay-out of `oxdoc.xml`

A configuration file looks something like this:

```
<oxdoc>
<option name="latex"      value="c:\texmf\miktex\bin\latex.exe" />
<option name="dvipng"     value="c:\texmf\miktex\bin\dvipng.exe" />
<option name="tempdir"    value="c:\temp\" />
</oxdoc>
```

This file specifies values for three options. More option values can be added to this file as required. See Overview of available settings.

3.3 Command line configuration

It is also possible to specify settings through command line arguments by adding `-parameter=value` to the command line. For example,

```
oxdoc -latex=c:\bin\latex.exe *.ox
```

specifies a value for the `latex` setting. The names of the command line parameters correspond exactly to the settings in `oxdoc.xml`.

3.4 \LaTeX settings

`oxdoc` uses \LaTeX in combination with `dvipng` to generate PNG (Portable Network Graphics) files from formulae within comments. In order to get this working, you'll need a working distribution of \LaTeX (e.g. MiKTeX if you're using Windows) and `dvipng` (which comes with MiKTeX). It is then important to set the paths to the `latex` and `dvipng` executables. It is recommended to do this in the `oxdoc.xml` file in the `bin` directory of your `oxdoc` installation.

At startup, `oxdoc` checks whether it can find the executables required for \LaTeX support. If it can't find one or more of these executables, it automatically turns off \LaTeX support. In that case, formulae are literally written in the output. Turning off \LaTeX support can also be done manually by setting the `enablelatex` setting to `no`.

It is also possible to specify extra \LaTeX packages to be included within formulae. This can be done by specifying the desired packages, separated by commas, in the option `latexpackages`.

3.5 Overview of available settings

The following parameters can be set in a configuration file:

<code>outputdir</code>	Specifies the directory in which <code>oxdoc</code> writes its output. Defaults to the current working directory.
<code>tempdir</code>	Specifies the directory that <code>oxdoc</code> can use for temporary files. Defaults to the current working directory.
<code>projectname</code>	Specifies the name of the project. This name will appear in the project home page.
<code>windowtitle</code>	Specifies the title that will appear in the window caption in your web browser.
<code>imagepath</code>	Specifies the directory in which <code>oxdoc</code> writes its images. Defaults to the specified output directory.
<code>dvipng</code>	Specifies the full path of the executable <code>dvipng</code> . For MiKTeX users, this can be found under the <code>miktex\bin</code> subdirectory of the MiKTeX installation path.
<code>latex</code>	Specifies the full path of the \LaTeX compiler. For MiKTeX users, this can be found under the <code>miktex\bin</code> subdirectory of the MiKTeX installation path.
<code>enablelatex</code>	Turns on or off \LaTeX support. Possible values: <code>yes</code> , <code>no</code> . Default: <code>yes</code> if the required executables can be found.
<code>latexpackages</code>	Specifies what \LaTeX packages should be loaded for inline \LaTeX formulas. These packages are loaded in \LaTeX files through the usual <code>/usepackage...</code> command. Multiple packages can be specified by separating them by commas.