Applied LATEX for Social Science Research

Laboratorio de Investigación para el Desarrollo del Ecuador Syllabus

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Module length: 4 hours Level: Beginner-intermediate

1 Course Description

This short module will introduce the use of the typographic system LaTeX, focusing on its applied use for social science research.

2 Contents

2.1 Introduction to LATEX

- Introduction to LATEX, what is it and what is it for?, what will we see in this course?
- Brief history of LATEX
- Preliminary issues
 - Hardware requirements
 - Installation of T_FX distributions
 - Development environments (IDEs: VS Code, TEXMaker, etc.)
 - Overleaf
 - Identification of keyboard shortcuts and important keycaps

2.2 Creating documents

- Structure
- Simple commands
- Packages
- Document classes
- Basic document formatting
- Text handling

- Alignment
- Lists
- Titles, covers and abstracts
- Indexes
- Headers and footnotes

2.3 Math mode

- Introduction to math mode
- Basic symbols and greek letters
- Equations
- Matrices

2.4 Tables and figures

- Basic tables
- Automated table-making: Excel2LaTeX / Overleaf addins
- Including figures and subfigures
- tikz and pgfplots for plotting

2.5 Bibliography management with LATEX

- $\bullet~$ BibTeX and BibL*TeX
- Zotero integration
- Brief review of Mendeley, Citavi and other integrations
- Citation and bibliography formatting, styling

2.6 Integration with statistical packages

- RMarkdown/Quarto
 - Basic Markdown syntax
 - R code chunks
 - Output formats
 - Use of LATEX
- Presenting data analysis results with R
 - stargazer
 - kableExtra

- modelsummary
- gt and flextable
- Stata
 - estout
 - outreq2

2.7 Advanced topics (if time allows)

- Multi-file projects
- Advanced document formatting with classes
- Cross-referencing
- Presentations with beamer and Quarto
- Version control with Git
- Using LATEX from Word
- Working with Python/Jupyter
- knitr/sweave
- Error debugging
- Codecogs

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