

Applied L^AT_EX for Researchers

Daniel Sánchez Pazmiño, MA

Laboratorio de Investigación para el Desarrollo del Ecuador

February 2025

Math Mode Revisited

Math Mode Revisited

- Math mode is arguably L^AT_EX's most powerful feature
 - However, its syntax often takes some time to master
- Fortunately, tools have been developed to help users write L^AT_EX code more easily
- In this section, we will explore some of these tools

Using AI

- Never ignore AI in your workflows
 - AI will not replace you, someone who knows how to use it will
- ChatGPT can help you with any sort of text generation or syntax question
 - Ask it to generate an equation in L^AT_EX for you
 - Alternatively, you may feed it a picture of an equation and ask it to generate the L^AT_EX code for you
- Writefull AI is Overleaf's own AI assistant
 - Cheaper than ChatGPT, but still not free
- Check out There's an AI for That for more AI tools
 - A quick search yields several other tools, such as LaTeX AI.

Codecogs

- Codecogs is a free online L^AT_EX equation editor
- Following a more “click and drag” approach, it is a good tool for beginners
 - Much like Overleaf’s equation editor, you can click on symbols to add them to your equation
 - It also has a “Copy to Clipboard” button, which makes it easy to paste the equation into your document

Mathpix

- Mathpix is one of the best tools for converting images of equations into L^AT_EX code
- Available as a desktop app, you can take a screenshot of an equation and Mathpix will convert it into L^AT_EX code
 - It also has a mobile app, which is useful for taking pictures of equations in textbooks
- Without spending any money, it will allow you to convert a limited number of equations per month
 - However, the paid version is not expensive

Word Equations

- If for any reason you need to write a Word document with complex equations, you can actually write the equations in L^AT_EX and then convert them to Word format
- This will require you to turn on the “LaTeX” option in the Equation tab, rather than the “Unicode” option.

Creating Bibliographies

Creating Bibliographies

- The bibliography or reference list is a crucial part of any academic paper.
- In L^AT_EX, you can create a bibliography using several different packages
 - natbib, biblatex, and apacite are some of the most popular
 - Each package has its own syntax and features
- In this section, we will focus on biblatex, which is the most modern and flexible of the three
 - The workflow is similar to referencing in Quarto/RMarkdown

Where to store your bibliography

- You can create a bibliography in L^AT_EX on your own, but it is much easier to use a reference manager
 - Zotero, Mendeley, and EndNote are some of the most popular reference managers
- Zotero is free and open-source, and it has a plugin for Word and LibreOffice
 - It also has a plugin for Google Docs, which is useful for collaborative writing
 - Here, we will focus on Zotero
- You can add references to Zotero using the Chrome add-on, or by manually entering them

Loading the package into L^AT_EX

- To use bibl_{at}ex, you need to load the package in the preamble of your document
 - You also need to specify the style of the bibliography
 - The most common styles are `apa`, `mla`, and `chicago`
- A very good guide on citation is on the Overleaf website
 - Bibliography management in L^AT_EX
 - Bibliography management with bibl_{at}ex

Adding the bibliography package biblatex

```
\usepackage[style=apa]{biblatex}
```

- The style option specifies the style of the bibliography
 - The apa style is based on the American Psychological Association's citation style
 - You can find a list of all the available styles in the biblatex documentation
- You also need to specify the .bib file that contains your references

The .bib file

- The .bib file is a plain text file that contains all the references you want to include in your bibliography
 - Each reference is stored in a separate entry
 - The format of the entries is specified by the biblatex package
-
- It follows a L^AT_EX-like syntax, with each entry starting with an @ symbol
 - The type of the entry is specified after the @ symbol
 - The fields of the entry are enclosed in curly braces {}
- Don't try to write the .bib file by hand!
 - Zotero can export your references to a .bib file
 - You only need to put it in the same folder as your .tex file or upload it to Overleaf

The .bib file

```
@article{einstein,  
  author = {Albert Einstein},  
  title = {Zur Elektrodynamik bewegter K{"o"}rper},  
  journal = {Annalen der Physik},  
  volume = {322},  
  number = {10},  
  pages = {891--921},  
  year = {1905},  
  publisher = {Wiley-VCH},  
  doi = {10.1002/andp.200510497}  
}
```

Adding the bibliography file

```
\addbibresource{references.bib}
```

- The `\addbibresource` command specifies the `.bib` file that contains your references
 - You need to put the `.bib` file in the same folder as your `.tex` file or upload it to Overleaf
 - The file extension `.bib` is optional
- You can add multiple `.bib` files to your document
 - Just use the `\addbibresource` command multiple times
- The `\printbibliography` command prints the bibliography in your document

Adding the bibliography

`\printbibliography`

- The `\printbibliography` command prints the bibliography in your document
 - You can specify the title of the bibliography by passing an argument to the command
 - You can also filter the bibliography by passing options to the command
 - The options are specified in square brackets []

Citation commands

- To include a citation in your document, you need to use the `\cite` command
 - The `\cite` command takes the key of the reference you want to cite as an argument
 - You can cite multiple references by separating the keys with commas
 - The `\cite` command prints the citation in the text and adds the reference to the bibliography

Citation commands

```
\cite{einstein}
```

- The `\cite` command takes the key of the reference you want to cite as an argument
 - You can cite multiple references by separating the keys with commas
 - The `\cite` command prints the citation in the text and adds the reference to the bibliography
- The `\textcite` command is similar to the `\cite` command, but it prints the author's name in the text
- The `\parencite` command is similar to the `\cite` command, but it adds parentheses around the citation

Citation commands

```
\textcite{einstein} showed that \ldots
```

```
\parencite{einstein}
```

```
\cite{einstein}
```

```
\cite{einstein,dirac}
```

```
\cite{einstein,dirac,bohr}
```

Exporting from statistical software to L^AT_EX

Exporting from statistical software to L^AT_EX

- If you are using statistical software to analyze your data, you can export the results to L^AT_EX
 - This is useful if you want to include tables, figures, or other output in your document
 - Most statistical software packages have built-in support for exporting to L^AT_EX
- Here, we will focus on how to export tables from R and Stata to L^AT_EX
 - Both have packages that make it relatively easy to export tables to L^AT_EX

The export environment in R

- Many options exist for exporting tables from R to L^AT_EX
 - `stargazer` is likely the most known package for exporting tables to L^AT_EX
 - However, `modelsummary` is a more modern and flexible package
- Other packages, such as `kableExtra`, `xtable`, and `huxtable`, can also be used to export tables to L^AT_EX
 - `kableExtra` is particularly useful for creating complex tables with formatting

An example with stargazer

- We export the mtcars dataset to a L^AT_EX table using stargazer

```
library(stargazer)

data(mtcars)

stargazer(mtcars,
          type = "latex",
          summary = T,
          title = "Descriptive Statistics")
```

Knitr/Sweave

Final Comments