4.1 Basic Citation Commands

\citet
\citep

The `natbib` package has two basic citation commands, `\citet` and `\citep` for *textual* and *parenthetical* citations, respectively. There also exist the starred versions `\citet*` and `\citep*` that print the full author list, and not just the abbreviated one. All of these may take one or two optional arguments to add some text before and after the citation.

`\citet{jon90}`	$\Rightarrow$	Jones et al. (1990)
`\citet[chap.~2]{jon90}`	$\Rightarrow$	Jones et al. (1990, chap. 2)
`\citep{jon90}`	$\Rightarrow$	(Jones et al., 1990)
`\citep[chap.~2]{jon90}`	$\Rightarrow$	(Jones et al., 1990, chap. 2)
`\citep[see][]{jon90}`	$\Rightarrow$	(see Jones et al., 1990)
`\citep[see][chap.~2]{jon90}`	$\Rightarrow$	(see Jones et al., 1990, chap. 2)
`\citet*{jon90}`	$\Rightarrow$	Jones, Baker, and Williams (1990)
`\citep*{jon90}`	$\Rightarrow$	(Jones, Baker, and Williams, 1990)

The starred versions can only list the full authors if the `.bst` file supports this feature; otherwise, the abbreviated list is printed.

In standard LaTeX, the `\cite` command can only take a single optional text for a note after the citation; here, a single optional text is a post-note, while two are the pre- and post-notes. To have only a pre-note, it is necessary to provide an empty post-note text, as shown above.

Multiple citations may be made as usual, by including more than one citation key in the `\cite` command argument. *If adjacent citations have the same author designation but different years, then the author names are not reprinted.*

`\citet{jon90,jam91}`	$\Rightarrow$	Jones et al. (1990); James et al. (1991)
`\citep{jon90,jam91}`	$\Rightarrow$	(Jones et al., 1990; James et al. 1991)
`\citep{jon90,jon91}`	$\Rightarrow$	(Jones et al., 1990, 1991)
`\citep{jon90a,jon90b}`	$\Rightarrow$	(Jones et al., 1990a,b)

These examples are for author–year citation mode. In numerical mode, the results are different.

`\citet{jon90}`	$\Rightarrow$	Jones et al. [21]
`\citet[chap.~2]{jon90}`	$\Rightarrow$	Jones et al. [21, chap. 2]
`\citep{jon90}`	$\Rightarrow$	[21]
`\citep[chap.~2]{jon90}`	$\Rightarrow$	[21, chap. 2]
`\citep[see][]{jon90}`	$\Rightarrow$	[see 21, 1990]
`\citep[see][chap.~2]{jon90}`	$\Rightarrow$	[see 21, chap. 2]
`\citep{jon90a,jon90b}`	$\Rightarrow$	[21, 32]

The authors can only be listed if the `.bst` file supports author–year citations. The standard `.bst` files, such as `plain.bst` are numerical only and transfer no author–year information to LaTeX. In this case, `\citet` prints "**(author?)** [21]."

\cite

In the original versions of `natbib`, the traditional `\cite` command was used for both textual and parenthetical citations. The presence of an empty optional