

This is My First L^AT_EX Document

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1 Quick Introduction

First document. This is a simple example, with no extra parameters or packages included.

This is second paragraph. A bit short but no body is perfect and I am nobody.

This is the third paragraph that I wrote wholeheartedly without much thought or in fact any thought at all.

There are currently Title, Author, and Date in this first L^AT_EX document!

Not a comment anymore, and now we know % indicates comment in L^AT_EX.

Just as I thought, new line or paragraph will end the comment command. Great and very intuitive!

This is how to **bold**, *italic*, and underline text in L^AT_EX. We can combine it to our heart contents.

For example this is how to ***bold, italic, and underline*** text all at once!

Emphasis is another great text format. If used in *normal text*, it will *italicized* it. If used in ***bold text***, it will ***bold and italicized it***. If used in *italic text*, it will present it as normal text.

Note: some packages, such as Beamer, change the behaviour of the \emph command. We can use \ to avoid escape character. E.g. &, { and } as well as at the end of \ to introduce space afterwards.

2 Adding Image

You need to upload images to your Overleaf project first before embedding it. \usepackage{graphicx}: L^AT_EX package to import graphics in preamble. \graphicspath{{images/}}: In preamble, it configures the graphicx package filepath. It is recommended to create a directory name images in the working directory. \includegraphics {imageName}: In body. it loads the imageName. Although the full file name, including its extension, is allowed in the \includegraphics command, it's considered best practice to omit the file extension because it will prompt L^AT_EX to search for all the supported formats. Here's an example an image by uploading it from local machine to Overleaf:

Generally, the graphic's file name should not contain white spaces or multiple dots; it is also recommended to use lowercase letters for the file



Figure 1: Hex logo.



Figure 2: PulseX logo.

extension when uploading image files to Overleaf. Usage of camelCase for imageName is also recommended. Here's another example of image by URL:

Another method of adding image amongst other options is inserting an image with cross-reference in the paragraph completed with page number where it is positioned. As you can see in Figure 3 and this image can be found on page 5.

There are several noteworthy commands in the example:

`\includegraphics`

width = 0.5\textwidth

{PulseChain}: This form of `\includegraphics` instructs \LaTeX to set the figure's width to 50% of the text width—whose value is stored in the `\textwidth` command.



Figure 3: Pulsechain logo.

`\caption{Pulsechain logo.}`: As its name suggests, this command sets the figure caption which can be placed above or below the figure. If you create a list of figures this caption will be used in that list.

`\label{fig:Pulsechain logo.}`: To reference this image within your document you give it a label using the `\label` command. The label is used to generate a number for the image and, combined with the next command, will allow you to reference it.

`\ref{fig:Pulsechain logo.}`: This code will be substituted by the number corresponding to the referenced figure.

Images incorporated in a \LaTeX document should be placed inside a figure environment, or similar, so that \LaTeX can automatically position the image at a suitable location in your document.

Further guidance is contained in the following Overleaf help articles [Positioning of Figures](#) and [Inserting Images](#).

3 Creating lists in \LaTeX

You can create different types of list using *environments*, which are used to encapsulate the \LaTeX code required to implement a specific typesetting feature. An *environment* starts with `\beginenvironment-name` and ends with

`\endenvironment-name` where *environment-name* might be `figure`, `tabular` or one of the list types: **`itemize`** for unordered lists or **`enumerate`** for ordered lists.

3.1 Unordered lists

```
% The verbatim environment is used to write LaTeX syntax without
processing it.
\begin{itemize}
  \item The individual entries are indicated with a black dot, a
    so-called bullet.
  \item The text in the entries may be of any length.
\end{itemize}
```

The output will be as follows:

- The individual entries are indicated with a black dot, a so-called bullet.
- The text in the entries may be of any length.

3.2 Ordered lists

Ordered lists use the same syntax as unordered lists but are created using the `enumerate` environment:

```
\begin{enumerate}
  \item This is the first entry in our list.
  \item The list numbers increase with each entry we add.
\end{enumerate}
```

The output will be:

1. This is the first entry in our list.
2. The list numbers increase with each entry we add.

As with unordered lists, each entry must be preceded by the `\item` command which, here, automatically generates the numeric ordered-list label value, starting at 1. For further information, refer to:

- Demonstrating various types of LaTeX list
- Comprehensive List Styles in L^AT_EX

4 Writing Code Syntax in L^AT_EX

Inline code for L^AT_EX syntax with **WYSIWYG** method can be achieved by using `\textbackslash` command. For *code block*, we can use the *verbatim environment* to write L^AT_EX syntax as a *code block* in L^AT_EX and ignore the L^AT_EX commands. The *verbatim environment* is used to display text exactly as it is written, without interpreting any L^AT_EX commands.

Here's an example of how to use the *verbatim environment*:

```
\begin{verbatim}
This is an example of the verbatim environment.
It can be used to display LaTeX code without interpreting any
commands.
For example, \textbf{this} will not be bold.
\end{verbatim}
```

Alternatively, you can also use the *lstlisting environment* provided by the *listings package*, which is a powerful package for typesetting source code in L^AT_EX documents. It has many options for customization, including syntax highlighting. User can import `\usepackage{listings}` in the **preamble**.

```
\begin{lstlisting}[language=TeX]
This is an example of the lstlisting environment.
It can also be used to display LaTeX code without interpreting
any commands.
For example, \textbf{this} will not be bold.
\end{lstlisting}
```

The output will be:

```
This is an example of the lstlisting environment.
It can also be used to display LaTeX code without inter-
preting any commands.
For example, \textbf{this} will not be bold.
```

4.1 Code Block for Other Programming & Tech Languages

User can include many other programming languages as well as tech languages such as Markdown and etc pp. We can use bash language as alter-

native to *verbatim environment* and *lstlisting environment* which looks more professional as well. Refer to these lists for further information:

1. Code Listing in L^AT_EX
2. Code Highlighting with *minted environment*

5 Adding math to L^AT_EX

One of the main advantages of L^AT_EX is the ease with which mathematical expressions can be written. L^AT_EX provides two writing modes for typesetting mathematics:

inline math mode used for writing formulas that are part of a paragraph
display math mode used to write expressions that are not part of a text or paragraph and are typeset on separate lines.

5.1 Inline Math Mode

Here's an example of how to write inline math:

```
\documentclass[12pt, letterpaper]{article}
\begin{document}
In physics, the mass-energy equivalence is stated
by the equation  $E=mc^2$ , discovered in 1905 by Albert Einstein.
\end{document}
```

The output will be:

In physics, the mass-energy equivalence is stated by the equation $E = mc^2$, discovered in 1905 by Albert Einstein. *InlineMathFormula*.

To typeset inline-mode math you can use one of these delimiter pairs: (\dots) , $\$ \dots \$$ or $\begin{math} \dots \end{math}$, as demonstrated in the following example:

```
\begin{math}
E=mc^2
\end{math}
```

is typeset in a paragraph using inline math mode---as is $E=mc^2$, and so too is $(E=mc^2)$.

and the output is:

$E = mc^2$ is typeset in a paragraph using inline math mode—as is $E = mc^2$, and so too is $E = mc^2$.

5.2 Display math mode

Equations typeset in display mode can be numbered or unnumbered, as in the following example:

```
\documentclass[12pt, letterpaper]{article}
\begin{document}
The mass-energy equivalence is described by the famous equation
\[ E=mc^2 \] discovered in 1905 by Albert Einstein.
```

In natural units ($c = 1$), the formula expresses the identity

```
\begin{equation}
E=m
\end{equation}
\end{document}
```

and the output:

The mass-energy equivalence is described by the famous equation

$$E = mc^2$$

discovered in 1905 by Albert Einstein.

In natural units ($c = 1$), the formula expresses the identity

$$E = m \tag{1}$$

To typeset display-mode math you can use one of these delimiter pairs: `\[... \]`, `\begin{displaymath} ... \end{displaymath}` or `\begin{equation} ... \end{equation}`. Historically, typesetting display-mode math required use of `$$` characters delimiters, as in `$$... display math here ... $$`, but this method is no longer recommended: use L^AT_EX's delimiters `\[... \]` instead.

5.3 More Math Examples

This subsection demonstrates more range of mathematical content typeset using L^AT_EX.

```
\documentclass{article}
\begin{document}
Subscripts in math mode are written as  $a_b$  and superscripts
```

are written as a^b . These can be combined and nested to write expressions such as

```
\[ T^{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p}_{j_1 j_2 \dots j_q} = T(x^{i_1}, \dots,
x^{i_p}, e_{j_1}, \dots, e_{j_q}) \]
```

We write integrals using \int and fractions using $\frac{a}{b}$. Limits are placed on integrals using superscripts and subscripts:

```
\[ \int_0^1 \frac{dx}{e^x} = \frac{e-1}{e} \]
```

Lower case Greek letters are written as ω δ etc. while upper case Greek letters are written as Ω Δ .

Mathematical operators are prefixed with a backslash as $\sin(\beta)$, $\cos(\alpha)$, $\log(x)$ etc.
 $\end{document}$

These produce the output:

Subscripts in math mode are written as a_b and superscripts are written as a^b . These can be combined and nested to write expressions such as

$$T_{j_1 j_2 \dots j_q}^{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p} = T(x^{i_1}, \dots, x^{i_p}, e_{j_1}, \dots, e_{j_q})$$

or

$$T_{j_1 j_2 \dots j_q}^{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p} = T(x^{i_1}, \dots, x^{i_p}, e_{j_1}, \dots, e_{j_q}) \quad (2)$$

We write integrals using \int and fractions using $\frac{a}{b}$. Limits are placed on integrals using superscripts and subscripts:

$$\int_0^1 \frac{dx}{e^x} = \frac{e-1}{e}$$

or

$$\int_0^1 \frac{dx}{e^x} = \frac{e-1}{e} \quad (3)$$

Lower case Greek letters are written as ω δ etc. while upper case Greek letters are written as Ω Δ .

Mathematical operators are prefixed with a backslash as $\sin(\beta)$, $\cos(\alpha)$, $\log(x)$ etc.

The next example uses the `equation*` environment which is provided by the `amsmath` package, so we need to add the following line to our document preamble:

```
\usepackage{amsmath}% For the equation* environment
```

For further information on using `amsmath` see the help article.

```
\documentclass{article}
\usepackage{amsmath}% For the equation* environment
\begin{document}
\section{First example}
```

The well-known Pythagorean theorem $(x^2 + y^2 = z^2)$ was proved to be invalid for other exponents, meaning the next equation has no integer solutions for $(n > 2)$:

```
\[ x^n + y^n = z^n \]
```

```
\section{Second example}
```

This is a simple math expression $(\sqrt{x^2+1})$ inside text.
And this is also the same:

```
\begin{math}
\sqrt{x^2+1}
\end{math}
```

but by using another command.

This is a simple math expression without numbering
$$\sqrt{x^2+1}$$

separated from text.

This is also the same:

```
\begin{displaymath}
\sqrt{x^2+1}
\end{displaymath}
```

```

\ldots and this:
\begin{equation*}
\sqrt{x^2+1}
\end{equation*}
\\end{document}

```

which outputs:

5.3.1 First example

The well-known Pythagorean theorem $x^2 + y^2 = z^2$ was proved to be invalid for other exponents, meaning the next equation has no integer solutions for $n > 2$:

$$x^n + y^n = z^n$$

5.3.2 Second example

This is a simple math expression $\sqrt{x^2 + 1}$ inside text. And this is also the same: $\sqrt{x^2 + 1}$ but by using another command.

This is a simple math expression without numbering

$$\sqrt{x^2 + 1}$$

separated from text.

This is also the same:

$$\sqrt{x^2 + 1}$$

... and this:

$$\sqrt{x^2 + 1}$$

The possibilities with math in L^AT_EX are endless so be sure to visit the help pages for advice and more examples on specific topics:

- Mathematical expressions
- Subscripts and superscripts
- Brackets and Parentheses

- Fractions and Binomials
- Aligning Equations
- Operators
- Spacing in math mode
- Integrals, sums and limits
- Display style in math mode
- List of Greek letters and math symbols
- Mathematical fonts

6 Basic document structure

Next, we explore abstracts and how to partition a \LaTeX document into different chapters, sections and paragraphs.

6.1 Abstracts

Scientific articles usually provide an abstract which is a brief overview/summary of their core topics, or arguments. The next example demonstrates typesetting an abstract using \LaTeX 's abstract environment:

```
\documentclass{article}
\begin{document}
\begin{abstract}
This is a simple paragraph at the beginning of the
document. A brief introduction about the main subject.
\end{abstract}
\end{document}
```

This example produces the following output:

Abstract

This is a simple paragraph at the beginning of the document. A brief introduction about the main subject.

6.2 Paragraphs and new lines

With the abstract in place, we can begin writing our first paragraph. The next example demonstrates:

how a new paragraph is created by pressing the "enter" key twice, ending the current line and inserting a subsequent blank line; how to start a new line without starting a new paragraph by inserting a manual line break using the `\\` command, which is a double backslash; alternatively, use the `\newline` command. The third paragraph in this example demonstrates use of the commands `\\` and `\newline`:

```
\documentclass{article}
\begin{document}
```

```
\begin{abstract}
```

This is a simple paragraph at the beginning of the document. A brief introduction about the main subject.

```
\end{abstract}
```

After our abstract we can begin the first paragraph, then press "enter" twice to start the second one.

This line will start a second paragraph.

I will start the third paragraph and then add `\\` a manual line break which causes this text to start on a new line but remains part of the same paragraph. Alternatively, I can use the `\verb|\newline|\newline` command to start a new line, which is also part of the same paragraph.

```
\end{document}
```

which outputs:

Abstract

This is a simple paragraph at the beginning of the document. A brief introduction about the main subject.

After our abstract we can begin the first paragraph, then press "enter" twice to start the second one.

This line will start a second paragraph.

I will start the third paragraph and then add a manual line break which causes this text to start on a new line but remains part of the same paragraph. Alternatively, I can use the `\newline` command to start a new line, which is also part of the same paragraph.

Note how \LaTeX automatically indents paragraphs—except immediately after document headings such as section and subsection—as we see here.

New users are advised that multiple `\\` or `\newlines` should not be used to “simulate” paragraphs with larger spacing between them because this can interfere with \LaTeX ’s typesetting algorithms. The recommended method is to continue using blank lines for creating new paragraphs, without any `\\`, and load the `parskip` package by adding `\usepackage{parskip}` to the preamble.

Further information on paragraphs can be found in the following articles:

- Paragraphs and new lines
- How to change paragraph spacing in \LaTeX
- \LaTeX Error: There’s no line here to end provides additional advice and guidance on using `\\`.

6.3 Chapters and sections

Longer documents, irrespective of authoring software, are usually partitioned into parts, chapters, sections, subsections and so forth. \LaTeX also provides document-structuring commands but the available commands, and their implementations (what they do), can depend on the document class being used. By way of example, documents created using the `book` class can be split into parts, chapters, sections, subsections and so forth but the `letter` class does not provide (support) any commands to do that.

This next example demonstrates commands used to structure a document based on the `book` class:

```
\documentclass{book}
\begin{document}

\chapter{First Chapter}
```

```
\section{Introduction}
```

This is the first section.

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Etiam lobortis facilisis sem. Nullam nec mi et neque pharetra sollicitudin. Praesent imperdiet mi nec ante. Donec ullamcorper, felis non sodales...

```
\section{Second Section}
```

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Etiam lobortis facilisissem. Nullam nec mi et neque pharetra sollicitudin. Praesent imperdiet mi nec ante...

```
\subsection{First Subsection}
```

Praesent imperdiet mi nec ante. Donec ullamcorper, felis non sodales...

```
\section*{Unnumbered Section}
```

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Etiam lobortis facilisissem...

```
\\end{document}
```

This example produces the following output:

Chapter 1

First Chapter

1.1 Introduction

This is the first section.

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Etiam lobortis facilisis sem. Nullam nec mi et neque pharetra sollicitudin. Praesent imperdiet mi nec ante. Donec ullamcorper, felis non sodales...

1.2 Second Section

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Etiam lobortis facilisis sem. Nullam nec mi et neque pharetra sollicitudin. Praesent imperdiet mi nec ante...

1.2.1 First Subsection

Praesent imperdiet mi nec ante. Donec ullamcorper, felis non sodales...

Unnumbered Section

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Etiam lobortis facilisis sem...

The names of sectioning commands are mostly self-explanatory; for example, `\chapter{First Chapter}` creates a new chapter titled First Chapter, `\section{Introduction}` produces a section titled Introduction, and so forth. Sections can be further divided into `\subsection{...}` and even `\subsubsection{...}`. The numbering of sections, subsections etc. is automatic but can be disabled by using the so-called starred version of the appropriate command which has an asterisk (*) at the end, such as `\section*{...}` and `\subsection*{...}`.

Collectively, L^AT_EX document classes provide the following sectioning commands, with specific classes each supporting a relevant subset:

```
\part{part}
\chapter{chapter}
\section{section}
```

```

\subsection{subsection}
\subsubsection{subsubsection}
\paragraph{paragraph}
\subparagraph{subparagraph}

```

In particular, the `\part` and `\chapter` commands are only available in the report and book document classes. For more information about document structure commands, feel free to visit [article about sections and chapters](#).

7 Creating tables

The following examples show how to create tables in \LaTeX , including the addition of lines (rules) and captions.

7.1 Creating a basic table in \LaTeX

We start with an example showing how to typeset a basic table:

```

\begin{center}
\begin{tabular}{c c c}
cell1 & cell2 & cell3 \\
cell4 & cell5 & cell6 \\
cell7 & cell8 & cell9
\end{tabular}
\end{center}

```

which produces:

cell1	cell2	cell3
cell4	cell5	cell6
cell7	cell8	cell9

The `tabular` environment is the default \LaTeX method to create tables. You must specify a parameter to this environment, in this case `{c c c}` which advises \LaTeX that there will be three columns and the text inside each one must be centred. You can also use `r` to right-align the text and `l` to left-align it. The alignment symbol `&` is used to demarcate individual table cells within a table row. To end a table row use the new line command `\\`. Our table is contained within a `center` environment to make it centred within the text width of the page.

7.2 Adding borders

The tabular environment supports horizontal and vertical lines (rules) as part of the table:

to add horizontal rules, above and below rows, use the `\hline` command
to add vertical rules, between columns, use the vertical line parameter `—`
In this example the argument is `—c—c—c—` which declares three (centred) columns each separated by a vertical line (rule); in addition, we use `\hline` to place a horizontal rule above the first row and below the final row:

```
\begin{center}  
\begin{tabular}{|c|c|c|}  
  \hline  
  cell1 & cell2 & cell3 \\  
  cell4 & cell5 & cell6 \\  
  cell7 & cell8 & cell9 \\  
  \hline  
\end{tabular}  
\end{center}
```

The output is:

cell1	cell2	cell3
cell4	cell5	cell6
cell7	cell8	cell9

Here is a further example:

```
\begin{center}  
\begin{tabular}{||c c c c||}  
  \hline  
  Col1 & Col2 & Col2 & Col3 \\\ [0.5ex]  
  \hline\hline  
  1 & 6 & 87837 & 787 \\  
  \hline  
  2 & 7 & 78 & 5415 \\  
  \hline  
  3 & 545 & 778 & 7507 \\  
  \hline  
\end{tabular}  
\end{center}
```

```

4 & 545 & 18744 & 7560 \\
\hline
5 & 88 & 788 & 6344 \\ [1ex]
\hline
\end{tabular}
\end{center}

```

which output:

Col1	Col2	Col2	Col3
1	6	87837	787
2	7	78	5415
3	545	778	7507
4	545	18744	7560
5	88	788	6344

Tip!

Creating tables in \LaTeX can be time-consuming so you may want to use the TablesGenerator.com online tool to export \LaTeX code for tabulars.

7.3 Captions, Labels and References

You can caption and reference tables in much the same way as images. The only difference is that instead of the figure environment, you use the table environment.

Table `\ref{table:data}` shows how to add a table caption and reference a table.

```

\begin{table}[h!]
\centering
\begin{tabular}{||c c c c||}
\hline
Col1 & Col2 & Col2 & Col3 \\ [0.5ex]
\hline\hline
1 & 6 & 87837 & 787 \\
2 & 7 & 78 & 5415 \\
3 & 545 & 778 & 7507 \\
4 & 545 & 18744 & 7560 \\
5 & 88 & 788 & 6344 \\ [1ex]
\end{tabular}
\end{table}

```

```

\hline
\end{tabular}
\caption{Table to test captions and labels.}
\label{table:data}
\end{table}

```

The output is:

Table 1 shows how to add a table caption and reference a table.

Col1	Col2	Col2	Col3
1	6	87837	787
2	7	78	5415
3	545	778	7507
4	545	18744	7560
5	88	788	6344

Table 1: Table to test captions and labels.

8 Adding a Table of Contents

Creating a table of contents is straightforward because the command `\tableofcontents` does almost all the work for you:

```

\documentclass{article}
\title{Sections and Chapters}
\author{Gubert Farnsworth}
\date{August 2022}
\begin{document}

\maketitle

\tableofcontents

\section{Introduction}

```

This is the first section.

```

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing
elit. Etiam lobortis facilisis sem. Nullam nec mi et
neque pharetra sollicitudin. Praesent imperdiet mi nec ante.
Donec ullamcorper, felis non sodales...

```

```

\section*{Unnumbered Section}
\addcontentsline{toc}{section}{Unnumbered Section}

```

```

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit.
Etiam lobortis facilisis sem. Nullam nec mi et neque pharetra
sollicitudin. Praesent imperdiet mi nec ante...

```

```

\section{Second Section}

```

```

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit.
Etiam lobortis facilisis sem. Nullam nec mi et neque pharetra
sollicitudin. Praesent imperdiet mi nec ante...
\end{document}

```

with the output as seen in this document’s TOC after `\maketitle` command.

Sections, subsections and chapters are automatically included in the table of contents. To manually add entries, such as an unnumbered section, use the command `\addcontentsline` as shown in the commandline example above.

9 Finding and Using L^AT_EX Packages

L^AT_EX not only delivers significant typesetting capabilities but also provides a framework for extensibility through the use of add-on packages. Rather than attempting to provide commands and features that “try to do everything”, L^AT_EX is designed to be extensible, allowing users to load external bodies of code (packages) that provide more specialist typesetting capabilities or extend L^AT_EX’s built-in features—such as typesetting tables. As observed in the section Adding images, the `graphicx` package extends L^AT_EX by providing commands to import graphics files and was loaded (in the preamble) by writing `\usepackage{graphicx}` command.

9.1 Loading Packages

As noted above, packages are loaded in the document preamble via the `\usepackage` command but because (many) \LaTeX packages provide a set of options, which can be used to configure their behaviour, the `\usepackage` command often looks like this:

```
\usepackage[options]{somepackage}
```

The square brackets “[...]” inform \LaTeX which set of options should be applied when it loads `somepackage`. Within the set of options requested by the user, individual options, or settings, are typically separated by a comma; for example, the `geometry` package provides many options to configure page layout in \LaTeX , so a typical use of `geometry` might look like this:

```
\usepackage[total={6.5in,8.75in},  
top=1.2in, left=0.9in, includefoot]{geometry}
```

The `geometry` package is one example of a package written and contributed by members of the global \LaTeX community and made available, for free, to anyone who wants to use it.

If a \LaTeX package does not provide any options, or the user wants to use the default values of a package’s options, it would be loaded like this:

```
\usepackage{somepackage}
```

When you write `\usepackage[...] {somepackage}` \LaTeX looks for a corresponding file called *somepackage.sty*, which it needs to load and process—to make the package commands available and execute any other code provided by that package. If \LaTeX cannot find *somepackage.sty* it will terminate with an error, as demonstrated in the following Overleaf example:

10 Finding Information about Packages: CTAN

Packages are distributed through the Comprehensive TeX Archive Network, usually referred to as CTAN, which, at the time of writing, hosts 6287 packages from 2881 contributors. CTAN describes itself as

... a set of Internet sites around the world that offer TEX-related material for download.

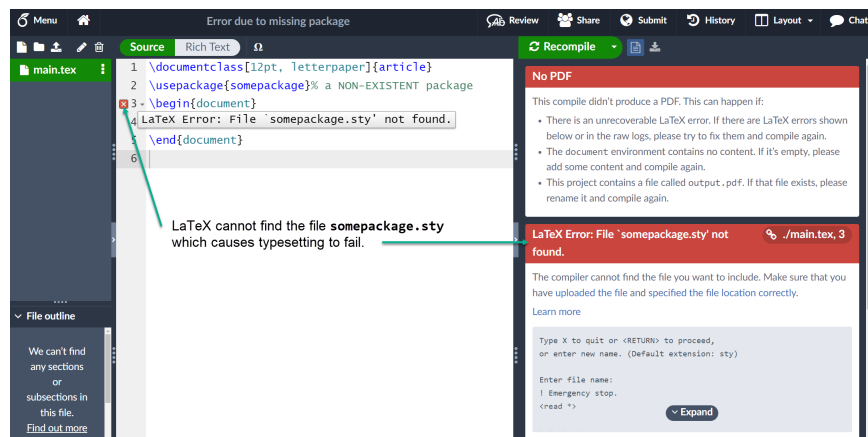


Figure 4: Package fails to load.

You can browse CTAN to look for useful packages; for example:

- by topic
- alphabetically (useful if you know the package name)
- You can also use the search facility (at the top of the page).

Packages available on Overleaf: Introducing T_EXLive

Once per year a (large) subset of packages hosted on CTAN, plus L^AT_EX-related fonts and other software, is collated and distributed as a system called T_EXLive, which can be used to install your own (local) L^AT_EXsetup. In fact, Overleaf’s servers also use T_EXLive and are updated when a new version of TeX Live is released. Overleaf’s T_EXLive updates are not immediate but take place a few months post-release, giving us time to perform compatibility tests of the new T_EXLive version with the thousands of templates contained in our gallery. For example, here is our T_EXLive 2020 upgrade announcement.

Although T_EXLive contains a (large) subset of CTAN packages it is possible to find an interesting package, such as `igo` for typesetting Go diagrams, which is hosted on CTAN but not included in (distributed by) T_EXLive and thus unavailable on Overleaf. Some packages hosted on CTAN are not part of T_EXLive due to a variety of reasons: perhaps a package is obsolete, has licensing problems, is extremely new (recently uploaded) or has platform dependencies, such as working on Windows but not Linux.

New packages, and updates to existing ones, are uploaded to CTAN all year round but updates to T_EXLive are distributed annually; consequently, packages contained in the current version of T_EXLive will not be as up-to-date as those hosted on CTAN. Because Overleaf’s servers use T_EXLive it is possible that packages installed on our servers—i.e., ones available to our users—might not be the very latest versions available on CTAN but, generally, this is unlikely to be problematic.