Introduction to LaTeX

Harvey Gould

Clark University, Department of Physics, Worcester, MA 01610 and Boston University, Department of Physics, Boston, MA 02215 (Dated: 16 June 2013)

We give a brief introduction to the use of LATEX in the context of REVTeX 4.1.

I. INTRODUCTION

LATEX looks more difficult than it is. It is almost as easy as π . See how easy it is to make special symbols such as α , β , γ , δ , $\sin x$, \hbar , λ , We also can make subscripts, A_x , A_{xy} , and superscripts, e^x , e^{x^2} , and e^{a^b} . We will use LATEX, which is based on TeX and has many higher-level commands (macros) for formatting, making tables, etc. More information can be found in Refs. 1 and 2.

We just made a new paragraph. Extra lines and spaces make no difference. Note that all formulas are enclosed by \$ and occur in math mode.

The default font is Computer Modern. It includes *italics*, **boldface**, *slanted*, and monospaced fonts.

II. EQUATIONS

Let us see how easy it is to write equations.

$$\Delta = \sum_{i=1}^{N} w_i (x_i - \bar{x})^2. \tag{1}$$

It is a good idea to number equations, but we can have a equation without a number:

$$P(x) = \frac{x - a}{b - a},$$

and

$$g = \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{2\pi}.$$

We can give an equation a label so that we can refer to it later.

$$E = -J \sum_{i=1}^{N} s_i s_{i+1}, \tag{2}$$

Equation (2) expresses the energy of a configuration of spins in the Ising model.³

We can define our own macros to save typing. For example, suppose that we introduce the macros:

\newcommand{\lb}{{\langle}}
\newcommand{\rb}{{\rangle}}

Then we can write the average value of x as

\begin{equation}

 $\l \ x \ rb = 3$

 $(1) \ \end{equation}$

The result is

$$\langle x \rangle = 3. \tag{3}$$

Examples of more complicated equations:

$$I = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x) \, dx. \tag{4}$$

We can do some fine tuning by adding small amounts of horizontal spacing:

We also can align several equations:

$$a = b \tag{5}$$

$$c = d, (6)$$

or number them as subequations:

$$a = b \tag{7a}$$

$$c = d. (7b)$$

We can also have different cases:

$$m(T) = \begin{cases} 0 & (T > T_c) \\ (1 - [\sinh 2\beta J]^{-4})^{1/8} & (T < T_c), \end{cases}$$
(8)

write matrices

$$\mathbf{T} = \begin{pmatrix} T_{++} & T_{+-} \\ T_{-+} & T_{--} \end{pmatrix},$$

$$= \begin{pmatrix} e^{\beta(J+B)} & e^{-\beta J} \\ e^{-\beta J} & e^{\beta(J-B)} \end{pmatrix}.$$
 (9)

and

$$\sum_{i} \vec{A} \cdot \vec{B} = -P \int \mathbf{r} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{n}} \, dA = P \int \vec{\nabla} \cdot \mathbf{r} \, dV. \quad (10)$$

III. TABLES

Tables are a little more difficult. TeX automatically calculates the width of the columns.

lattice	d	q	$T_{ m mf}/T_c$
square	2	4	1.763
triangular	2	6	1.648
simple cubic	3	6	1.330
bcc	3	8	1.260
fcc	3	12	1.225

TABLE I. Comparison of mean-field predictions for the critical temperature of the Ising model with exact results and the best known estimates for different dimensions and lattice symmetries.

IV. LISTS

Some example of formatted lists include the following:

- 1. bread
- 2. cheese
- TomDick

V. FIGURES

We can make figures bigger or smaller by scaling them. Figure 1 has been scaled by 60%.

VI. LITERAL TEXT

It is desirable to print program code as it is typed in a monospaced font. Use \begin{verbatim} and \end{verbatim} as in the following example:

double y0 = 10; // example of declaration and assignment double v0 = 0; // initial velocity

\vspace{1pc}

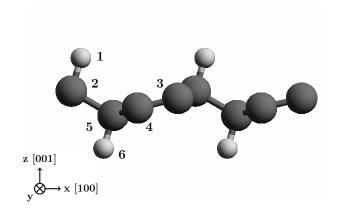


FIG. 1. Show me a sine.

double t = 0; // time
double dt = 0.01; // time step
double y = y0;

Order of magnitude:

$$\log_{10} f \simeq n \tag{14}$$

$$f(x) \sim 10^n \tag{15}$$

Approximate equality:

$$f(x) \simeq g(x) \tag{16}$$

I♣T_EX is simple if we keep everything in proportion:

$$f(x) \propto x^3. \tag{17}$$

Finally we can skip some space by using com-

The command \verbatiminput{programs/Squarenadasuch as allows you to list the file Square.java in the \bigskip

directory programs.

The space can be negative.

VII. SPECIAL SYMBOLS

A. Common Greek letters

These commands may be used only in math mode. Only the most common letters are included here.

VIII. USE OF COLOR

We can change colors for emphasis, but who is going pay for the ink?

IX. SUBFIGURES

$\alpha, \beta, \gamma, \Gamma, \delta, \Delta, \epsilon, \zeta, \eta, \theta, \Theta, \kappa, \lambda, \Lambda, \mu, \nu, \xi, \Xi, \pi, \Pi, \rho, \sigma, \tau, \phi, \Phi, \chi, \psi, \Psi, \omega, \Omega$

B. Special symbols

The derivative is defined as

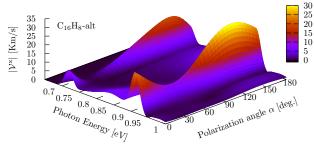
$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \lim_{\Delta x \to 0} \frac{\Delta y}{\Delta x}$$

$$f(x) \to y$$
 as $x \to x_0$

$$f(x) \xrightarrow[x \to x_0]{} y$$

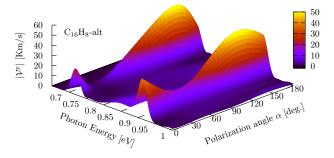
As soon as many users start becoming comfortable using LATEX, they want to use some of its advanced features. So we will show you how to place two figures side by side.

- (11) We first have to include the package, \usepackage{subfigure}, which has to go in
- (12) the preamble (before \begin{document}). It sometimes can be difficult to place a figure in
- (13) the desired place.



Your LaTeX document can be easily modified to make a poster or a screen presentation similar to (and better than) PowerPoint. Conversion to HTML is straightforward.

(a) Real and imaginary.



(b) Amplitude and phase.

FIG. 2. Two representations of complex wave functions.

 $^{^2}$ Some useful links are given at .

³ REVTeX 4.1 places the footnotes in the bibliography. It is necessary to run BibTEX for footnotes to appear.