

A whole-grain thesis:
Letting a Hello-World seed grow
inside Git into a LaTeX template rich
in minerals and vitamins

Master thesis in TeX genesis

by

Felix Caligula Doolittle

Advisor: Dr. A. Hammurabi

Korreferent: Prof. Dr. I. Asimov

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Institute of Cuneiform
University of Babylon

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Abstract

This LaTeX thesis template begins simple and I am going to let it grow and get more complex step by step. I am sharing this template in the form of a Git repository, thus as a reader you can trace back the growth commit by commit. I want to write useful commit messages, so you can take them each time as a short description of what was added.

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Chapter 1

Let's begin with text

Now we would of course like to see and read a few lines of text set by TeX. How are the line breaks distributed? What variety of word distances will we get? For instance, it should already now become visible, that in the English version according to Anglo-Saxon tradition a wider word gap is used behind the period at the end of a sentence as compared to the surrounding word spaces. In the German typesetting tradition spaces behind full stops are left the same as the other spaces in the line.

Next, we would like to see how paragraphs are handled by Tex. This here is a new and very short paragraph induced by empty lines in the source code before and after it.

Rubbing our nose further across the text we might discover other interesting details, for example automatic hyphenation which TeX does for you dynamically. Word separation is easier to provoke in the German version where the language allows infinite word combinations. Ligatures are yet another interesting detail, it is the merging of letters, for example the first pairs of letters in the words "fish" & "fly". Of course, you first have to compile a document from the source code in order to be able to see these things, but it's easy in any Linux console, just type "pdflatex thesis.tex".

For example, for example e. g. this abbreviation reveals a first problem: TeX is tricked into adding the larger space behind the period. What can we do about that? It is also not nice if a line break happens to separate abbreviation initials. Readability will surely suffer. Let's get back to these things later.

1.1 Sections and subsections

The above title is a section title.

1.1.1 Sections and subsections

The above title is a subsection title.

Sections and subsections

The above title is a sub-sub-section title.

1.2 Bullet points and other listings

Here is a first quick list of useful resources and tools:

- the website ctan.org, where you can quickly learn what different packages are for
- "The Not So Short Introduction To LaTeX 2e" by Tobias Oetiker, Hubert Partl, Irene Hyna, Elisabeth Schlegl (search for `lshort.pdf`)
- Kile – a nice LaTeX editor for Linux
- MiKTeX – provides a nice editor and package administration for Windows

with dashes instead of bullet points:

- virus
- bacterium

counted:

1. virus as vector
2. lipid membrane droplet as vector

nested:

- viruses
 - Coronavirus
 - Adenovirus
- bacteria
 - Streptococcus
 - Staphylococcus

the word itself used as item symbol:

bacterium breathes, feeds, lives

virus no metabolism, does not live, created as assembled kit by living cells

Chapter 2

Math in the text

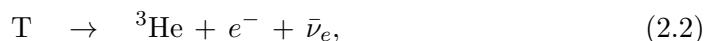
The Mach number $M = v/c$ is the ratio between the local fluid velocity and the speed of sound and can often be taken as an indicator for the transition between different physical regimes. In the case of imploding cavitation bubbles the low-Mach regime ($\dot{R} \ll c$) means that there are no sharp pressure gradients inside or outside the bubble. But when the interface speed \dot{R} approaches, or exceeds, the speed of sound in the gas or liquid phase the situation changes and gradients or even shock waves will arise.

The chances of missing the best quarter of cases n times in a row is the basis when calculating the probability P of getting something from within the best quarter once among the n trials:

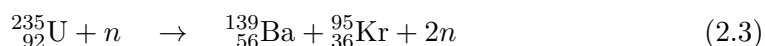
$$P = 1 - \left(\frac{3}{4}\right)^n \quad (2.1)$$

Numbers with units: We would like to see to things avoided, on the one hand line breaks between number and unit, on the other hand a stretching of the space in between in sparsely filled lines. The package **siunitx** can help us. Here one of the problems: a long travel distance of 325 km length. And this is how the alternative with **siunitx** works: The covered distance should be between 300 and 350 km at the end. As with any other package, you can discover many more tips and tricks after fetching the docs from ctan.org and scrolling quickly through the pages. Als examples \$1.99/kg and $1.345 \frac{\text{C}}{\text{mol}}$.

Isotopes: Radioactive decays can also be expressed in the form of equations. Here the decay of tritium as example



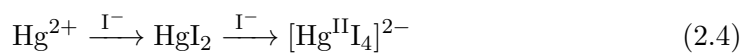
whereby, the package **isotope** is used for typesetting ${}^3\text{He}$. As another example one possible variant of the neutron-induced fission of uranium-235



depicting besides the mass number also the atomic number, i.e. the number of protons in the core.

Chemical formulae: Two most important drivers of anthropogenic climate warming are CO_2 and CH_4 . The Package **mhchem** provides the short command `\ce`

allowing to write simple (`\ce{H2O}` turns into H_2O) or more complicated (`\ce{[\{(X2)3\}2]^3+}` turns into $[\{(X_2)_3\}_2]^{3+}$) formulae. Grabbing the example of a reaction equation from the package docs, `\ce{Hg^{2+} ->[I-] HgI2 ->[I-] [Hg^{II}I4]^{2-}}`, we can compile again and convince ourselves that it works out just fine:



The letters of dsfont: The "ds" in the name stands for "double-stroke". Real math fans know immediately what to do and write things like $\mathbb{N} \subset \mathbb{Z} \subset \mathbb{Q} \subset \mathbb{R} \subset \mathbb{C}$.