

LaTeX Basics

Viktor Dmitriyev

Adapted from Mini Course on LaTeX by [David Diez](#)

Outline

- Intro to LaTeX interface
- Working with text
- Tabbing and tables
- Figures

Installing LaTeX

Windows Installation. Download proTeXt, which can be found on <http://www.tug.org/protext/>¹. LaTeX can be accessed via TeXnicCenter, which is included in this installation.

Mac Installation. Download MacTeX, which can be found on <http://www.tug.org/mactex/>. LaTeX can then be accessed via the program TeXShop, which is included in this installation.

¹Another option: <http://www.winshell.de/>. (Winshell and MikTeX)

Installing LaTeX

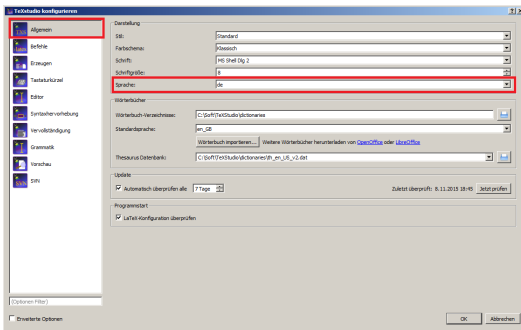
- Be careful that the distributive with LaTeX are very big. Use instead your own disk copy.
- Despite interfaces for Mac, Windows, and Linux are different, the same LaTeX “code” must works under all operating systems.
- There are many tools available to edit LaTeX files (actually any text editor can do that). But it order to make things easier here we are going to use TeXStudio (<http://www.texstudio.org/>).

Changing Interface Language of TexStudio

After installation TexStudio will use **standard** language of operating systems for user interface. To change language you need to navigate to proper panel and select the one you prefer:

English: *Option* → *Configure TeXstudio* → *General* → *Language*

German: *Optionen* → *TeXstudio konfigurieren* → *Allgemein* → *Sprache*

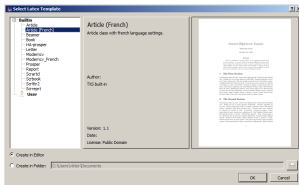


Creating a basic document

In order to start working with LaTeX you will need template of document. You can use given one (usually conferences or book has their own LaTeX templates), you standard one or create your own template.

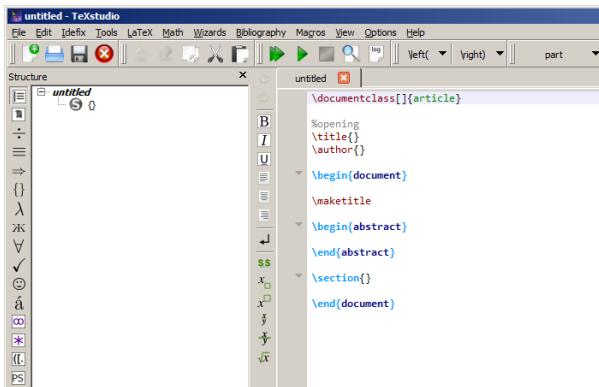
Open a file. Use **File > New** or **Ctrl+N** to open a new document if one isn't already open.

Templates. Use **File > New From Template.**



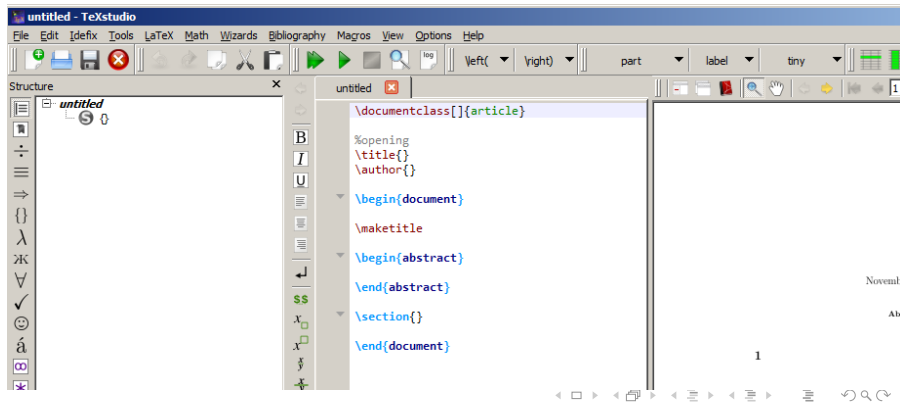
Creating a basic document

Update the `\title`, `\author`, and then type a sentence above the last line, i.e. type right above `\end{document}`. Create a folder on the desktop and then save this file into that folder.



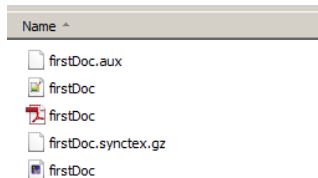
Typesetting / Compiling

Different tools use different shortcuts to translate LaTeX file into PDF. Hit **F5** or click the green **Play** button at the top panel. After typesetting, double-click on the PDF page to magnify. Try triple-clicking... and quadruple-clicking.



Extra files

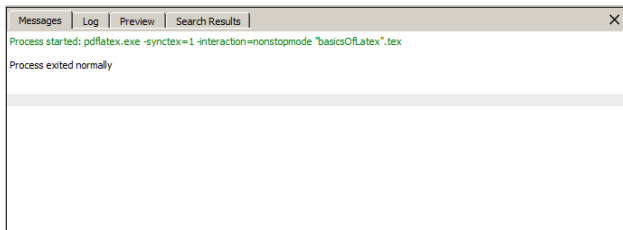
Compilation creates a bunch of other files.



While each of these files has a purpose, only one file – in addition to the original LaTeX file – is of interest: the PDF. As more methods of LaTeX are used, this list of LaTeX output files might grow... but again, they (except the .tex and .pdf files) can just be ignored for the vast majority of LaTeX use.

Console

When the code was typeset, two windows popped up. The **console** tells you what LaTeX is doing when it runs through the document. If there is an error (or just something LaTeX doesn't like), the console will tell you. If the error is critical, LaTeX will stop compiling:



While it is always good to fix the problem immediately (hit **Goto Error**), some errors can be ignored by hitting **return** on the keyboard.

Errors are inevitable

Errors are common in LaTeX. To help identify errors, it is recommended that you typeset frequently. Typeset every few sentences to verify your output matches what you anticipated. You can keep working while LaTeX processes your document.

Common errors that will make more sense as we go along...

- Misspelling a command
- Not escaping special characters
- Not balancing {braces}
- Not balancing \$'s
- Not balancing out beginning/ending environments (e.g. `\begin{document}` and `\end{document}`)

Commenting

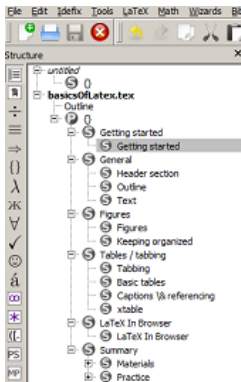
Return to the basic file you just created. What's with all the red (or gray in Windows)? These are comments, which is writing that will be ignored by LaTeX. Comments are made by using the percent symbol: **%**.

```
text text text text text text text text text text text text text text text
text text text text text text text text text text text text text text text
% 92rj9/ ^\ U(Q/ * U/@# (*U{QFK<GS... this would be ignored...
%   even though it is nonsense
text text text text text text text text text text text text text text text
text text text text text text text text text text text text text text text
```

Any text following a **%** on *that line only* will be ignored by LaTeX.

Navigation panel

In TeXStudio has a very nice feature such as navigation panel.



This can be very useful when writing or editing a long document.

Example template

Download the following zipped folder to your desktop

<https://github.com/vdmitriyev/latex-intro/archive/master.zip>

Open template file **latexTemp**. You can find mentioned file inside unzipped folder under LaTeX_Basics/documents/latexTemp path.

Some notable contents:

- Sample document (**latexTemp.tex**)
- PDF of this presentation
- **figures** folder
- **figures** folder
- UCLA thesis template files: **uclathes-1.2** and **uclathesUse**

latexTemp.tex follows the most of this presentation and is filled with examples and extra comments. Open this file now.

Document type

The first command in every LaTeX document is the `\documentclass` command, which basically says what kind of document you are making.

```
\documentclass[11pt]{article}
```

The default is the `article` class.

Other classes: `letter`, `beamer` (presentations), `book`. Examples and help can be found online for these other classes.

Alter `[11pt]` to change the default font size for the document, if desired.

Packages

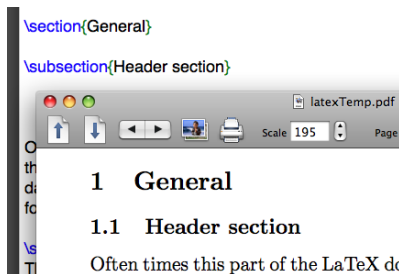
Packages supply extra features and are generally free. They are always loaded at the start of the document.

```
\usepackage{geometry}  
\geometry{letterpaper}  
\usepackage{graphicx}  
\usepackage{amssymb}  
\usepackage{epstopdf}  
\usepackage{amsmath}  
\usepackage{color}
```

Many common packages are included in a LaTeX installations, however, many other packages are not. Additional packages can be downloaded and installed, as needed.

Sections and subsections

Documents are often broken up into sections and subsections, and this hierarchy will automatically be numbered by LaTeX.



Paragraphs

To end a paragraph and create a new one, do a double “**enter**” and this creates a line break.

To put an extra line space between paragraphs, use the `\\` command followed by a double line break in the `.tex` document.

A new paragraphs can be created simply by creating two blank lines between between the text. For instance, this paragraph is ended by hitting “enter” twice (see the `.tex` document)...

This is not a new paragraph...

But this is a new paragraph. If an extra space is desired between paragraphs, use the double-backslash command and hit “enter” twice... `\\`

The PDF will now insert a space between the last paragraph and this one. `\\`

Indentation and space

Indentation. To create an indent use `\indent`, and to prevent an indent use `\noindent`. Indenting can be suppressed via `\setlength{\parindent}{0in}`.

Space. To create horizontal space, use `\hspace{1cm}`. Similarly, use the `\vspace{0.5cm}` command, or to add extra space after a line break (more than the default), use `\\[1cm]`. Negative distances may also be used.

Playing with the font

Emphasize (italicize). Use the command `\emph`, e.g. `\emph{emphasize}`, to *emphasize* (italicize) a single word.

More manipulation. Text can also be **bolded** via `\textbf` or **colored** via `{\color{red}colored}` (need package `color`). Font can be made to look typewriterish via `\texttt`.

Font size. Text can also be made tiny, scriptsize, footnotesize, small, large, **Large**, **LARGE**, etc. via `\tiny`, `\scriptsize`, etc.

Lists

Lists can be created via

```
\begin{itemize}  
\item Spacing  
\item Text  
\item Macros  
\end{itemize}
```

which results in a bulleted list such as the following:

- Spacing
- Text
- Macros

A couple additional examples are in [latexTemp.tex](#).

Practice - 01

Write two short paragraphs that includes a few words or phrases that have been *italicized* and also some that have been **bolded**.

What should you do if you want a line break between the paragraphs? What if you only want the second paragraph indented?

Add the package `color` and add color to some of your text. For instance, try `{\color{red}}`Some text that will be colored red.}

Basic figures

Add figures using the `\includegraphics` command.

```
\includegraphics[lower40]{% no extension needed
% can easily control the size of the image
\includegraphics[height=1.0in]{figures/lower82/lower82}
```

The first file is stored in the same folder as the LaTeX file. The second is a couple folders away.

The files and folder names used should have no spaces.

`[height=1.0in]` is an optional argument to control the figure size.

Figure centering

Just like tables, a figure can be centered:

```
\begin{center}
\includegraphics[height=1.0in]{figures/lower82/lower82}
\end{center}

\begin{figure}[htbp]
  \centering % another method to center the figure
  \includegraphics[height=2.0in]{figures/lower82/lower82}
\end{figure}
```

How does the second method look similar to the floating tables?
(This is a floating figure.)

Adding a caption and referencing

Just like in the floating `table` environment, a floating figure can have a caption and reference.

```
\begin{figure}[htbp]
  \centering
  \includegraphics[height=2.0in]{figures/figureTemplate}
  \caption{Where to find your figure template.}
  \label{figureTemplate}
\end{figure}
```

Just like with tables, the `\label` command must come after the `\caption` command for the reference to work properly.

Figure~`\ref{figureTemplate}` is where to find your figure template.

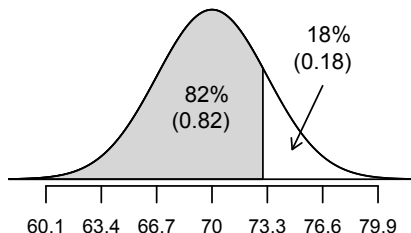
Keeping organized

Some tips to keeping organized when using LaTeX:

- One LaTeX document per folder.
- When choosing a `\label` name for a figure, have it match the figure file name.
- Organize figure files into folders.
- If you use code to produce a figure, save it to the same folder as the figure and with the same name (but a different extension, of course).
- Remember, no spaces in file or folder names.

Practice - 02

Using the image in [latexTemp/figures/lower82/](#), produce the following plot. Make it 0.8 inches tall, center it, add a caption, and add a reference. Be sure to write a sentence that references the Figure and compile your LaTeX document twice so the reference works.



Feel free to utilize examples in [latexTemp.tex](#) or to use the LaTeX Float Figure template.

Tabbing

Like in other text editors, LaTeX offers tabbing. While this environment tends to rarely be used, it can be very useful under particular conditions.

Test Name	Description	Total number of trials
Fixed Size	Upon collection of the data, if $ Z_k \geq 1.96$ stop, reject H_0 otherwise stop, DNR H_0 .	$n_f(\alpha, \beta, \delta, \sigma^2)$
Pocock	After group $k = 1, \dots, K - 1$ if $ Z_k \geq C_P(K, \alpha)$ stop, reject H_0 otherwise continue testing, after group K (the last group) if $ Z_K \geq C_P(K, \alpha)$ stop, reject H_0 otherwise stop, DNR H_0 .	$n_f R_P(K, \alpha, \beta)$

See [latexTemp.tex](#) for a brief introduction to tabbing and a few examples.

Basic tables

Tables are created using the `tabular` environment. The `{lcr}` gives the alignment. The ampersands (`&`) are used to define when to go to the next column.

```
\begin{tabular}{lcr}
  Left & Center & Right \\
  1    & 2        & 3    \\
\end{tabular}
```

The `\\` command tells LaTeX to start a new row.

The result:

Left	Center	Right
1	2	3

Centering and adding lines

Building the table up:

```
\begin{center} % center the table
\begin{tabular}{l|rrrr} % the second 'l' is a vertical bar
\hline % add a horizontal line here
& Estimate & Std. Error & t value & Pr(>|t|) \\
\hline
(Intercept) & -0.2852 & 0.8434 & -0.34 & 0.7452 \\
x & 0.4192 & 0.1499 & 2.80 & 0.0266 \\
\hline
\end{tabular}
\end{center}
```

The result:

	Estimate	Std. Error	t value	Pr(> t)
(Intercept)	-0.2852	0.8434	-0.34	0.7452
x	0.4192	0.1499	2.80	0.0266

Floating table with a caption

To add a caption or label, the table must be *float*ed (i.e. add on the `table` environment). Then `\caption` can be used:

```
\begin{table}[htbp]
% [htbp] pushes the table to different spots on the page
% [all the LaTeX from the last slide]
\caption{A regression summary.}
\end{table}
```

The output:

	Estimate	Std. Error	t value	Pr(> t)
(Intercept)	-0.2852	0.8434	-0.34	0.7452
x	0.4192	0.1499	2.80	0.0266

Table: A regression summary.

The table is numbered when a caption is added in the `article` document class.

Referencing

Suppose we are writing a document and refer to Table 4 in our text. Two days later, we decide to add another table earlier in the document. Now Table 4 is actually Table 5 and we need to change all the 4s to 5s (and 5s to 6s, and so on).

Instead, we tag each table with a unique label. We reference the label, not the number.

```
\caption{A regression summary.}
\label{regressTable}
\end{table}
```

`\label{regressTable}` labels the table and then this table can be referenced using the LaTeX code `Table~\ref{regressTable}`.

Using the R package xtable

Inside R:

```
> library(xtable) # may need install.packages('xtable')
> x <- 1:9
> z <- rnorm(9)
> y <- x/7 + z*2 + rnorm(9)
> xtable(summary(lm(y ~ x+z)))
... output that can be copied/pasted into LaTeX ...
```

R output directly copied/pasted into LaTeX:

	Estimate	Std. Error	t value	Pr(> t)
(Intercept)	-0.1563	0.6243	-0.25	0.8107
x	0.1094	0.1145	0.96	0.3760
z	2.6170	0.4308	6.08	0.0009

Practice - 03

Produce the following result:

	mean	sd	n
S1	6.5	1.3	17
S2	12.2	1.4	25

Some examples may be utilized in `latexTemp.tex`.

Usage LaTeX in Browser

Besides using LaTeX on desktops, there is a great possibility to bring the same experience into browsers. Benefits of using LaTeX (especially math/equation part) directly inside browsers is hard to overestimate.

LaTeX in Web - Tools

Number of software tools and libraries are available to deal with LaTeX directly in browser.

- [MathJax](#) - Most popular JavaScript library
- [KaTeX](#) - JavaScript library from Khan Academy
- ...

LaTeX in Web - Examples

- papeeria - Online LaTeX Editor (Free and easy)
- Interactive LaTeX Editor
- MathJax Live Demo
- Jupyter Notebook (former IPython)

Materials

Tools

- [LaTeX Tables Generator](#)
- [LaTeX Table Editor](#)

Books, Articles

- *Guide to LaTeX*, by Helmut Kopka and Patrick W. Daly
- [Getting something out of LATEX](#), by Jim Hefferon

Online materials

- [Tutorial for "Beginners"](#)
- [Getting Started with LaTeX](#)
- [Getting Started with TeX, LaTeX, and Friends](#)
- [Getting to Grips with LaTeX](#)
- [LaTeX cheat sheet](#)

Practice - Summary

Write a 2 page document in LaTeX (or transfer another document not in LaTeX into LaTeX).

Your document must include following artefacts:

- 2 or more sections with at least one subsection
- couple of paragraphs
- at least one figure
- at least one table
- text references using `\label` to the figure and table