Getting started with \LaTeX

November 21, 2001

1. My first \LaTeX session

1. Login.
   Username: cs\textit{student number}
   Password: CS223 (you can later change your password using the command \texttt{passwd})

2. Open a command tool (terminal emulation). Klick on the corresponding icon (a black monitor with a shell).

3. Start the editor \texttt{emacs} (recommended) and load a file.
   \texttt{emacs \textit{filename}.tex &}
   (type this in the command tool; the effect of `&' is to run the process in the background, so the command tool will be free for further use).

4. Edit your first \LaTeX document. An example of a very simple \LaTeX document is:

   \begin{verbatim}
   \documentclass[12pt]{article}
   \begin{document}
   My first latex document.
   \end{document}
   \end{verbatim}

   You find examples of a \LaTeX files under the addresses
   \url{http://www-compsci.swan.ac.uk/~csulrich/ftp/latex/sample.tex}
   \url{http://www-compsci.swan.ac.uk/~csulrich/ftp/latex/la.tex} (this document)
   It is recommended to use Emacs’ spell-checker (see Reference Card).

5. Save your file. Use the menu in your \texttt{emacs} buffer (Files, Save buffer), or the \texttt{Emacs Reference Card}.

6. Run \LaTeX.
   \texttt{latex \textit{filename}}
   (type this in your command tool). If an error occurs, type \texttt{q} or \texttt{x}, try to fix the error and run \LaTeX again.

7. Preview.
   \texttt{x\texttt{dvi} \textit{filename} &}
   (type this in your command tool)

8. Printing. First the file \textit{filename}.dvi has to be translated into a postscript file:
   \texttt{dvips \textit{filename}.dvi}.
   This generates the file \textit{filename}.ps which can be viewed by
   \texttt{ghostview \textit{filename}.ps &}.
   In the window appearing you may click on File, Print, Okay.

p.l.o.
8. **Generating a pdf-file.** You can translate the ps-file into a pdf-file by typing
ps2pdf filename.ps.

This generates the file filename.pdf which can be viewed, for example in Netscape. Type, for example, in Netscape:

http://www-compsci.swan.ac.uk/~csmulrich/ftp/latex/la.pdf
to view this document.

## 2 Some Linux commands

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>command</th>
<th>short description</th>
<th>usage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>cd</td>
<td>change directory</td>
<td>cd subdirectory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>cd .. (go to parent directory)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>cd (go to your home directory)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cp</td>
<td>copy file</td>
<td>cp [path1]file1 [path2]file2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>cp [path1]file [path2]: (the dot replaces file)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ls</td>
<td>list the content of a directory</td>
<td>ls [-l] [-a] (try it out)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>man</td>
<td>manual</td>
<td>man command</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mkdir</td>
<td>make directory</td>
<td>mkdir new directory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>more</td>
<td>show the content of a file</td>
<td>more file</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>passwd</td>
<td>change password</td>
<td>try it out (the directory must be empty)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ps</td>
<td>list the current processes</td>
<td>ps [-l] [-a] (try it out)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pwd</td>
<td>print working directory</td>
<td>try it out</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rm</td>
<td>remove file</td>
<td>rm file</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rmdir</td>
<td>remove directory</td>
<td>rmdir directory</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please report any errors in this document, or suggestions for improvement to u.berger@swansea.ac.uk