Getting started with LaTeX

November 1, 2004

1 My first LaTeX session

1. **Login.**
   Username: cs*student number*
   Password:

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

3. **Start the editor emacs (recommended) and load a file.**
   `emacs` *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).
   Alternatively open Xemacs
   `xemacs` *filename*`.tex &`

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

   ```
   \documentclass[12pt]{article}

   \begin{document}

   My first latex document.

   \end{document}
   ```

   You can find examples of a LaTeX files at
   `http://www-compsci.swan.ac.uk/~csetzer/tutorials/latex.html`
   (including this document)
   It is recommended to use Emacs' spell-checker (see Reference Card).

5. **Save your file.** Use the menu in your emacs buffer (Files, Save buffer), or the Emacs Reference Card.

6. **Run LaTeX.**
   `latex` *filename*
   (type this in your command tool). If an error occurs, type `q` or `X`, try to fix the error and run LaTeX again.

7. **Preview.**
   `xdvi` *filename* `&`
   (type this in your command tool)

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

p.t.o.

2 Some Linux commands

command	short description	usage (expressions in square brackets are optional)
cd	change directory	cd *subdirectory* cd .. (go to parent directory) cd (go to your home directory)
cp	copy file	cp [*path1*]*file1* [*path2*]*file2* cp [*path1*]*file* [*path2*]. (the dot replaces *file*)
ls	list the content of a directory	ls [-l] [-a] (try it out)
man	manual	man *command*
mkdir	make directory	mkdir *new directory*
more	show the content of a file	more *file*
passwd	change password	try it out (the directory must be empty)
ps	list the current processes	ps [-l] [-a] (try it out)
pwd	print working directory	try it out
rm	remove file	rm *file*
rmdir	remove directory	rmdir *directory*