Outline

1 Why \LaTeX?
   - Introduction
   - The big idea
   - Advantages of using \LaTeX?
   - Using \LaTeX?

2 Examples
   - First attempts
   - Environments
   - Documentclass
   - Errors

3 Useful information
   - History
   - Tables
   - Avoid common errors
   - Internet resources
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http://users.ox.ac.uk/~sjb  
Introduction to \LaTeX for physicists
Outline

1 Why \textsc{LaTeX}?
   - Introduction
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   - Advantages of using \textsc{LaTeX}?
   - Using \textsc{LaTeX}?

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This is an attempt to give you some information to get you started in using the \LaTeX\ Document Preparation System.

Further details can be obtained elsewhere, in particular from the main reference for \LaTeX\ which is *The \LaTeX\ User’s guide and Reference Manual* by Leslie Lamport, and also from the internet resources shown at the end.

This lecture is designed to be introductory.

This presentation will be available on my website.
\LaTeX{} is a “professional typesetting system”, and not a “botched together word processor”.

- Rather than encourage you to dictate exactly how your document should be laid out, \LaTeX{} instructions allow you describe its \textit{logical structure}.
- You concentrate on the logic of your document, \LaTeX{} can concentrate on the typesetting.
There are a number of good reasons for concentrating on the logical structure rather than on the appearance of a document.

- It prevents you from making elementary typographical errors in the mistaken idea that they improve the aesthetics of a document. The primary function of document design is to make documents easier to read, not prettier.

- It is more flexible, since you only need to alter the definition of some particular type of structure and this will change the appearance of all appearances of that structure in a document.
Logical design encourages better writing.

- A visual system makes it easier to create visual effects rather than a coherent structure.
- Logical design encourages you to concentrate on your writing and makes it harder to use formatting as a substitute for good writing.
Advantages of using \LaTeX:

- It produces beautiful results.
- It is free.
- It runs on every computer you could ever think of.
- It has been tried and tested for years.
- It typesets maths easily and cleanly.
- It’s the majority-choice in the physics community.
- It emails around easily.
Advantages of using \LaTeX:

- The rest of the world uses it – and they all use effectively the same version. It is ‘backwards compatible’.

- You can submit your research papers to most journals electronically in \LaTeX.

- You can work collaboratively ‘in the cloud’ with packages like Overleaf or ShareLaTeX.

- It is the best thing to do a thesis in – citations, references, and figures are all linked so that if you swap around two chapters, all the cross-references follow cleanly without you having to do anything more. It is the most logical way to write a thesis.

- Many more which I can’t currently think of.
Disadvantages of using \LaTeX:

- None.

Well that’s not quite true, there are some disadvantages which are basically:

- It’s not WYSIWIG (What You See Is What You Get) and therefore . . .

- It takes a short while to get used to . . .

but if you have more than half a brain, you have no serious alternative!
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- It takes a short while to get used to . . .

but if you have more than half a brain, you have no serious alternative!
Using **\LaTeX**

- In order to use **\LaTeX** you have to generate a file containing both the text that you wish to print and instructions to tell **\LaTeX** how you want it to appear.
- You will normally create this file using your system’s text editor.
- It is an ASCII file. Being an ASCII file means that it doesn’t contain any control characters. Therefore the text editor that you choose to use should **not** be Microsoft Word or even WordPad. These absolutely stuff every file with every control character under the sun to control all their formatting. What is more, different versions of Microsoft Word appear to be incapable of speaking to each other reliably.
Using \LaTeX

- The file can have any name but should end "\.tex" to identify the file’s contents.

- \LaTeX then creates a new file of typesetting commands; this has the same name as your file but the "\.tex" ending is replaced by "\.dvi". This stands for ‘device independent’ and, as the name implies, this file can be used to create output on a range of printing devices. A dvi file is not an ASCII file and contains lots of control characters.

- The dvi file can be converted to PostScript (the language that laser printers talk) which is interestingly (yawn – are you still following?) also an ASCII language, so it’s easy to hack (for those wishing to try). This can also be converted to a pdf file.
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   - History
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   - Internet resources
What I am showing here is that the input file looks rather like the output. The stuff gets typed in in some sort of an order and the returns go all over the place. But \LaTeX\ sorts them out.

this becomes:
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First attempt

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First attempt

....sorts them out.

It’s \textbf{only} if I leave a \textit{blank} line that \LaTeX\ starts a new paragraph. One other thing is that I would like to define a variable called $a$ which is given by $a=b^2+\sigma_i$ which I have now done.

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What I am showing here is that the input file looks rather like the output. The stuff gets typed in in some sort of an order and the returns go all over the place. But `\LaTeX` sorts them out.

It’s **only** if I leave a `blank` line that `\LaTeX` starts a new paragraph. One other thing is that I would like to define a variable called $a$ which is given by $a = b^2 + \sigma_i$ which I have now done.
Now do some displayed equations

There are two types of equations. The equations that are in the text, like $E=mc^2$ like this, but also displayed equations which are written as
\begin{equation}
E=mc^2,
\end{equation}
and get a line to themselves. Notice that the equation gets automatically numbered.

this becomes:
There are two types of equations. The equations that are in the text, like $E = mc^2$ like this, but also displayed equations which are written as

$$E = mc^2,$$

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this becomes:
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\[ E = mc^2, \]

and get a line to themselves. Notice that the equation gets automatically numbered.
Now have some fun

You probably noticed that superscripts go like $a^2$ and subscripts go like this $a_i$. Note that $a^{23}$ works like that so if you want to raise something to the 23rd power you should use $a^{23}$. In other words you put the 23 in curly brackets.

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Now have some fun

Consider the function
\begin{equation}
f(x) = \sum_{i=1}^N a_i^{j+k+l}.
\end{equation}

this becomes:
Consider the function

\[ f(x) = \sum_{i=1}^N a_i^{j+k+l}. \] (2)
Consider the function
\begin{equation}
\sum_{i=1}^{N} a_i^{j+k+l}.
\end{equation}
this becomes:
Consider the function

\[ f(x) = \sum_{i=1}^{N} a_i^{j+k+l}. \quad (2) \]
Now have some fun

Consider the function
\begin{equation}
g(x) = \int_0^\infty e^{-y^2} \, dy,
\label{donkey}
\end{equation}
and I have labelled this equation which I can now refer to as equation \ref{donkey}.

this becomes:
Consider the function

\[ g(x) = \int_0^\infty e^{-y^2} \, dy, \]
and I have labelled this equation which I can now refer to as equation 3.
Now have some fun

Consider the function

\begin{equation}
  g(x) = \int_0^\infty e^{-y^2} \, dy,
\end{equation}

and I have labelled this equation which I can now refer to as equation~\ref{donkey}.

This becomes:
Consider the function

\[ g(x) = \int_0^\infty e^{-y^2} \, dy, \] (3)

and I have labelled this equation which I can now refer to as equation 3.
There are a number of rather useful environments in \LaTeX for producing particular effects. They all begin with a begin and end with an end and show which kind of environment they are.

Items in a list:
\begin{itemize}
\item Feed the cat
\item Hug a tree
\end{itemize}

this becomes:

Items in a list:

- Feed the cat
- Hug a tree
There are a number of rather useful environments in \LaTeX{} for producing particular effects. They all begin with a begin and end with an end and show which kind of environment they are.

**Items in a list:**
\begin{itemize}
\item Feed the cat
\item Hug a tree
\end{itemize}

this becomes:
Items in a list:
- Feed the cat
- Hug a tree
\begin{enumerate}
\item Here is one.
\item It’s good for making lists.
\item If you like numbered lists.
\end{enumerate}

this becomes:

1. Here is one.
2. It’s good for making lists.
3. If you like numbered lists.
\begin{enumerate}
\item Here is one.
\item It’s good for making lists.
\item If you like numbered lists.
\end{enumerate}

this becomes:

1. Here is one.
2. It’s good for making lists.
3. If you like numbered lists.
And also
\begin{center}
For making something \textbf{centred}.
\end{center}

this becomes:

And also

For making something \textit{centred}.

Note the US spelling!
And also
\begin{center}
For making something \textbf{centred}.
\end{center}

this becomes:

And also

For making something \textit{centred}.

Note the US spelling!
There is rather a nice effect you can use if
\begin{quote}
‘‘You would like to say something in poetry, maybe quoting something that somebody said to you that you thought was worth repeating. Oh why oh why am I typing this drivel?’’
\end{quote}

this becomes:

There is rather a nice effect you can use if

“\texttt{You would like to say something in poetry, maybe quoting something that somebody said to you that you thought was worth repeating. Oh why oh why am I typing this drivel?”}
There is rather a nice effect you can use if
\begin{quote}
‘‘You would like to say something
in poetry, maybe quoting something that somebody
said to you that you thought was worth repeating.
Oh why oh why am I typing this drivel?’’
\end{quote}

this becomes:
There is rather a nice effect you can use if

“There would like to say something in poetry, maybe quoting
something that somebody said to you that you thought was
worth repeating. Oh why oh why am I typing this drivel?”
Another useful trick is that of having a set of equations that line up, as in

\begin{eqnarray}
  f(x) & = & \sqrt{g(x)}, \\
  g(x) & = & e^{-h(x)}, \\
  h(x) & = & \alpha_\nu \xi_\psi (\eta_\beta).
\end{eqnarray}

this becomes:

Another useful trick is that of having a set of equations that line up, as in

\begin{align*}
  f(x) & = \sqrt{g(x)} , \\ 
  g(x) & = e^{-h(x)} , \\ 
  h(x) & = \alpha_\nu \xi_\psi (\eta_\beta).
\end{align*}

Here note that you use the & characters to indicate what you want to line up.
Another useful trick is that of having a set of equations that line up, as in
\begin{eqnarray}
  f(x) & = & \sqrt{g(x)}, \\
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\end{eqnarray}

this becomes:
Another useful trick is that of having a set of equations that line up, as in
\begin{align}
  f(x) & = \sqrt{g(x)}, \quad (4) \\
  g(x) & = e^{-h(x)}, \quad (5) \\
  h(x) & = \alpha_\nu \xi_\psi (\eta_\beta). \quad (6)
\end{align}

Here note that you use the & characters to indicate what you want to line up.
You actually do need some stuff at the beginning and end of your document to tell \LaTeX what sort of a document this is. It might look like magic at the moment, but it does the job. A simple example is the following:

\documentclass[12pt]{report}
\begin{document}
A terribly simple document.
\end{document}

The first-line says what size point you want in general, and that the document is a report. This controls the way that section headings and other things work. This file produces a single page with the words:

\emph{A terribly simple document.}

on it.
A much more exotic example is the following:

\documentclass[aps,prb,superscriptaddress,twocolumn,footfix]{revtex4}
\usepackage{graphicx}
\usepackage[]{amsmath}
\begin{document}
\title{My paper}
\author{My name}
\begin{abstract}
This is my paper
\end{abstract}
\maketitle
A whole bunch of stuff. In this paper we refer to \cite{nernst}.
\begin{thebibliography}{**}
\bibitem{nernst}
M. S. Nam, A. Ardavan, S. J. Blundell and J. A. Schlueter,
\end{thebibliography}
\end{document}

which would be a starting point for writing a paper for Physical Review using the \texttt{revtex} macros. If this file were to be processed it would produce something looking just like a real paper. If you want to do this, as with \textit{most} things in \LaTeX, the easiest way to start is to edit someone else’s document! Don’t reinvent the wheel. See examples on arXiv.org

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Introduction to \LaTeX\ for physicists
\LaTeX\ can input lots of different ‘class files’ for setting up documents to have various different standard formats.

These typically have the extension .\texttt{sty} for document-styles (an older version) and .\texttt{cls} for document-classes. If you want to make your document look a particular way, then you will need to get the relevant class files.

Some, like \texttt{article.cls} come with \LaTeX. Others, like \texttt{revtex4.cls}, the \textit{Physical Review} macros may need to be downloaded from a web site or taken from someone’s computer. Please ask around!
Errors

- If you have written junk in your file, \LaTeX{} may give you some error messages. It usually tells you which line the error is in. It also usually gives you some options, of which the best ones to use are either ‘H’ (give me some more help), or ‘X’ (quit and I’ll go and edit my file and sort the problem out).

- It may take a while to get used to some of \LaTeX{}’s error messages – but after a bit of practice it will come naturally. It is usually a good idea to keep \LaTeX{}ing the document regularly as you write it.

- Typing in 200 pages and then expecting it to work first time is perhaps asking a bit much. Build it up slowly and check each new bit of text. Computers are so fast now that this is not really a problem.
\LaTeX{} needs to process your file twice. This is because on the first sweep it loads all your cross-references, and the second time it puts them all in properly. Therefore you need to \LaTeX{} the document twice.
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   • Using \LaTeX?

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   • Documentclass
   • Errors

3 Useful information
   • History
   • Tables
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   • Internet resources

http://users.ox.ac.uk/~sjb  Introduction to \LaTeX{} for physicists
A bit of history

- \LaTeX was written ‘on top of’ a program called \TeX, which is harder to program in and is now not used as much, but you may come across it.
- \LaTeX was for many years standardised on version 2.09. In 1993, a new version \LaTeX2e appeared which is almost the same but uses documentclass rather than documentstyle. It is backwards compatible so the old files still work.
- In the future, \LaTeX3 will appear. The idea is that the version number is tending asymptotically towards $\pi$. [NB this is not a joke!]
Typefaces

\rm  Roman
\it  Italic
\bf  Boldface
\sl  Slanted
\sf  Sans serif
\sc  SMALL CAPS
\tt  Typewriter
**LaTeX environments**

- abstract
- array
- center
- description
- displaymath
- enumerate
- eqnarray
- equation
- figure
- flushleft
- flushright
- itemize
- list
- math
- minipage
- picture
- quotation
- quote
- tabbing
- table
- tabular
- theorem
- titlepage
- verbatim
- verse

[http://users.ox.ac.uk/~sjb](http://users.ox.ac.uk/~sjb)
Text-mode accents

ò \'{o}  ò \={o}  òø \t{oo}
ó \'{o}  ó \.{o}  ø \c{o}
ô \^{o}  õ \u{o}  ø \d{o}
ö \~{o}  õ \v{o}  ø \b{o}
~ö \~{o}  ō \H{o}
## National symbols

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Symbol</th>
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</tbody>
</table>
Miscellaneous symbols

† \dag \hspace{1cm} \S
‡ \ddag \hspace{1cm} \P
© \copyright \hspace{1cm} £ \pounds
Math-mode accents

\hat{a} \quad \dot{a} \\
\check{a} \quad \ddot{a} \\
\tilde{a} \quad \breve{a} \\
\acute{a} \quad \bar{a} \\
\grave{a} \quad \vec{a}
<table>
<thead>
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<th>Greek Letter</th>
<th>LaTeX Command</th>
<th>Greek Letter</th>
<th>LaTeX Command</th>
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</tbody>
</table>

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Introduction to LaTeX for physicists
Greek letters (math mode)

\varepsilon \quad \varsigma
\vartheta \quad \varphi
\varrho

\Gamma \quad \Sigma
\Delta \quad \Upsilon
\Theta \quad \Phi
\Lambda \quad \Psi
\Xi \quad \Omega
\Pi
## Binary operations (math mode)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Symbol</th>
<th>Command</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>±</td>
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Introduction to \LaTeX\ for physicists
Variable-size symbols (math mode)

\[
\begin{array}{cccc}
\Sigma & \Sigma & \sum & \bigcap \\
\prod & \prod & \prod & \bigcap \\
\coprod & \coprod & \bigcap & \bigcap \\
\int & \int & \bigcap & \bigcap \\
\oint & \oint & \bigcap & \bigcap \\
\bigodot & \bigodot & \bigcap & \bigcap \\
\bigoplus & \bigoplus & \bigcap & \bigcap \\
\end{array}
\]
Delimiters

( ( ( ) ) )
[ [ [ ] ] ]
{ \{ \} \}
\lfloor \lfloor \lfloor \rfloor \rfloor \rfloor
\lceil \lceil \lceil \rceil \rceil \rceil
\langle \langle \langle \rangle \rangle \rangle
/ / / \backslash \backslash \backslash
\vert \vert \vert \Vert \Vert \Vert
\uparrow \uparrow \uparrow \Uparrow \Uparrow \Uparrow
\downarrow \downarrow \downarrow \Downarrow \Downarrow \Downarrow
\updownarrow \updownarrow \updownarrow \Updownarrow \Updownarrow \Updownarrow

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Introduction to \LaTeX{} for physicists
“Log-like” functions (math mode)

\begin{itemize}
\item \texttt{\arccos} \quad \texttt{\csc} \quad \texttt{\ker} \quad \texttt{\min}
\item \texttt{\arcsin} \quad \texttt{\deg} \quad \texttt{\lg} \quad \texttt{\Pr}
\item \texttt{\arctan} \quad \texttt{\det} \quad \texttt{\lim} \quad \texttt{\sec}
\item \texttt{\arg} \quad \texttt{\dim} \quad \texttt{\liminf} \quad \texttt{\sin}
\item \texttt{\cos} \quad \texttt{\exp} \quad \texttt{\limsup} \quad \texttt{\sinh}
\item \texttt{\cosh} \quad \texttt{\gcd} \quad \texttt{\ln} \quad \texttt{\sup}
\item \texttt{\cot} \quad \texttt{\hom} \quad \texttt{\log} \quad \texttt{\tan}
\item \texttt{\coth} \quad \texttt{\inf} \quad \texttt{\max} \quad \texttt{\tanh}
\end{itemize}

Compare $\sin^2x+\cos^2x=1$ with $\sin^2x+\cos^2x=1$.

\textbf{produces:} Compare $\sin^2x + \cos^2x = 1$ with $\sin^2x + \cos^2x = 1$. 
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Misc. symbols (math mode)

\aleph \prime
\hbar \emptyset
\imath \nabla
\jmath \surd
\ell \top
\wp \bot
\Re \| \|
\Im \angle
\partial \\triangle
\infty \backslash
\Box \Diamond
\forall \# \#
\exists \clubsuit
\neg \diamondsuit
\flat \heartsuit
\natural \spadesuit
\mho

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Introduction to \LaTeX\ for physicists
Common error 1

Don’t put a blank line after your equation or \LaTeX\ will think you are starting a new paragraph

This can be illustrated using the equation\begin{equation}f=ma,\end{equation}
where following the equation there is an ugly indent.

This can be illustrated using the equation

\[ f = ma, \]

where following the equation there is an ugly indent.
Common error 1

Don’t put a blank line after your equation or \LaTeX will think you are starting a new paragraph

This can be illustrated using the equation
\begin{equation}
\begin{align*}
f &= ma,
\end{align*}
\end{equation}

where following the equation there is an ugly indent.

This can be illustrated using the equation
\[ f = ma, \quad (8) \]

where following the equation there is an ugly indent.
The letters in chemical formulae should not be in maths mode.

Water is $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ and not $\text{H}_2\text{O}$.

Water is $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ and not $\text{H}_2\text{O}$. 
Physical quantities have a unit associated with them, and this should have a small space between the number and the unit. If you use a \texttt{\LaTeX} space, it stops the line breaking between the number and the unit.

The car was travelling at 26\,m\,s$^{-1}$.

The car was travelling at 26 m s$^{-1}$.
It is very important to make even your displayed equations part of a sentence, which means punctuating them. For example, Newton’s second law can be stated as

\[ f = ma, \]  \hspace{1cm} (9)

which I terminated with a comma because I was still continuing my sentence. On the other hand, I will finish this sentence, and use a full-stop, by remarking that Einstein is best known for his equation

\[ E = mc^2. \]  \hspace{1cm} (10)

Do read what you’ve written, even when you’re discussing maths, and see if your sentences work!
Just be a bit careful when you cut and paste from other applications. I have just pasted in the phrase (Schrödinger equation), but I think \LaTeX\ won’t get the ‘o umlaut’ right. I should use Schrödinger.

Just be a bit careful when you cut and paste from other applications. I have just pasted in the phrase (Schrödinger equation), but I think \LaTeX\ won’t get the ‘o umlaut’ right. I should use Schrödinger.
\LaTeX{} knows four kinds of dashes: a hyphen (\textendash{}), en dash (\textendash), em dash (\textemdash{}), or a minus sign (\textminus{}). You can access three of them with different numbers of consecutive dashes. The fourth sign is actually not a dash at all; it is the mathematical minus sign:

- **Hyphen**: daughter-in-law, X-rated
- **En dash**: pages 13--67
- **Em dash**: yes— or no?
- **Minus sign**: $0$, $1$ and $-1$

hyphen: daughter-in-law, X-rated
En dash: pages 13–67
Em dash: yes—or no?
Minus sign: 0, 1 and −1
\LaTeX{} treats left and right quotes as different entities. For single quotes, ‘ gives a left quote mark, and ’ is the right.

You can use ‘single’ or ‘‘double’’ or ‘‘double" but \textbf{not} ‘this’ or "that".

You can use ‘single’ or “double” or “double” but not ’this’ or ”that”.

(As you can see, we have now descended into the depths of pedantry!)
And finally...

http://www.latex-project.org/

http://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/LaTeX

are both really helpful. Another resource which could be useful is

http://detexify.kirelabs.org

which allows you to find a symbol by drawing it.
For **Linux** users, install the tetex package (should already be installed). The same is true for the **Mac**, on which you can use X11 from the command line. There is also TeXShop and TeXworks. See also the MacTeX project:

http://www.tug.org/mactex/

For the **PC**, the most popular implementation seems to be

http://www.miktex.org/
For collaborative working, try the excellent Overleaf:

https://www.overleaf.com

or ShareLaTeX:

https://www.sharelatex.com

[NB ShareLaTeX is soon going to merge into Overleaf.] Your files then sit in the cloud, but you can work on a project with someone else and have features like version control. These implementations are then platform independent.
HAVE A GO YOURSELF!

Try it out on whatever system you wish to use. Ask people in your group for help and give it a go.