

Getting Started with Texmaker

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Here are some brief instructions to help you get started with L^AT_EX and Texmaker. Begin by downloading the tutorial files (unzip if necessary) from the course website. Double click “PHYS 331 LaTeX tutorial.tex”. Make sure that you are using a computer that has all of the necessary software installed (Ghostscript, GSview, MiKTeX, and Texmaker). The .tex file should open in Texmaker. Make sure that all of the required figures (sinPlot.eps, flow.pdf, and chaos.jpg) and “tutorial_bib.bib” are in the same directory as the .tex file. The image files are used as figures in the tutorial document and tutorial_bib.bib list the references that are used in the document.

Note that some of the packages that are loaded in the preamble at the beginning of a .tex document using “\usepackage{...}” command require .sty files to be used properly. If you try compiling a L^AT_EX document and you get an error saying something like “can’t find units.sty”, you can usually find and download the required file relatively easily using a Google search. Some of the commonly used .sty files are included in the “Introduction” and “Sample report” folders of this tutorial. If you require any others, just download them from the web and store them in the directory containing your .tex file.

To compile the .tex file to generate the desired .pdf output, execute the following sequence of commands in the order shown:

1. PDFLaTeX
2. BibTeX
3. PDFLaTeX
4. PDFLaTeX
5. View PDF

You can find these commands under the “Tools” menu or by using the “Tools” ToolBar. This process will create a bunch of files all named “PHYS 331 LaTeX tutorial” but with different extensions (aux, bbl, blg, log, ...). As far as I’m concerned, the .pdf file is the only useful output. Running these commands one-by-one in sequence can become onerous. Texmaker has a nice feature that allows you to define a shortcut to execute a sequence of commands using one click. Under the “User” menu select User Commands → Edit User Commands. You can define up to five different sets of commands. Pick one and give it a name, “Compile” for example. Then click on “wizard” and start defining your command. I recommend using, in the order presented, PdfLaTeX→Bibtex→PdfLaTeX→PdfLaTeX→Pdf Viewer. Now, simply select the

command set that you defined from the “Tools” ToolBar and click on the arrow to execute the sequence. Your L^AT_EX document should successfully compile and Texmaker should automatically open its pdf viewer so that you can review the output.

Good luck!