

Discover L^AT_EX

or how to start making beautiful documents

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2025-2026

1 Introduction

2 Writing a $\text{\LaTeX}$ document

- Preamble
- Body text
- Mathematical equations and symbols
- Floats
- Extras

3 Bibliography

4 What else?

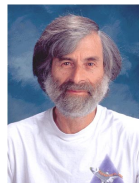
Important dates



- **Donald Knuth (1977)** : scientific (computing/mathematics), created $\text{\TeX}$, a text formatter designed to produce scientific documents, particularly suited to mathematical formalism. $\text{\TeX}$ comes from the word $\tau\acute{\epsilon}\chi\nu\eta$ which means “Art”.¹
- **Leslie Lamport (1980)** : created $\text{\LaTeX}$ from $\text{\TeX}$ increasing the level of abstraction and adding a separation of document form and content. Introduction of new features such as Table of contents, Index, labels, bibliography, figures, tables.

¹The habit of pronouncing the “k” comes from an explanation by D. Knuth indicating that the name comes from the Greek *technê*, the root of the English word “technology”, whereas in ancient Greek the word $\tau\acute{\epsilon}\chi\nu\eta$ should be pronounced “ $\tau\epsilon\chi\nu\epsilon$ ” and not “ $\tau\epsilon\kappa\nu\epsilon$ ”.

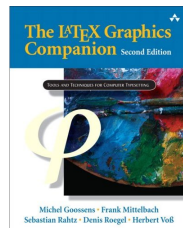
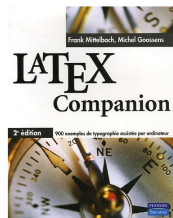
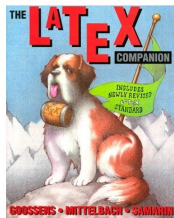
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Few reference books



- The $\text{\LaTeX}$ Companion (1996) - M. Goossens, F. Mittelbach, A. Samarin.
- The $\text{\LaTeX}$ Companion 2nd Edition (2004) - M. Goossens, F. Mittelbach.
- The $\text{\LaTeX}$ Graphics Companion (2007) - M. Goossens, F. Mittelbach, S. Rahtz, D. Roegel, H. Voss.
- The $\text{\LaTeX}$ Web Companion: Integrating Tex, Html and Xml - M. Goossens, S. Rahtz, M. Goossens.
- $\text{\LaTeX}$ pour l' impatient (2007) - W. Appel, C. Chevalier, E. Cornet, S. Desreux.

A few (partially) wrong point of views

- T_EX (or L^AT_EX) is a scientific word processor designed only for writing equations and abstruse mathematical symbols;
- L^AT_EX is complicated;
- A L^AT_EX source file is unreadable unless you have studied L^AT_EX for several years.

What do you think of this source file?

```
\documentclass{article}  
\usepackage[english]{babel}  
\usepackage[utf8]{inputenc}  
\begin{document}
```

Today we're going to discover a new way of creating scientific documents,
the one that produces the best results.

```
\end{document}
```

Advantages of $\text{\LaTeX}$

- The result is **beautiful**: consistent document layout, font resolution that far exceeds the perceptive capacity of the human eye with typical encoding length of 5.36×10^{-6} mm (extreme finesse);
- *open source*, various operating systems (windows, MacOS X, GNU/Linux), stable, free, active community;
- does not require extensive IT resources (ASCII source files, images are not included in the source files);
- flexible and efficient management of bibliographies, equations, graphs, tables and floating objects;
- the text written in a source file is directly reusable (with almost no modifications) in another document written with $\text{\LaTeX}$ (e. g. ex: books, reports, articles, web pages, posters, beamer)
- may add-ons in various domains: musical scores, chemistry formula, cartoons and sketches (tikz)...

A few examples

G.J. Geomagnetism, rock magnetism and palaeomagnetism

Geophysical Journal International
Geophys. J. Int. (2011) 186, 118–136

doi: 10.1017/S0022272X11000507

Inference on core surface flow from observations and 3-D dynamo modelling

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Institut de Physique du Globe de Paris, Sorbonne Paris Cité, Université Paris Diderot, ENSTED/UMR 7154, F-75005 Paris, France;
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Accepted 2011 April 2. Received 2011 April 1; in original form 2010 September 15

SUMMARY

We show how a 3-D, self-consistent numerical model of the geodynamo can be used as the subjective prior information for the determination of Earth's core surface flows from the geomagnetic field and its secular variation. This is achieved by estimating those parts of the numerical model state vector hidden from the observations, through a standard Kalman filtering (or stochastic inverse) procedure, where the Kalman gain matrix is based on the multivariate statistics of the geodynamo model. To allow for a direct comparison with observations, the field variables entering these statistics are scaled following two of the scaling laws that have recently come to the fore in numerical dynamo modelling, which express the dependency of the secular variation timescale and the magnetic energy density on their respective control parameters. We perform water-tanks experiments with noisy synthetic data, showing good to excellent recovery of the hidden parts of the state vector. A geomagnetic field model parent to a candidate model of the 2010 release of IGRF is then used for a core surface flow estimation. The estimated flow level of equatorial symmetry. We suggest that the discrete state estimation problem considered here (in connection with the classical core flow problem) could be used generically as a means to assess the degree of geophysical realism of a given geodynamo model. More generally, this study opens the way to using scaling laws and multivariate statistics from numerical models in the broader context of geomagnetic data assimilation.

Key words: Inverse theory; Dynamo theories and simulations; Rapid time variations; Core, outer core and inner core.

1 INTRODUCTION

Assuming that we have knowledge of the radial component of the magnetic induction B_r and of its rate-of-change $\partial B_r / \partial t$ at the top of Earth's core, the so-called core flow problem consists of trying to estimate the flow $\mathbf{u}$ compatible with these observations, by using the radial component of the magnetic induction equation

$$\partial B_r / \partial t = -\nabla_\theta \cdot (\mathbf{u}_\theta B_\theta) + \lambda r^{-1} \nabla_\theta^2 B_r,$$

in which ∇_θ is the horizontal divergence operator, λ is the magnetic diffusivity of the fluid core, and $\mathbf{u}_\theta = (u_\theta, v_\theta)$, where u_θ and v_θ are the eastward and southward horizontal components of the flow near the surface of the core, respectively. (In the remainder of this paper, r, θ, ϕ will refer to the standard spherical coordinates.) This problem has been the focus of a long-standing interest for the past 45 yr (see the reviews by Busch & Jackson 1991; Holme 2007). It is of fundamental importance, for its solution throws light on the underlying geodynamo effect of magnetic diffusion in eq. (1), on the account of its negligible contribution to the large-scale secular variation, leading to the popular stable solution with a moderate level of spatial complexity. Hypotheses concerning the nature of the flow $\mathbf{u}$ are needed, along with regularization, for the inversion to yield a helical flow (Aubert & Olson 2004) or regular (see, e.g. Le Mouél 2005).





A few examples

Geophysical Journal International

Geophys. J. Int. (2011) 186, 118–136

doi: 10.1017/S0022278X11000574

Inference on core surface dynamo modelling

Alexandre Fournet

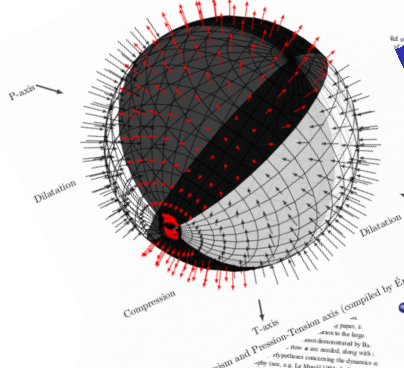
Institut de Physique
de l'Université de Paris

15015, Paris, France

Observations and 3-D

Fournet

STECAD (UMR 7134), F-75005 Paris, France



Mustang Sally

[Intro]

[1] ly. guess you better slow your Mustang down. You've been runnin' all over town, now baby, guess you better slow your Mustang down. Mustang Sally, ride Sally, ride

[Chorus] All you wanna do is ride around Sally, Ride Sally, ride. All you wanna do is ride around Sally, Ride Sally, ride. All you wanna do is ride around Sally, Ride Sally, ride. All you wanna do is ride around Sally, Ride Sally, ride. One of these early mornings Gonna be wipin' those weepin' eyes

[Guitar]

[2] bought you a brand new Mustang, signifyin', now woman, better slow your Mustang down.

[Chorus]

Mack Rice (v2.1)



A few examples

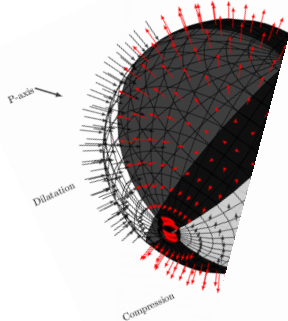
Geophysical Journal International
 Geophys. J. Int. (2011) 186, 118–136
 doi: 10.1017/S0022272011000774

Inference on core surface dynamo modelling

Alexandre Fournier
 Institut de Physique
 École Supérieure

rotation and pulsation

Compression



UNIVERSITÉ DE NANTES
 FACULTÉ DES SCIENCES ET DES TECHNIQUES
 ÉCOLE DOCTORALE
 SCIENCES POUR L'INGÉNIEUR, GÉOSCIENCES, ARCHITECTURE (SPIGA)
 Année 2013

Une approche bayésienne pour estimer les propriétés physiques dans la zone de transition à partir des ondes de surface

THÈSE DE DOCTORAT
 Discipline : Sciences de la Terre
 Spécialité : Géophysique

Présentée
 et soutenue publiquement par

Mélanie DRILLEAU

Le jeudi 30 mai 2013, devant le jury ci-dessous

Rapporteurs : M. Éric DEBAYLE, directeur de recherche, Laboratoire de Géologie de Lyon
 Examinateurs : M. Dominique GIBERT, professeur, Institut de Physique du Globe de Paris
 M. Jean-Paul MONTAGNER, professeur, Université Paris 7 – Institut de Physique du
 Globe de Paris
 Mme Heide PEDERSEN, physicienne CNRS, Institut des Sciences de la Terre,
 Université Joseph Fourier, Grenoble
 M. Olivier VERHOEVEN, maître de conférences, Laboratoire de Planétologie et de
 Géodynamique de Nantes



Mustang Sally

[Intro]

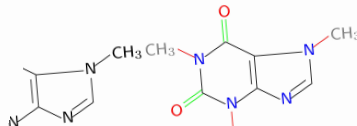


Mack Rice (v2.1)



Mustang Sally
 guess you
 guess I

13



The main feature of $\text{\LaTeX}$: compilation

Source file (welcome.tex)

```
\documentclass{article}
\usepackage[english]{babel}
\usepackage[utf8]{inputenc}
\title{Welcome to \LaTeX}
\author{Éric Beucier}
\date{December 6, 2023}
\begin{document}
\maketitle
Today we're going to discover a new way of creating scientific documents,
the one that produces the best results.
\section{Introduction}
This is a very introduction.
\section{Conclusion}
And now it's over.
\end{document}
```

→
pdflatex

Result (welcome.pdf)

Welcome to $\text{\LaTeX}$

Éric Beucier

December 6, 2023

Today we're going to discover a new way of creating scientific documents,
the one that produces the best results.

1 Introduction

This is a very introduction.

2 Conclusion

And now it's over.

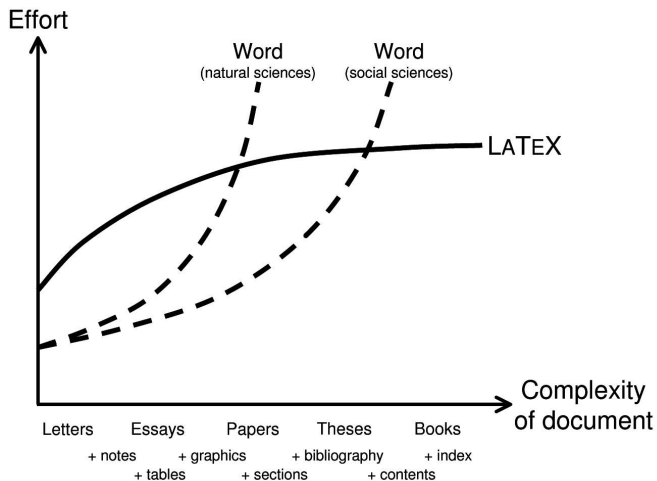
Unlike WYSIWYG² software, the result is not directly visible.

Advantage or disadvantage?

It's not as easy as using a traditional word processor intuitively (*Libreoffice* or *MSWord*), but it allows you to concentrate on the content rather than dwelling on formatting problems.

²What You See Is What You Get

Why use $\text{\LaTeX}$ rather than *MSWord*?



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A quick look on a L^AT_EX source file

Source file or .tex → needs a text editor (vi, emacs, gedit, notepad...)

Source file (document in French)

```
\documentclass[a4paper]{article}
\usepackage[french]{babel}
\usepackage[latin1]{inputenc}
% Main text
\begin{document}
Ici on va commencer à mettre le texte, les figures, les équations, et patati et patata
\end{document}
```

Compilation:

- latex → .dvi (then dvips old school)
- pdflatex → .pdf and more recently xetex → .pdf

Visualisation of the document (evince, acroread, okular, gv)

Try Overleaf

Preamble (*header*)

The first command of a L^AT_EX source file must be:

```
\documentclass[]{} 
```

Rule

Use { } for arguments of the command and [] for the options (which sometimes depend on the chosen arguments), for instance:

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

This command declares the class of the document:

- letter, article, book, report
- beamer
- *cls_maison* (fichier avec extension .cls)

Options for the *article* class:

draft, 11pt, 12pt, leqno, reqno, a4paper, twocolumn

Packages

Introduction of optional modules ou *packages* using:

```
\usepackage[opt1,opt2,...]{name-of-the-package}  
\usepackage{package1, package2, ...}
```

Examples:

```
\usepackage[french]{babel}  
\usepackage{graphicx}  
\usepackage{chemistry,times}  
\usepackage[square]{natbib}  
...
```

Warning! Insert only necessary packages

Commands & Environments

- Commands:

`\name-of-the-command[opt1,opt2,...]{arg1}{arg2}...`

ex: chapter, section, subsection, usepackage, includegraphics,... + any new ad-hoc new command with `\newcommand`, for instance:

`\newcommand{\cityname}{Nantes}`

- Environments:

`\begin{name-of-the-environment}`

...

`\end{name-of-the-environment}`

ex: table, tabular, figure, minipage, center...

How to split a document

7 levels of depth for defining the document sections:

```
\part{}, \chapter{}, % report or book only (depend on \documentclass)
\section{}, \subsection{}, \subsubsection{}, \paragraph{}, \subparagraph{},
```

Use the short and long titles:

```
\split-type[short-title]{long-title}
```

[short-title] is useful for pages header/footer (*running head*) and Table of contents³

Example

```
\section{The discontinuity due to phase transition at $670$~km depth}
\section[670 Discontinuity]{The discontinuity due to phase transition at $670$~km depth}
```

³If no [short-title] then short-title = long-title

Some tips for entering text

- Separation between 2 paragraphs: one empty line (means 2×return) or `\par` → adjusted spaces between words in balanced paragraphs.
- **Warning** “`\\`” differs from “`\par`”
 - `\\` : carriage return only
 - `\par` is used to end a paragraph means carriage return + vertical skip (`\parskip`) + indentation using `\parindent` (including text balancing) - do not confuse with `\paragraph`
- `\parskip` influences the overall layout of the document: space between paragraphs, but also around headings, lists, table of contents...
It can be modified at any place and to allow a flexibility:
`\parskip 10pt plus 2pt minus 2pt`
- Use the tilde (“`~`”) to insert a non-breaking space:
 - `$2$~km` → 2 km
 - When looking around the points A and~B → When looking around the points A and B

Highlighting some parts of the text

Changing the shape of the current font

Italic: `\textit{text1}` or `{\itshape text2}` or `{\it text3}` → *text1* or *text2* or *text3*
 Slanted: `{\slshape text1}` `{\sl text2}` → *text1* or *text2*
 Bold: `\textbf{text1}` or `{\bfseries text2}` or `{\bf text3}` → **text1** or **text2** or **text3**
 Typewriter: `\texttt{text}` → `text`
 Emphasise: `{\em text}` → *text*
 Underlined: `\underline{text}` → text

Ten commands to modify the font size

`\tiny`, `\scriptsize`, `\footnotesize`, `\small`, `\normalsize`, `\large`, `\Large`, `\LARGE`, `\huge`, `\Huge`
`{\tiny minuscule}` → minuscule `{\normalsize normale}` → normale `{\Huge énorme}` → **énorme**

Colour

`\usepackage{xcolor}`
`\textcolor{red}{Text in red}` → **Text in red**

Inserting an equation/symbol in a sentence (do not emphasise)

Without number or line break - example 1

In order to simplify, the distance `$x = \pi\sum_{i=1}^n y_i,$` becomes real and consequently

Result

In order to simplify, the distance $x = \pi \sum_{i=1}^n y_i$ becomes real and consequently...

Without number or line break - example 2 (Greek symbol and physical units)

in all experiments `$$\sigma=34$~N/m$^2$`, which induces a mechanical forcing\ldots

Result

in all experiments $\sigma = 34 \text{ N/m}^2$, which induces a mechanical forcing...

Equation with enhanced presentation

Without number but with line break

In order to simplify, the distance

\$\$

$x = \pi \sum_{i=1}^n y_i,$

\$\$

becomes real and consequently\dots

Result

In order to simplify, the distance

$$x = \pi \sum_{i=1}^n y_i,$$

becomes real and consequently...

Numbered equation

Line break, equation number and label declaration

In order to simplify, the distance

```
\begin{equation}
  x = \pi \sum_{i=1}^n y_i \label{eqn:xpiy}
\end{equation}
```

becomes real and consequently\dots

% elsewhere in the document % using eq.~(\ref{eqn:xpiy}), it is thus possible to\dots

Résultat

In order to simplify, the distance

$$x = \pi \sum_{i=1}^n y_i \tag{1}$$

becomes real and consequently...

using eq. (1), it is thus possible to ...

Dynamic numbering management at each compilation

Initial situation

We assume here that x can be defined using the offset u ,

```
\begin{equation}
  x = \int_0^{+\infty} 2u^2 du,
  \label{eqn:xpi}
```

```
\end{equation}
```

thus the depth of each sample is

```
\begin{equation}
  z(x) = 3\cos(2n\pi+\phi).
  \label{eqn:zdex}
```

```
\end{equation}
```



An equation is a sentence in its own right (think about punctuation).

Dynamic numbering management at each compilation

Result

We assume here that x can be defined using the offset u ,

$$x = \int_0^{+\infty} 2u^2 du, \quad (2)$$

thus the depth of each sample is

$$z(x) = 3 \cos(2n\pi + \phi). \quad (3)$$

Dynamic numbering management at each compilation

Modified situation (insertion of a new equation at the beginning)

If we assume that the offset $\$u\$$ derives from $\sim \$P\$$, such as

```
\begin{equation}
  P(u) = \frac{3u}{2u+1}+2u^2,
  \label{eqn:poly}\end{equation}
```

between 0 and $\$+\infty\$$, then

```
\begin{equation}
  x = \int_{0}^{+\infty} 2u^2 du,
  \label{eqn:xpi}\end{equation}
```

thus the depth of each sample is

```
\begin{equation}
  z(x) = 3\cos(2n\pi+\phi).
  \label{eqn:zdex}\end{equation}
```

Dynamic numbering management at each compilation

Result

If we assume that the offset u derives from P , such as

$$P(u) = \frac{3u}{2u+1} + 2u^2, \quad (2)$$

between 0 and $+\infty$, then

$$x = \int_0^{+\infty} 2u^2 du, \quad (3)$$

thus the depth of each sample is

$$z(x) = 3 \cos(2n\pi + \phi). \quad (4)$$

Document organisation

Floats

- Floats are containers for things in a document that cannot be broken over a page.
- Images, in a `figure` environment, and tables, in a `table` environment, are placed aesthetically by default and then in the output, they are not necessarily at the exact location they are inserted in the source file.
- Their location can be forced using option `[ht!]`

Automatic generation of lists using floats:

```
\tableofcontents  
\listoffigures  
\listoftables
```

The `figure` and `table` environments obey different aesthetic rules.

Figures and images

Example

```
\begin{figure}  
  \includegraphics[width=1.7cm]{./img/earth.png}  
  \label{fig:earth-cartoon}  
  \caption{The Earth centered on the Atlantic Ocean.}  
\end{figure}
```

Result



Figure 1: *The Earth centered on the Atlantic Ocean.*

Figures and images

Do not forget to insert `\usepackage{graphicx}` in the preamble (see packages in the section 2.1)

Call in the text

Figure~\ref{fig:earth-cartoon} represents a well-known projection of our planet

Result

Figure 1 represents a well-known projection of our planet

Accepted image formats

- pdf_latex: png, pdf, jpg
- latex: ps, eps

Figures and images

Options of the command `\includegraphics`

```
\includegraphics[width=...]{./img/earth.png}
```

or the centered version

```
\centerline{\includegraphics[width=...]{./img/earth.png}}
```

Among the most used options:

- dimensions/deformations
 - in distance units [`width=3cm`, `height=25pt`];
 - or in % of the linewidth such as [`width=0.99\linewidth`];
 - if only width OR height then autoscaling of the other dimension.
- draft mode [`draft=true`] ou [`draft=false`];
- rotation [`angle=...`].

Figures and images

Draft option draft and width in %

```
\begin{figure}  
  \includegraphics[draft=true,width=0.13\linewidth]{./img/earth.png}  
  \label{fig:earth-cartoon}  
  \caption{The Earth centered on the Atlantic Ocean.}  
\end{figure}
```

Résultat

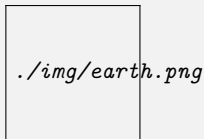


Figure 1: *The Earth centered on the Atlantic Ocean.*

Figures and images

Rotation and deformation

```
\begin{figure}  
  \includegraphics[angle=45,width=3cm,height=1.5cm]{./img/earth.png}  
  \label{fig:earth-cartoon}  
  \caption{The Earth centered on the Atlantic Ocean (slightly rotated and distorted).}  
\end{figure}
```

Result



Figure 1: *The Earth centered on the Atlantic Ocean (slightly rotated and distorted).*

Figures and images

Don't confuse the figure environment with the command `\includegraphics`

A figure can exist with no image

```
\begin{figure}
  \label{fig:earth-cartoon}
  \caption{The Earth centered on the Atlantic Ocean (no image).}
\end{figure}
```

Result

Figure 1: The Earth centered on the Atlantic Ocean (no image).

Table and tabular

Example

```
\begin{table}
  \begin{tabular}{|l|c||r|}
    line1 field1 & field2 & field3\\
                & $\xi=4$ & \\
    line3 $2x+1$ & field7 & 
  \end{tabular}
  \caption{Measured values of \%Cu realised during the stage.}
\end{table}
```

Result

<i>line1 field1</i>	<i>field2</i> $\xi = 4$	<i>field3</i>
<i>line3 2x + 1</i>	<i>field7</i>	

Table 1: *Measured values of \%Cu realised during the stage.*

Index

In the preamble:

- `\usepackage{imakeidx}`
- `\makeindex`

Somewhere in the body text, when you want to add words in the index table use the command `\index{}`:

Example

`Apatite\index{Apatatite}` is a generic name for hexagonal phosphates `\index{Phosphates}`.

At the end (or the beginning) of the document, the command `\printindex` creates the Index table (according to alphabetic order), it gathers all words referenced by `\index{}`

Possible options: `\makeindex[columns=2, title=Index]`

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Bibliography

Needs a database (.bib file) and a package (for instance natbib)

Example of a bibliography entry in the "articles.bib" file

```
@article{als1993,
author = "D. Alsina and R. Snieder and V. Maupin",
journal = "Geophys. Res. Lett.",
pages = "915--918",
title = "A test of the great circle approximation in the analysis of surface waves",
volume = 20,
year = 1993}
```

The bibliography is inserted in most cases at the end of the document with the command:

```
\bibliography{./articles.bib}
```

The style of the bibliography is defined with `\bibliographystyle{}`, for instance `\bibliographystyle{alpha}`

Insert a bibliographic reference in the body text such as:

these assumptions are proposed by `\citet{als1993}`.

Result

“...these assumptions are proposed by [ASM93]”

at the end of the document (where the command `\bibliography{./articles.bib}` is inserted:

Bibliography



D. Alsina, R. Snieder, and V. Maupin.

A test of the great circle approximation in the analysis of surface waves.

Geophys. Res. Lett., 20:915–918, 1993.

Difference between `\citet{}`, `\citep{}`, `\citeauthor{}`, `\citeyear{}` (`\cite{}` is somewhat deprecated)

`\nocite{*}` to print all entries of a given `.bib` file.

To change the way references are cited, change the `.bst` file.

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4 What else?

What else?

- Beware of the forums (and all advices about loading thousands of packages and other such good ideas) - *the simplest is the best*
- Spell checker under Linux: `aspell`
- For oral presentations: `beamer` class
- Vectorial graphics or modification of existing images: `tikz`
- Geneviève Moguilny's $\text{\LaTeX}$ web page (French reference):
<https://www.ipgp.fr/latex>