The Essentials of \LaTeX \ for Conference Abstracts

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Abstracts for this meeting are typeset using \LaTeX \ (a typesetting language). With that said, the text of each abstract should be just plain text and doesn't require any knowledge of \LaTeX. This nice thing about \LaTeX \ is that it allows you to include consistently formatted lists and beautifully typeset equations, even in the most simple document. This file gives you a few guidelines for writing your abstracts in \LaTeX.*

- The characters # $ & _ ^ \% { } all have a special meaning and should not be used on their own. You can generate the #, $, &, %, {, and } characters by escaping them with a backslash, as in: \#, \$, \&, \%, \{}, and \}. For example, the percent character \% indicates source that is commented out, so if you want to say 12%, you must write it as 12\% or else everything after the % sign will disappear.

- Paragraphs are separated by one or more blank lines.

- Single-quotes should be created using the ' and ' pair, as in 'the car', which gives 'the car'. Similarly, double-quotes should be created using the '' and '' pair, as in ``the car'', which gives "the car".

- Italic text should be enclosed in curly braces after either the \textit or \textbf command. Boldfaced text should be enclosed in curly braces after the \textbf command. For example, the phrase “dogs and cats living together” was created using:

  \textbf{dogs} and \textit{cats} living \textit{together}.

- Bullet lists are created using the itemize environment in the following manner:

  \begin{itemize}
  \item content of the first bullet;
  \item content of the second bullet;
  \item content of the third bullet.
  \end{itemize}

  which gives:

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*If you already know \LaTeX, then you should be aware that it is only the abstract itself that we require. Thus, you will be inputting only the raw \LaTeX \ source that goes between the \begin{document} and the \end{document}.}
• content of the first bullet;
• content of the second bullet;
• content of the third bullet.

❖ Numbered lists are created using the \texttt{enumerate} environment in the following manner:

\begin{enumerate}
\item content of the first item;
\item content of the second item;
\item content of the third item.
\end{enumerate}

which gives:

1. content of the first item;
2. content of the second item;
3. content of the third item.

Both the \texttt{itemize} and \texttt{enumerate} can be nested.

❖ Footnotes are created using the \texttt{footnote} command. The footnote at the end of this sentence was created using the \LaTeX source \texttt{\footnote{This is a footnote}.}\footnote{This is a footnote.}

❖ Inline mathematics is enclosed in a dollar sign pair \texttt{$\ldots$}.\footnote{We load the \texttt{AMS-\LaTeX} math packages so you may use commands associated with those packages if you desire.}

- Exponents are created using the caret \texttt{^} and subscripts are created using the underscore \texttt{_}. Some examples are: \texttt{$v_x(t)$}, which gives $v_x(t)$, and \texttt{$v^{-2}_0$}, which gives $v_0^{-2}$.
- Fractions are created using the \texttt{\frac} command with two arguments: the first is the numerator and the second is the denominator.\footnote{\LaTeX commands begin with the backslash character (\texttt{\}) and their arguments are enclosed in curly braces (\texttt{\{}\texttt{\})}. Therefore, for example, the inline fraction \texttt{$\frac{a + b}{c + d}$} gives $\frac{a + b}{c + d}$.
- Greek letters are generating by simply preceding the name of the Greek letter with a backslash \texttt{\}. So, for example, $\alpha$, $\beta$, $\gamma$, and $\delta$ are generated using \texttt{$\alpha$}, \texttt{$\beta$}, \texttt{$\gamma$}, and \texttt{$\delta$}, respectively.
- Displayed equations are created using the \texttt{equation} environment. So, for example, the displayed equation

\begin{equation}
q(t) = q_0 + v_0(t - t_0) + \int_{t_0}^{t} \left[ \int_{t_0}^{\tau} a(\xi) \, d\xi \right] \, d\tau
\end{equation}

was created using:

\footnote{\LaTeX commands begin with the backslash character (\texttt{\}) and their arguments are enclosed in curly braces (\texttt{\{}\texttt{\})}.}
\begin{equation}
q(t) = q_0 + v_0 (t - t_0) + \int_{t_0}^{t} \left[ \int_{t_0}^{\tau} a(\xi) \, d\xi \right] \, d\tau
\end{equation}

If you need to do anything in your abstract that is not covered in this document, please contact the organizers.