LATEX PDF accessibility

Tim Prescott
University of North Dakota
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Preamble

The pdf of this talk and other resources will be posted online, so you don't need to write down what you see here.

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TL;DR

```
Update LATEX, use
\DocumentMetadata{lang=en,tagging=on,pdfstandard=ua-2,
 tagging-setup={math/setup=mathml-SE,math/alt/use}}
\documentclass{article}
. . .
\usepackage{unicode-math}
\title{...}
compile with LuaLTFX, and maybe it all works just fine.
math/alt/use ⇔ Blackboard Ally
Optional warmups: \RequirePackage{nag} or
    pdfstandard=ua-1,pdfversion=1.7 (but not math/setup=mathml-SE)
```

Basic idea

Use LATEX so that the output looks how you want it and the input reflects the meaning.

(Don't use tabular to position boxes.)

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After the basics — Tables

- tagpdfsetup{table/header-rows={...},table/header-columns={...}}
 outside of the tabular
 (lasts until the group \ends)
- \tagpdfsetup{table/multirow={number of rows}}
- Interface will probably change

After the basics — Images

```
\includegraphics[alt={...}]
```

- \tikz[alt={...}]
- \begin{tikzpicture}[alt={...}]
- begin{picture}[alt={...}]

Keep it brief and objective; exposition won't be seen by most students.

Alternatives to alt={...} are artifact and actualtext={...}.

Tools

```
To verify that a pdf is accessible:
Ally, Siteimprove: (Commercial addons)
     easy to pass, checks color contrast
        too easy, false negatives
VeraPDF: https://verapdf.org/software
     has command line option; LATEX team
     no GUI for pdf errors
PDFix: https://pdfix.net
     🍁 GUL
     no command line
PAC: https://pac.pdf-accessibility.org/en
     \checkmark Windows only; maxes out at UA-1/1.7; bug with tabular headers
    ** more thorough (pgfplots, multi[row|column])
```

Replacements & Adjustments

- enumitem & enumerate \rightarrow enumext or nothing (new syntax)
- margin[fit|fix|note] → margin[alia|par]
- Beamer → ltx-talk (lualatex-dev, mostly same syntax)
- Some packages need some (or a lot of) help (tcolorbox, titlesec, qrcode, media9, ...)

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Same \pause/overlay specification idea (eg, \begin{itemize} [<+->])

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Itx-talk

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Instructor Information

- . See your syllabus in Blackboard for your instructor's information
- Required Materials: ALEKS Access Code & Course Notebook
 Course Notebook can only be purchased at the UND bookstore.
 ALEKS access can be purchased directly from ALEKS or at the bookstore.
 Math 103 has Inclusive Access see syllabus for more information

√MALL

Fall 2025

For more information

- https://latex3.github.io/tagging-project/documentation/ prototype-usage-instructions.html
- https://latex3.github.io/tagging-project/tagging-status/
- texdoc: documentmetadata-support-code, latex-lab-table, enumext, ltx-talk
- https://www.texdev.net/ltx-talk/examples/
- Compiling needs more time (x7), RAM (x4), strings&hash entries (x11), larger pdf (x2.5)
 try \DocumentMetadata{lang=en} for draft runs
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Eu_qM53tInw&t=5900s
 A before and after example using Foxit, NVDA, and MathCAT

Current status

| Degument | BB | UND.edu | PAC | VeraPDF | | ₽Τ _Ε ΧΜL |
|------------------------------|-----------|-------------|-------|---------|-------|---------------------|
| Document | Ally | SiteImprove | UA-1 | UA-1 | UA-2 | F.IFVIAIT |
| Calculus (Apex UND) | 100% | Y | N | Y*** | Y*** | "Y" |
| Linear Algebra (Cherney UND) | 100% | "Y" | Y^* | Y^* | Y^* | Y^* |
| this talk | $100\%^*$ | "Y" | Υ* | Y^* | Y^* | Ν |

"Presumed", *With help

Calculus: PAC: Multi(row/column), pgfplots

Examples

| Math | before | after |
|---|---|---|
| $a^2 + b^2 = c^2$ | ay two plus bee two equals cee two | ay squared plus bee squared is equal to cee squared |
| $\begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix}^{-1}$ | minus one list with one item ay bee cee dee | two lines line one ay bee line two cee dee to the negative one power |
| $\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 4 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$ | three four one two zero one one one | the two by two matrix row one one two row two three four times the two by two matrix row one one one row two zero one |

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Promised Resources

https://sites.und.edu/timothy.prescott/accessible

