LATEX Seminar for
US Census
Bureau
February 2009

Elements of
Visual Formatting

Elements of Visual Formatting*

Boris Veytsman

February 2009

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1.   Lengths

LaTeX knows the following lengths:

1cm: 1 centimeter

1em: Width of the letter M

1ex: Height of the letter x

1in: 1 inch

1pc: 1 pica = 12pt

1pt: 1in = 72.27pt

1bp: 1in=72bp

1mm: 1 millimeter

1sp: 1 pt = 65536 sp (1 sp = 5.36 nm = 53.6 Å)

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2. Setting Lengths

The command \setlength:

```
\setlength{\parindent}{5em}
\setlength{\parskip}{0pt}
```

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2. Setting Lengths

The command \setlength:

```
\setlength{\parindent}{5em}
\setlength{\parskip}{0pt}
```

Exercise 1. In letters paragraphs traditionally do not have indents, and are separated by empty lines. How would you set this up?

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3.   Rules

The command \rule{x}{y} creates a rule:

```
\rule{0.1pt}{2in}\rule{2in}{0.1pt}
```

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4.   Empty Spaces

```
I want to leave \hspace{2in} some space here

\vspace{1in}
and here
```

I want to leave   some space here

and here.

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Some predefined vertical spaces:

```
First line

\smallskip
Second line

\medskip
Third line

\bigskip
Fourth line
```

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Some predefined vertical spaces:

```
First line

\smallskip
Second line

\medskip
Third line

\bigskip
Fourth line
```

First line

Second line

Third line

Fourth line

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Happy T_EXing!

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