

1. This is a sample block of text designed to test `\index`, the `layout` of the `index` (`theindex` environment) and any `indexing application`, such as `makeindex` or `xindy`. This text is just filler (produced using `\testidx` provided by the `testidx` package) to pad out the document with instances of `\index` interspersed throughout. You can use it, for example, to test an indexing package, such as `makeidx` or `imakeidx`, or to test a `makeindex` style file or `xindy` module. You can find out more information from the `testidx` user manual, which can be accessed using the `texdoc` application. This block starts a range that is closed in block 16.

padding, see also filler

8. Don't forget there's also a `number group`, so let's have some numbers. *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* has of course propelled the number 42 to stardom, as the answer to life, the universe and everything. We usually deal in base 10, but sometimes base 16 is useful to programmers, and computers prefer base 2 (and 2 is the only even prime number). A century in cricket means 100 runs, and in the calendar 100 years. If you're using `xindy`, you can provide a numbers group by adding the following to your `.xdy` module:

```
(define-letter-group "Numbers"
:prefixes ("0" "1" "2" "3" "4" "5" "6" "7" "8" "9")
:before "A")
```

Whilst we're on the subject of numbers, let's try out some equations.

$$E = mc^2 \tag{1}$$

This document doesn't load the `amsmath` package, so let's try out the `eqnarray` environment:

$$f(\vec{x}) = \alpha \sum_i^n x_i + \beta \sum_i^n x_i^2 + \gamma \tag{2}$$

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial x_j} = \alpha + 2\beta x_j \tag{3}$$

(Note how the subscripts and superscripts can be affected by material inserted between the symbol and the sub- and superscripts.) If you load the `amsmath` package, we'll test the `align` environment instead. Incidentally, that's just a regular partial derivative symbol `\partial`. Not to be confused with the spin-weighted partial derivative [you need the `amssymb` package for that symbol]. Now I've been a bit fancy here and inserted `>` in front of the sort key so I can get `xindy` to create a special group for the maths symbols. Here's the code you can add to your `.xdy` file to implement it:

```
(define-letter-group "Maths" :prefixes (">") :before "Numbers")
```

I've done something similar with the marker `s` where I've used `<` as the prefix.

10. Now this is going to be hard to believe — in fact I'm totally gobsmacked and utterly astounded — but I've discovered that we're still missing some `letter groups`, and I've run out of anything quaint to say, so I'm going to have to

yatter for a while longer, which will probably make you yawn and fall asleep. What shall we talk about? My quirky badinage is about to expire. How about a story? Here's one I made up for my friend Paulo Cereda in `TeX.SE` chat because he likes ducks and is the creator of `arara`. So, are you sitting comfortably? Then let's begin. By the way, before I forget, it's called *Sir Quackalot and the Golden Arara* and is the first story in *The Adventures of Sir Quackalot*. It's a tale of adventure and derring-do. The hero of the story is Sir Quackalot, in case you can't tell from the title. Once upon a time, a long time ago in a far away land, there lived a knight. He was handsome, he was bold, he was brave. He was — a duck. His name was Sir Quackalot. One day the Fairy Goose appeared. "Brave knight," she said. "A terrible plight has fallen on the land. The evil Ogre has stolen the Golden Arara. Only you can save it." (That's a reference to `TeX`'s output routine, if you missed it.) "It will be a perilous quest, but find the Mighty Helm of Knuth and the Legendary Sword xor to aid you." (Ask David Carlisle about the xor reference.)

11. So Sir Quackalot set out on his quest. (This is the continuation from the previous block, for any newcomers who have just turned up.) He soon arrived at the Bog of Eternal Glossaries (that's a reference to my `glossaries` package, and it's also a nod to the Bog of Eternal Stench in *Labyrinth*), in the centre (or center for those of you across the pond) of which was suspended the Mighty Helm of Knuth, but Sir Quackalot was learned in the lore of installing `Perl` and was able to leap upon the magical raft `makeglossaries` and steer his way through the external indexing applications and their many arguments. (That's supposed to be a pun, but it's bad form to explain the joke, and it wasn't even particularly witty. Incidentally, Joseph Wright makes a cameo at this point with the exclamation "fetchez la vache!" but you'll have to ask Paulo Cereda what that's all about. It wouldn't surprise me if it had something to do with Monty Python.)

12. Anyway, where were we? Oh, yes. He (that's Sir Quackalot we're talking about, if you've only just joined us) snatched up the Mighty Helm of Knuth and escaped from the perilous bog. Soon he came to the Dread Vale of the Editors, guarded at either end by the ever-quarrelling leviathans `Emacs` and `Vi`. As he approached the vale, Emacs uttered the magic incantation that sent forth the butterflies of chaos. (I know "doom" is more appropriate but, as is common knowledge, chaos is a butterfly motif.)

13. But Sir Quackalot was protected by the Mighty Helm of Knuth and raced past into the vale, where he found the Legendary Sword xor in the centre of the great `longtable`. (Ooh, I've started a sentence with a conjunction. How naughty is that?) With a great leap and a bound, Sir Quackalot plucked out the sword and headed for the far end of the vale. Up pounced `Vi` and belched forth a myriad of clones that bore down on Sir Quackalot. But, brandishing the sword xor, Sir Quackalot sliced them down. (There's some repetition there, but hopefully no one's noticed. There's even more coming up in the next block.)

14. Sir Quackalot escaped from the Dread Vale of the Editors and set off

up the path that led to the evil Ogre's lair. As Sir Quackalot approached, there was a fearful roar, and the Ogre pounced on Sir Quackalot. The brave knight raised his powerful sword and brought it down on the Ogre, destroying him. Sir Quackalot rescued the Golden Arara and the land was once more restored to peace and harmony and paragraphs were able to span page breaks without fear. The End. Don't miss the next thrilling adventure *Sir Quackalot and the Hyper Lake of Doom* where our seaborne intrepid hero meets a quixotic seal with a zither (a zealous fan of *The Third Man*), a youthful sea lion with a magic yo-yo, and a wily wombat warrior with a laser-guided sealant gun. Can they defeat the villainous, zany zoologist sailing a xebec across the sea bearing canisters of xenon, xylem and xylene? Oh, zounds! He's ashore wearing a zoot suit and smoking a zucchini whilst playing a xylophone. As one anonymous reviewer said, it's as exhilarating as watching a yuppie eating a yule log soaked in yoghurt. Hmm, yummy — or yuck, depending on your tastes. Don't forget to check you have some chalk so we can write ddisgynedig and ddyrchafedig in Nghaerdydd (over in Nghymru) because I want a few more words with digraphs, and then we can take a ffotograff of Ffestiniog.

◊hero▷intrepid,
see intrepid hero

16. This is the final block of dummy text provided by the `testidx` package. This block contains the close of a range that was started in block 1. Fun, wasn't it?

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