

Converting Documents to PDF in the Math Department Linux System

If you are using TeX/LaTeX, you get your documents in *dvi* format, which can easily be printed or converted to *PostScript* with **dvips**. There are various ways of producing a PDF file from a *dvi* or *PostScript* source, but they do not always produce the best quality.

1. Use **pdftex** or **pdflatex** instead of **tex** or **latex** on your source TeX/LaTeX file. For instance, the following command will produce a *filename.pdf* file instead of the usual *filename.dvi* file from a latex source file *filename.tex*:

```
pdflatex filename.tex
```

If the file is in plain TeX, use:

```
pdftex filename.tex
```

If the document has figures inserted as *PostScript* files, you can follow the previous procedure, but first the figures must be converted to PDF, PNG or JPEG format, and the TeX/LaTeX file must contain the appropriate commands to insert files with the right format. For the details on how to include graphics, look at

[Including graphics in LaTeX/PDF documents](#)

2. An alternative is to use TeX/LaTeX in the usual way to produce a *DVI* file, then use **dvips** (with the `-Ppdf` flag) to convert the *DVI* file into *PostScript*, and finally convert the *PostScript* to PDF with **pstill**:

```
latex filename.tex
dvips -Ppdf -o filename.ps filename.dvi
pstill -o filename.pdf filename.ps
```

3. If various documents share some references it might be inconvenient to write them as separate TeX/LaTeX files. In that case, write them together as a single document, process it to produce a single *DVI* file, then convert it into PDF with **dvipdfm**. The document can be split into its different parts at the same time by selecting ranges of pages with the `-s` flag of **dvipdfm**:

```
dvipdfm -s <n1>-<n2> -o filename.pdf filename.dvi
```

where `<n1>-<n2>` represents the range of pages, e.g., 7-12 means pages 7 through 12.

4. Another solution to produce various separate PDF documents from a single source is to produce a *PostScript* file as above

```
latex filename.tex
dvips -Ppdf -o filename.ps filename.dvi
```

then divide the *PostScript* file into separate files selecting pages with **psselect**

```
dvipdfm -s <n1>-<n2> filename.ps foo.ps
```

and finally convert each *PostScript* file into PDF

```
pstill -o foo.pdf foo.ps
```

5. Finally, the subject of how to combine various separate documents into a single PDF file is addressed here:

[How do I merge several PostScript/PDF documents into a single PDF document?](#)

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