Creating a simple bibliography with LaTeX

Creating the References section

To make the reference section use the following commands:

```
\begin{thebibliography}{9}
\end{thebibliography}
```

These should go at the end of your document, right *before* `\end{document}`. (The argument `{9}` tells LaTeX to expect all the reference labels to be single digit numbers. If you are citing more than 9 sources, use `{99}` instead. If you are labelling your references with something other than numbers, for example the author's initials as described below, the argument should be the widest label. This ensures that the allignment looks right in the references list.)

Adding references to the list

Within the `thebibliography` section, we can add references using the `\bibitem[label]{ref}` command. Here, `{ref}` is your own code for referring to that bibliography entry; you will use it to tell LaTeX which item from the list you are referring to, but `ref` will not appear in your final .pdf. The optional argument `[label]` allows you to specify what the reference to that item looks like in the .pdf file. If you skip it, LaTeX will default to using a number, but you could choose to use the author's initials instead.

Each item in your bibliography should include, in order, the author, *the title (in italics)*, the publisher, and the year it was published. Include any other relevant information too: if it's a journal article, include the name of the journal, the volume number, and the pages within that volume on which the article is found. Here's an example:

```
\bibitem[WiM]{wim} Richard Courant and Herbert Robbins.
\emph{What is Mathematics?}, revised by Ian Stewart.
Oxford University Press, Inc., New York, 1996.
```

Citing your sources

To cite the example item above, we use the command `\cite{wim}`. This produces

> We are citing the source [WiM].

Observe that the label between the square brackets matches the argument between square brackets in our `\bibitem` command, and the argument in our `\cite` command matches the argument between the braces in the `\bibitem` command.

Organising your list

- Your sources will be listed in the same order in the .pdf that they are listed in the `thebibliography` section; it is recommended that you order them alphabetically by author's last name.

- Any `\bibitem`s without a `[label]` will be assigned a number by LaTeX; to be consistent you should assign `[label]`s to either all or none of your sources.

- Remember that best practice is that if something is listed in your bibliography, it should be referred to in the main document.

Notice that the inclusion of `\bibitem{apostol}` in the bibliography of this document broke all three of those rules!

References

[WiM] Richard Courant and Herbert Robbins. *What is Mathematics?*, revised by Ian Stewart. Oxford University Press, Inc., New York, 1996.

[1] Tom M. Apostol, *Mathematical analysis*, Addison-Wesley Pub. Co., 1974.