



THE PUBLIC IS MORE FAMILIAR WITH BAD DESIGN THAN GOOD DESIGN. IT IS, IN EFFECT, CONDITIONED TO PREFER BAD DESIGN, BECAUSE THAT IS WHAT IT LIVES WITH. THE NEW BECOMES THREATENING, THE OLD REASSURING.

PAUL RAND

A DESIGNER KNOWS THAT HE HAS ACHIEVED PERFECTION NOT WHEN THERE IS NOTHING LEFT TO ADD, BUT WHEN THERE IS NOTHING LEFT TO TAKE AWAY.

ANTOINE DE SAINT-EXUPÉRY

...THE DESIGNER OF A NEW SYSTEM MUST NOT ONLY BE THE IMPLEMENTOR AND THE FIRST LARGE-SCALE USER; THE DESIGNER SHOULD ALSO WRITE THE FIRST USER MANUAL...IF I HAD NOT PARTICIPATED FULLY IN ALL THESE ACTIVITIES, LITERALLY HUNDREDS OF IMPROVEMENTS WOULD NEVER HAVE BEEN MADE, BECAUSE I WOULD NEVER HAVE THOUGHT OF THEM OR PERCEIVED WHY THEY WERE IMPORTANT.

DONALD E. KNUTH

*A Tufte-Style Book*<sup>1</sup>

*The Tufte-LaTeX Developers*

*November 27, 2025*

<sup>1</sup> Thanks to Edward R. Tufte for his inspiration.

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*Dedicated to those who appreciate L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X and the  
work of Edward R. Tufte and Donald E. Knuth.*



## *Introduction*

This sample book discusses the design of Edward Tufte's books and the use of the `tufte-book` and `tufte-handout` document classes. (Tufte 2001; Tufte 1990; Tufte 1997; Tufte 2006)



# The Design of Tufte's Books

THE PAGES of a book are usually divided into three major sections: the front matter (also called preliminary matter or prelim), the main matter (the core text of the book), and the back matter (or end matter).

THE FRONT MATTER of a book refers to all of the material that comes before the main text. The following table from shows a list of material that appears in the front matter of *The Visual Display of Quantitative Information*, *Envisioning Information*, *Visual Explanations*, and *Beautiful Evidence* along with its page number. Page numbers that appear in parentheses refer to folios that do not have a printed page number (but they are still counted in the page number sequence).

Page content	Books			
	<i>VDQI</i>	<i>EI</i>	<i>VE</i>	<i>BE</i>
Blank half title page	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Frontispiece <sup>2</sup>	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
Full title page	(3)	(3)	(3)	(3)
Copyright page	(4)	(4)	(4)	(4)
Contents	(5)	(5)	(5)	(5)
Dedication	(6)	(7)	(7)	7
Epigraph	–	–	(8)	–
Introduction	(7)	(9)	(9)	9

<sup>2</sup> The contents of this page vary from book to book. In *VDQI* this page is blank; in *EI* and *VE* this page holds a frontispiece; and in *BE* this page contains three epigraphs.

The design of the front matter in Tufte's books varies slightly from the traditional design of front matter. First, the pages in front matter are traditionally numbered with lowercase roman numerals (*e.g.*, i, ii, iii, iv, ...). Second, the front matter page numbering sequence is usually separate from the main matter page numbering. That is, the page numbers restart at 1 when the main matter begins. In contrast, Tufte has enumerated his pages with arabic numerals that share the same page counting sequence as the main matter.

There are also some variations in design across Tufte's four books. The page opposite the full title page (labeled "frontispiece" in the above table) has different content in each of the books. In *The Visual Display of Quantitative Information*, this

page is blank; in *Envisioning Information* and *Visual Explanations*, this page holds a frontispiece; and in *Beautiful Evidence*, this page contains three epigraphs.

The dedication appears on page 6 in *VDQI* (opposite the introduction), and is placed on its own spread in the other books. In *VE*, an epigraph shares the spread with the opening page of the introduction.

None of the page numbers (folios) of the front matter are expressed except in *BE*, where the folios start to appear on the dedication page.

THE FULL TITLE PAGE of each of the books varies slightly in design. In all the books, the author's name appears at the top of the page, the title is set just above the center line, and the publisher is printed along the bottom margin. Some of the differences are outlined in the following table.

Feature	<i>VDQI</i>	<i>EI</i>	<i>VE</i>	<i>BE</i>
Author				
Typeface	serif	serif	serif	sans serif
Style	italics	italics	italics	upright, caps
Size	24 pt	20 pt	20 pt	20 pt
Title				
Typeface	serif	serif	serif	sans serif
Style	upright	italics	upright	upright, caps
Size	36 pt	48 pt	48 pt	36 pt
Subtitle				
Typeface	—	—	serif	—
Style	—	—	upright	—
Size	—	—	20 pt	—
Edition				
Typeface	sans serif	—	—	—
Style	upright, caps	—	—	—
Size	14 pt	—	—	—
Publisher				
Typeface	serif	serif	serif	sans serif
Style	italics	italics	italics	upright, caps
Size	14 pt	14 pt	14 pt	14 pt

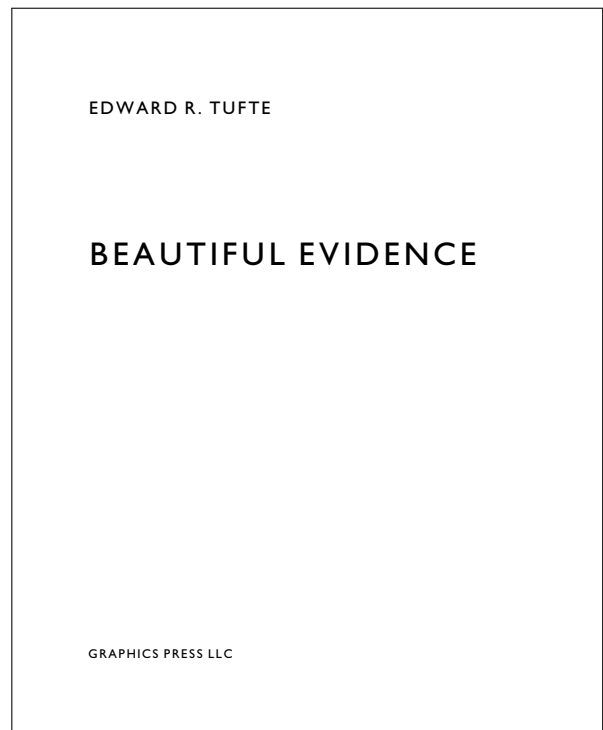
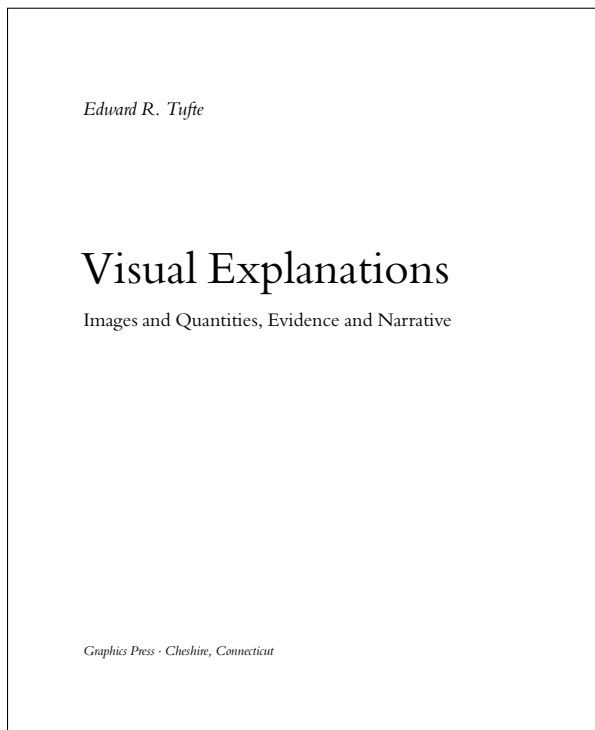
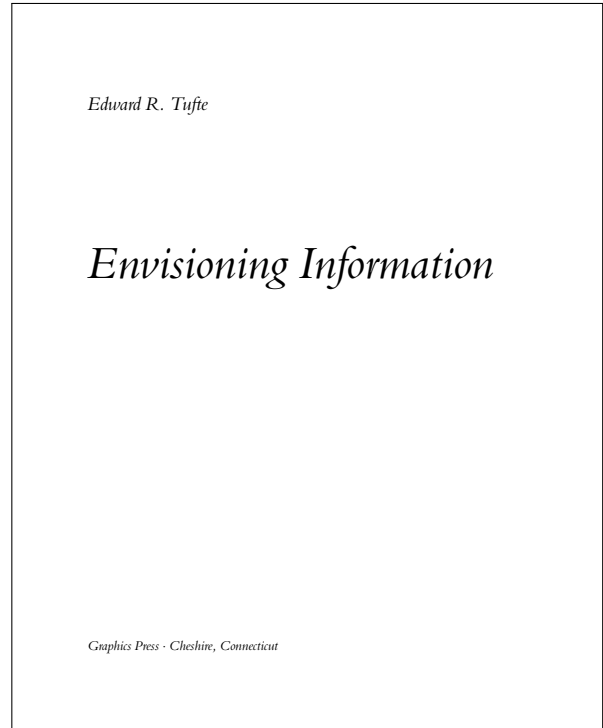
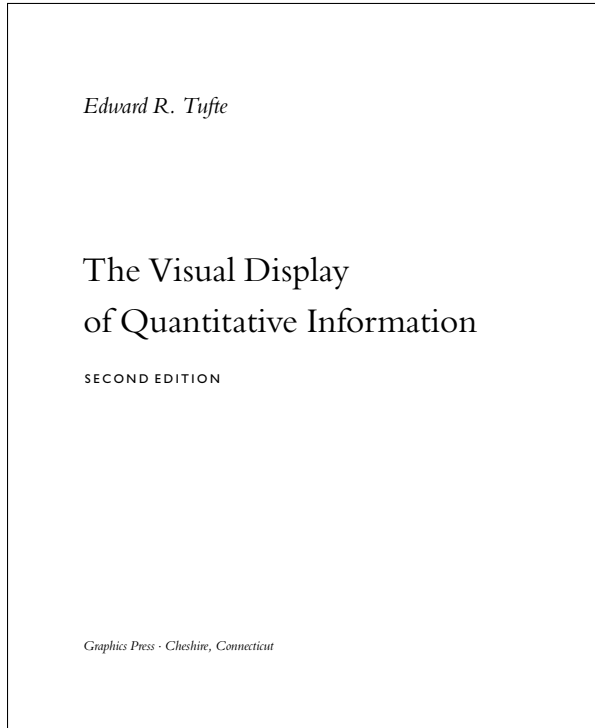
THE TABLES OF CONTENTS in Tufte's books give us our first glimpse of the structure of the main matter. *The Visual Display of Quantitative Information* is split into two parts, each containing some number of chapters. His other three books only contain chapters—they're not broken into parts.

### Typefaces

Tufte's books primarily use two typefaces: Bembo and Gill Sans. Bembo is used for the headings and body text, while Gill Sans is used for the title page and opening epigraphs in *Beautiful Evidence*.

Since neither Bembo nor Gill Sans are available in default  $\text{\LaTeX}$  installations, the Tufte- $\text{\LaTeX}$  document classes default to using Palatino and Helvetica, respectively. In addition, the Bera Mono typeface is used for monospaced type.





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The following font sizes are defined by the Tufte- $\LaTeX$  classes:

$\LaTeX$ size	Font size	Leading	Used for
<code>\tiny</code>	5	6	sidenote numbers
<code>\scriptsize</code>	7	8	–
<code>\footnotesize</code>	8	10	sidenotes, captions
<code>\small</code>	9	12	quote, quotation, and verse environments
<code>\normalsize</code>	10	14	body text
<code>\large</code>	11	15	b-heads
<code>\Large</code>	12	16	A-heads, TOC entries, author, date
<code>\LARGE</code>	14	18	handout title
<code>\huge</code>	20	30	chapter heads
<code>\Huge</code>	24	36	part titles

Table 1: A list of  $\LaTeX$  font sizes as defined by the Tufte- $\LaTeX$  document classes.

## Headings

Tufte's books include the following heading levels: parts, chapters,<sup>3</sup> sections, subsections, and paragraphs. Not defined by default are: sub-subsections and subparagraphs.

Heading	Style	Size
Part	roman	24/36×40 pc
Chapter	italic	20/30×40 pc
Section	italic	12/16×26 pc
Subsection	italic	11/15×26 pc
Paragraph	italic	10/14

<sup>3</sup> Parts and chapters are defined for the `tufte-book` class only.

Table 2: Heading styles used in *Beautiful Evidence*.

*Paragraph* Paragraph headings (as shown here) are introduced by italicized text and separated from the main paragraph by a bit of space.

## Environments

The following characteristics define the various environments:

Environment	Font size	Notes
Body text	10/14×26 pc	
Block quote	9/12×24 pc	Block indent (left and right) by 1 pc
Sidenotes	8/10×12 pc	Sidenote number is set inline, followed by word space
Captions	8/10×12 pc	

Table 3: Environment styles used in *Beautiful Evidence*.



# On the Use of the *tufte-book Document Class*

The Tufte- $\LaTeX$  document classes define a style similar to the style Edward Tufte uses in his books and handouts. Tufte’s style is known for its extensive use of sidenotes, tight integration of graphics with text, and well-set typography. This document aims to be at once a demonstration of the features of the Tufte- $\LaTeX$  document classes and a style guide to their use.

## Page Layout

### Headings

This style provides A- and B-heads (that is, `\section` and `\subsection`), demonstrated above.

If you need more than two levels of section headings, you’ll have to define them yourself at the moment; there are no pre-defined styles for anything below a `\subsection`. As Bringhurst points out in *The Elements of Typographic Style*, you should “use as many levels of headings as you need: no more, and no fewer. (Bringhurst 2005)”

The Tufte- $\LaTeX$  classes will emit an error if you try to use `\subsubsection` and smaller headings.

IN HIS LATER BOOKS, Tufte starts each section with a bit of vertical space, a non-indented paragraph, and sets the first few words of the sentence in SMALL CAPS. (Tufte 2006) To accomplish this using this style, use the `\newthought` command:

```
\newthought{In his later books}, Tufte starts...
```

### Sidenotes

One of the most prominent and distinctive features of this style is the extensive use of sidenotes. There is a wide margin to provide ample room for sidenotes and small figures. Any `\footnotes` will automatically be converted to sidenotes.<sup>4</sup> If you’d like to place ancillary information in the margin without the sidenote mark (the superscript number), you can use the `\marginnote` command.

The specification of the `\sidenote` command is:

```
\sidenote[number][offset]{Sidenote text.}
```

<sup>4</sup> This is a sidenote that was entered using the `\footnote` command.

This is a margin note. Notice that there isn’t a number preceding the note, and there is no number in the main text where this note was written.

Both the `<number>` and `<offset>` arguments are optional. If you provide a `<number>` argument, then that number will be used as the sidenote number. It will change of the number of the current sidenote only and will not affect the numbering sequence of subsequent sidenotes.

Sometimes a sidenote may run over the top of other text or graphics in the margin space. If this happens, you can adjust the vertical position of the sidenote by providing a dimension in the `<offset>` argument. Some examples of valid dimensions are:

```
1.0in    2.54cm    254mm    6\baselineskip
```

If the dimension is positive it will push the sidenote down the page; if the dimension is negative, it will move the sidenote up the page.

While both the `<number>` and `<offset>` arguments are optional, they must be provided in order. To adjust the vertical position of the sidenote while leaving the sidenote number alone, use the following syntax:

```
\sidenote[[<offset>]{Sidenote text.}
```

The empty brackets tell the `\sidenote` command to use the default sidenote number.

If you *only* want to change the sidenote number, however, you may completely omit the `<offset>` argument:

```
\sidenote[<number>]{Sidenote text.}
```

The `\marginnote` command has a similar `offset` argument:

```
\marginnote[<offset>]{Margin note text.}
```

## References

References are placed alongside their citations as sidenotes, as well. This can be accomplished using the normal `\cite` command.<sup>5</sup>

The complete list of references may also be printed automatically by using the `\bibliography` command. (See the end of this document for an example.) If you do not want to print a bibliography at the end of your document, use the `\nobibliography` command in its place.

To enter multiple citations at one location, you can provide a list of keys separated by commas and the same optional vertical offset argument: `\margincite{Tufte2006,Tufte1990}`.

```
\cite[<offset>]{bibkey1,bibkey2,...}
```

<sup>5</sup> The first paragraph of this document includes a citation.

Tufte (2006) and Tufte (1990)

## Figures and Tables

Images and graphics play an integral role in Tufte's work. In addition to the standard `figure` and `tabular` environments, this style provides special figure and table environments for full-width floats.

Full page-width figures and tables may be placed in `figure*` or `table*` environments. To place figures or tables in the margin, use the `marginfigure` or `marginable` environments as follows (see figure 1):

#### A figure in the margin.

```
\begin{marginfigure}%
\includegraphics[width=\linewidth]{helix}
\caption{This is a margin figure. The helix is defined by
 $x = \cos(2\pi z)$ ,  $y = \sin(2\pi z)$ , and  $z = [0, 2.7]$ . The figure was
drawn using Asymptote (\url{http://asymptote.sf.net/}).\Label{fig:marginfig}}
\end{marginfigure}
```

The `marginfigure` and `marginable` environments accept an optional parameter `<offset>` that adjusts the vertical position of the figure or table. See the “Sidenotes” section above for examples. The specifications are:

#### The syntax of `marginfigure`.

```
\begin{marginfigure}[<offset>]
...
\end{marginfigure}
...
\begin{marginable}[<offset>]
...
\end{marginable}
```

Figure 2 is an example of the `figure*` environment and figure 3 is an example of the normal `figure` environment.

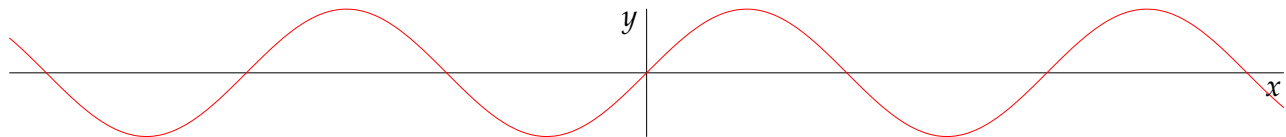


Figure 2: This graph shows the function  $y = \sin x$  with  $x = [-10, 10]$ . Notice that this figure takes up the full page width.

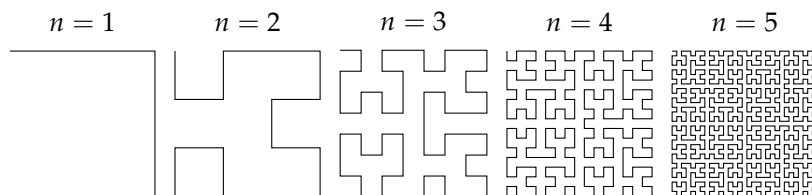


Figure 3: Hilbert curves of various degrees  $n$ . Notice that this figure only takes up the main textblock width.

As with sidenotes and marginnotes, a caption may sometimes require vertical adjustment. The `\caption` command now takes a second optional argument that enables you to do this by providing a dimension `<offset>`. You may specify the caption in any one of the following forms:

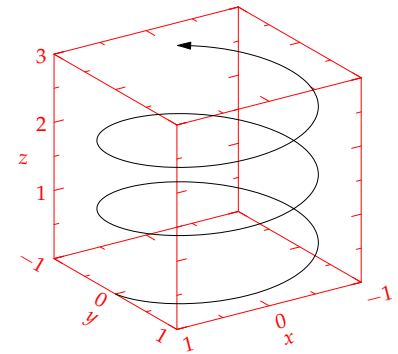


Figure 1: This is a margin figure. The helix is defined by  $x = \cos(2\pi z)$ ,  $y = \sin(2\pi z)$ , and  $z = [0, 2.7]$ . The figure was drawn using Asymptote (<http://asymptote.sf.net/>).

The syntax of `marginfigure`.

```

\caption{long caption}
\caption[<short caption>]{long caption}
\caption[][<offset>]{long caption}
\caption[<short caption>][<offset>]{long caption}

```

A positive  $\langle offset \rangle$  will push the caption down the page. The short caption, if provided, is what appears in the list of figures/tables, otherwise the “long” caption appears there. Note that although the arguments  $\langle short\ caption \rangle$  and  $\langle offset \rangle$  are both optional, they must be provided in order. Thus, to specify an  $\langle offset \rangle$  without specifying a  $\langle short\ caption \rangle$ , you must include the first set of empty brackets [], which tell `\caption` to use the default “long” caption. As an example, the caption to figure 3 above was given in the form

```
\caption[Hilbert curves...][6pt]{Hilbert curves...}
```

Table shows table created with the `booktabs` package. Notice the lack of vertical rules—they serve only to clutter the table’s data.

Important: All `\label` commands for figures must be *inside* the `\caption` command. For example:

```
\caption[Hilbert curves...][6pt]{Hilbert curves... \label{<name>}}
```

Margin	Length
Paper width	8.5inch
Paper height	11inch
Textblock width	6.5inch
Textblock/sidenote gutter	0.375 inch
Sidenote width	2inch

Table 4: Here are the dimensions of the various margins used in the Tufte-handout class.

OCCASIONALLY  $\LaTeX$  will generate an error message:

```
Error: Too many unprocessed floats
```

$\LaTeX$  tries to place floats in the best position on the page. Until it’s finished composing the page, however, it won’t know where those positions are. If you have a lot of floats on a page (including sidenotes, margin notes, figures, tables, etc.),  $\LaTeX$  may run out of “slots” to keep track of them and will generate the above error.

$\LaTeX$  initially allocates 18 slots for storing floats. To work around this limitation, the Tufte- $\LaTeX$  document classes provide a `\morefloats` command that will reserve more slots.

The first time `\morefloats` is called, it allocates an additional 34 slots. The second time `\morefloats` is called, it allocates another 26 slots.

The `\morefloats` command may only be used two times. Calling it a third time will generate an error message. (This is because we can’t safely allocate many more floats or  $\LaTeX$  will run out of memory.)



If, after using the `\morefloats` command twice, you continue to get the Too many unprocessed floats error, there are a couple things you can do.

The `\FloatBarrier` command will immediately process all the floats before typesetting more material. Since `\FloatBarrier` will start a new paragraph, you should place this command at the beginning or end of a paragraph.

The `\clearpage` command will also process the floats before continuing, but instead of starting a new paragraph, it will start a new page.

You can also try moving your floats around a bit: move a figure or table to the next page or reduce the number of sidenotes. (Each sidenote actually uses *two* slots.)

After the floats have placed,  $\text{\LaTeX}$  will mark those slots as unused so they are available for the next page to be composed.

### Captions

You may notice that the captions are sometimes misaligned. Due to the way  $\text{\LaTeX}$ 's float mechanism works, we can't know for sure where it decided to put a float. Therefore, the Tufte- $\text{\LaTeX}$  document classes provide commands to override the caption position.

**Vertical alignment** To override the vertical alignment, use the `\setfloatalignment` command inside the float environment. For example:

```
\begin{figure}[btp]
  \includegraphics{sinewave}
  \caption{This is an example of a sine wave.}
  \label{fig:sinewave}
  \setfloatalignment{b}% forces caption to be bottom-aligned
\end{figure}
```

The syntax of the `\setfloatalignment` command is:

```
\setfloatalignment{⟨pos⟩}
```

where `⟨pos⟩` can be either `b` for bottom-aligned captions, or `t` for top-aligned captions.

**Horizontal alignment** To override the horizontal alignment, use either the `\forceversofofloat` or the `\forcerectofofloat` command inside of the float environment. For example:

```
\begin{figure}[btp]
  \includegraphics{sinewave}
  \caption{This is an example of a sine wave.}
  \label{fig:sinewave}
  \forceversofofloat% forces caption to be set to the left of the float
\end{figure}
```

The `\forceversofofloat` command causes the algorithm to assume the float has been placed on a verso page—that is, a page on the left side of a two-page spread. Conversely, the `\forcerectofofloat` command causes the algorithm to assume

the float has been placed on a recto page—that is, a page on the right side of a two-page spread.

### Full-width text blocks

In addition to the new float types, there is a `fullwidth` environment that stretches across the main text block and the sidenotes area.

```
\begin{fullwidth}
Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet...
\end{fullwidth}
```

*Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Ut purus elit, vestibulum ut, placerat ac, adipiscing vitae, felis. Curabitur dictum gravida mauris. Nam arcu libero, nonummy eget, consectetur id, vulputate a, magna. Donec vehicula augue eu neque. Pellentesque habitant morbi tristique senectus et netus et malesuada fames ac turpis egestas. Mauris ut leo. Cras viverra metus rhoncus sem. Nulla et lectus vestibulum urna fringilla ultrices. Phasellus eu tellus sit amet tortor gravida placerat. Integer sapien est, iaculis in, pretium quis, viverra ac, nunc. Praesent eget sem vel leo ultrices bibendum. Aenean faucibus. Morbi dolor nulla, malesuada eu, pulvinar at, mollis ac, nulla. Curabitur auctor semper nulla. Donec varius orci eget risus. Duis nibh mi, congue eu, accumsan eleifend, sagittis quis, diam. Duis eget orci sit amet orci dignissim rutrum.*

## Typography

### Typefaces

If the Palatino, Helvetica, and Bera Mono typefaces are installed, this style will use them automatically. Otherwise, we'll fall back on the Computer Modern typefaces.

### Letterspacing

This document class includes two new commands and some improvements on existing commands for letterspacing.

When setting strings of ALL CAPS or SMALL CAPS, the letterspacing—that is, the spacing between the letters—should be increased slightly. (Bringinghurst 2005) The `\allcaps` command has proper letterspacing for strings of FULL CAPITAL LETTERS, and the `\smallcaps` command has letterspacing for SMALL CAPITAL LETTERS. These commands will also automatically convert the case of the text to upper- or lowercase, respectively.

The `\textsc` command has also been redefined to include letterspacing. The case of the `\textsc` argument is left as is, however. This allows one to use both uppercase and lowercase letters: THE INITIAL LETTERS OF THE WORDS IN THIS SENTENCE ARE CAPITALIZED.

### Document Class Options

The `tufte-book` class is based on the `ETEX` book document class. Therefore, you can pass any of the typical book options. There are a few options that are specific to the `tufte-book` document class, however.

The `a4paper` option will set the paper size to A4 instead of the default us letter size.

The `sfsidenotes` option will set the sidenotes and title block in a sans serif typeface instead of the default roman.

The `twoside` option will modify the running heads so that the page number is printed on the outside edge (as opposed to always printing the page number on the right-side edge in `oneside` mode).

The `symmetric` option typesets the sidenotes on the outside edge of the page. This is how books are traditionally printed, but is contrary to Tufte's book design which sets the sidenotes on the right side of the page. This option implicitly sets the `twoside` option.

The `justified` option sets all the text fully justified (flush left and right). The default is to set the text ragged right. The body text of Tufte's books are set ragged right. This prevents needless hyphenation and makes it easier to read the text in the slightly narrower column.

The `bidi` option loads the `bidi` package which is used with  $X_{\text{g}}\text{\LaTeX}$  to typeset bi-directional text. Since the `bidi` package needs to be loaded before the sidenotes and cite commands are defined, it can't be loaded in the document preamble.

The `debug` option causes the Tufte- $\text{\LaTeX}$  classes to output debug information to the log file which is useful in troubleshooting bugs. It will also cause the graphics to be replaced by outlines.

The `nofonts` option prevents the Tufte- $\text{\LaTeX}$  classes from automatically loading the Palatino and Helvetica typefaces. You should use this option if you wish to load your own fonts. If you're using  $X_{\text{g}}\text{\LaTeX}$ , this option is implied (*i. e.*, the Palatino and Helvetica fonts aren't loaded if you use  $X_{\text{g}}\text{\LaTeX}$ ).

The `noles` option inhibits the letterspacing code. The Tufte- $\text{\LaTeX}$  classes try to load the appropriate letterspacing package (either `pdf $\text{\TeX}$` 's `letterspace` package or the `soul` package). If you're using  $X_{\text{g}}\text{\LaTeX}$  with `fontenc`, however, you should configure your own letterspacing.

The `notitlepage` option causes `\maketitle` to generate a title block instead of a title page. The book class defaults to a title page and the handout class defaults to the title block. There is an analogous `titlepage` option that forces `\maketitle` to generate a full title page instead of the title block.

The `notoc` option suppresses Tufte- $\text{\LaTeX}$ 's custom table of contents (TOC) design. The current TOC design only shows unnumbered chapter titles; it doesn't show sections or subsections. The `notoc` option will revert to  $\text{\LaTeX}$ 's TOC design.

The `nohyper` option prevents the `hyperref` package from being loaded. The default is to load the `hyperref` package and use the `\title` and `\author` contents as metadata for the generated PDF.



# Customizing Tufte- $\LaTeX$

The Tufte- $\LaTeX$  document classes are designed to closely emulate Tufte’s book design by default. However, each document is different and you may encounter situations where the default settings are insufficient. This chapter explores many of the ways you can adjust the Tufte- $\LaTeX$  document classes to better fit your needs.

## File Hooks

If you create many documents using the Tufte- $\LaTeX$  classes, it’s easier to store your customizations in a separate file instead of copying them into the preamble of each document. The Tufte- $\LaTeX$  classes provide three file hooks: `tufte-common-local.tex`, `tufte-book-local.tex`, and `tufte-handout-local.tex`.

*tufte-common-local.tex* If this file exists, it will be loaded by all of the Tufte- $\LaTeX$  document classes just prior to any document-class-specific code. If your customizations or code should be included in both the book and handout classes, use this file hook.

*tufte-book-local.tex* If this file exists, it will be loaded after all of the common and book-specific code has been read. If your customizations apply only to the book class, use this file hook.

*tufte-common-handout.tex* If this file exists, it will be loaded after all of the common and handout-specific code has been read. If your customizations apply only to the handout class, use this file hook.

## Numbered Section Headings

While Tufte dispenses with numbered headings in his books, if you require them, they can be enabled by changing the value of the `secnumdepth` counter. From the table below, select the heading level at which numbering should stop and set the `secnumdepth` counter to that value. For example, if you want parts and chapters numbered, but don’t want numbering for sections or subsections, use the command:

```
\setcounter{secnumdepth}{0}
```

The default `secnumdepth` for the Tufte- $\LaTeX$  document classes is `-1`.

Heading level	Value
Part (in tufte-book)	-1
Part (in tufte-handout)	0
Chapter (only in tufte-book)	0
Section	1
Subsection	2
Subsubsection	3
Paragraph	4
Subparagraph	5

Table 5: Heading levels used with the `secnumdepth` counter.

### Changing the Paper Size

The Tufte- $\text{\LaTeX}$  classes currently only provide three paper sizes: A4, B5, and us letter. To specify a different paper size (and/or margins), use the `\geometry` command in the preamble of your document (or one of the file hooks). The full documentation of the `\geometry` command may be found in the `geometry` package documentation. (Umeki 2008)

### Customizing Marginal Material

Marginal material includes sidenotes, citations, margin notes, and captions. Normally, the justification of the marginal material follows the justification of the body text. If you specify the `justified` document class option, all of the margin material will be fully justified as well. If you don't specify the `justified` option, then the marginal material will be set ragged right.

You can set the justification of the marginal material separately from the body text using the following document class options: `sidenote`, `marginnote`, `caption`, `citation`, and `marginals`. Each option refers to its obviously corresponding marginal material type. The `marginals` option simultaneously sets the justification on all four marginal material types.

Each of the document class options takes one of five justification types:

*justified* Fully justifies the text (sets it flush left and right).

*raggedleft* Sets the text ragged left, regardless of which page it falls on.

*raggedright* Sets the text ragged right, regardless of which page it falls on.

*raggedouter* Sets the text ragged left if it falls on the left-hand (verso) page of the spread and otherwise sets it ragged right. This is useful in conjunction with the `symmetric` document class option.

*auto* If the `justified` document class option was specified, then set the text fully justified; otherwise the text is set ragged right. This is the default justification option if one is not explicitly specified.

For example,

```
\documentclass[symmetric,justified,marginals=raggedouter]{tufte-book}
```

will set the body text of the document to be fully justified and all of the margin material (sidenotes, margin notes, captions, and citations) to be flush against the body text with ragged outer edges.

THE FONT AND STYLE of the marginal material may also be modified using the following commands:

```
\setsidenotefont{<font commands>}
\setcaptionfont{<font commands>}
\setmarginnotefont{<font commands>}
\setcitationfont{<font commands>}
```

The `\setsidenotefont` sets the font and style for sidenotes, the `\setcaptionfont` for captions, the `\setmarginnotefont` for margin notes, and the `\setcitationfont` for citations. The `<font commands>` can contain font size changes (e.g., `\footnotesize`, `\Huge`, etc.), font style changes (e.g., `\sffamily`, `\ttfamily`, `\itshape`, etc.), color changes (e.g., `\color{blue}`), and many other adjustments.

If, for example, you wanted the captions to be set in italic sans serif, you could use:

```
\setcaptionfont{\itshape\sffamily}
```





## *Compatibility Issues*

When switching an existing document from one document class to a Tufte- $\text{\LaTeX}$  document class, a few changes to the document may have to be made.

### *Converting from article to tufte-handout*

The following article class options are unsupported: 10pt, 11pt, 12pt, a5paper, b5paper, executivepaper, legalpaper, landscape, onecolumn, and twocolumn.

The following headings are not supported: `\subsubsection` and `\subparagraph`.

### *Converting from book to tufte-book*

The following report class options are unsupported: 10pt, 11pt, 12pt, a5paper, b5paper, executivepaper, legalpaper, landscape, onecolumn, and twocolumn.

The following headings are not supported: `\subsubsection` and `\subparagraph`.



# Troubleshooting and Support

## Tufte- $\LaTeX$ Website

The website for the Tufte- $\LaTeX$  packages is located at <http://code.google.com/p/tufte-latex/>. On our website, you'll find links to our svn repository, mailing lists, bug tracker, and documentation.

## Tufte- $\LaTeX$ Mailing Lists

There are two mailing lists for the Tufte- $\LaTeX$  project:

*Discussion list* The tufte-latex discussion list is for asking questions, getting assistance with problems, and help with troubleshooting. Release announcements are also posted to this list. You can subscribe to the tufte-latex discussion list at <http://groups.google.com/group/tufte-latex>.

*Commits list* The tufte-latex-commits list is a read-only mailing list. A message is sent to the list any time the Tufte- $\LaTeX$  code has been updated. If you'd like to keep up with the latest code developments, you may subscribe to this list. You can subscribe to the tufte-latex-commits mailing list at <http://groups.google.com/group/tufte-latex-commits>.

## Getting Help

If you've encountered a problem with one of the Tufte- $\LaTeX$  document classes, have a question, or would like to report a bug, please send an email to our mailing list or visit our website.

To help us troubleshoot the problem more quickly, please try to compile your document using the debug class option and send the generated .log file to the mailing list with a brief description of the problem.

## Errors, Warnings, and Informational Messages

The following is a list of all of the errors, warnings, and other messages generated by the Tufte- $\LaTeX$  classes and a brief description of their meanings.

Error: `\subparagraph` is undefined by this class.

The `\subparagraph` command is not defined in the Tufte- $\LaTeX$  document classes. If you'd like to use the `\subparagraph` command, you'll need to redefine it yourself. See the "Headings" section on page 21 for a description of the heading styles available in the Tufte- $\LaTeX$  document classes.

Error: `\subsubsection` is undefined by this class.

The `\subsubsection` command is not defined in the Tufte- $\LaTeX$  document classes. If you'd like to use the `\subsubsection` command, you'll need to redefine it yourself. See the "Headings" section on page 21 for a description of the heading styles available in the Tufte- $\LaTeX$  document classes.

Error: You may only call `\morefloats` twice. See the Tufte- $\LaTeX$  documentation for other workarounds.

$\LaTeX$  allocates 18 slots for storing floats. The first time `\morefloats` is called, it allocates an additional 34 slots. The second time `\morefloats` is called, it allocates another 26 slots.

The `\morefloats` command may only be called two times. Calling it a third time will generate this error message. See page 24 for more information.

Warning: Option '`\langle class option \rangle`' is not supported -- ignoring option.

This warning appears when you've tried to use `\langle class option \rangle` with a Tufte- $\LaTeX$  document class, but `\langle class option \rangle` isn't supported by the Tufte- $\LaTeX$  document class. In this situation, `\langle class option \rangle` is ignored.

Info: The '`\symmetric`' option implies '`\twoside`'

You specified the `\symmetric` document class option. This option automatically forces the `\twoside` option as well. See page 27 for more information on the `\symmetric` class option.

### Package Dependencies

The following is a list of packages that the Tufte- $\LaTeX$  document classes rely upon. Packages marked with an asterisk are optional.

- xifthen
- ifpdf\*
- ifxetex\*
- hyperref
- geometry
- ragged2e
- chngpage *or* changepage
- paralist
- textcase
- soul\*

- letterspace\*
- setspace
- natbib *and* bibentry
- optparams
- placeins
- mathpazo\*
- helvet\*
- fontenc
- beramono\*
- fancyhdr
- xcolor
- textcomp
- titlesec
- titletoc

### *hyperref*

The optional argument `nohyperref` allows to deactivate package `hyperref`. (Oberdiek et al. 2025) In a lot of cases the package `hyperref` should be loaded as last package. You can define external files

`tufte-common-local-before-hyperref.tex`

`tufte-common-local-after-hyperref.tex`

The contents of these optional files will be loaded before or after `hyperref`. You can use the environment `filecontents` to write code into these files on-the-fly. For example for this document:

#### Before hyperref loaded Code.

```
\begin{filecontents}[overwrite,noheader]{tufte-common-local-before-hyperref.tex}
\usepackage{amsmath}
\usepackage{graphicx} % allow embedded images
  \setkeys{Gin}{width=\linewidth,totalheight=\textheight,keepaspectratio}
  \graphicspath{{graphics/}} % set of paths to search for images
\usepackage{booktabs} % book-quality tables
\usepackage{multicol} % multiple column layout facilities
\usepackage{lipsum} % filler text
\usepackage{fancyvrb} % extended verbatim environments
  \fvset{fontsize=\normalsize}% default font size for fancy-verbatim environments
\usepackage{minted-code}
\usepackage{xspace}
\usepackage{siunitx}

\usepackage{makeidx}\makeindex
\end{filecontents}
```



### *Support*

The website for the Tufte- $\text{\LaTeX}$  packages is located at <http://code.google.com/p/tufte-latex/>. On this website, you'll find links to the `svn` repository, mailing lists, bug tracker, and documentation.

Questions or problems to the  $\text{\XeTeX}$ / $\text{\LuaTeX}$ -version write to <mailto:hvoss@tug.org>.





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