

On the Configurability of Long Documents

Noor Fatima

August 27, 2026

Abstract

This thesis argues that a single, deeply configurable document class can serve book, report and thesis production without forcing authors into a separate package for each. We demonstrate the approach with a worked chapter, a cited source, and a compiled bibliography.

Contents

Abstract	ii
Contents	ii
1 Introduction	1
1.1 Motivation	1
1.2 Structure of this Document	1
2 Related Work	2
Bibliography	3

Chapter 1

Introduction

1.1 Motivation

Long-document classes tend to specialise early: one class per institution, one per publisher, one per document type. Knuth [1984] shows that the underlying typesetting engine does not require this — the constraints come from convention, not from $\text{\TeX}$ itself.

1.2 Structure of this Document

The remaining chapters extend this argument with worked examples, each building on the chapter and section structure shown here.

Chapter 2

Related Work

Prior classes addressing similar goals are surveyed in Knuth [1984] and the wider literature on configurable typesetting systems.

Bibliography

Donald E. Knuth. *The $T_E X$ book*. Addison-Wesley, Reading, MA, 1984.