

Using Overleaf at LHCb

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Overleaf at CERN



LHCb collaboration



- Around 1400 members, 900 on the author list
- Produce 50 papers per year on average since 2011
 - Around 450 published in journals to date
- *High quality papers* are a key output
 - Share high-impact results with the community
 - Metric for funding agencies and employers

Editorial board (EB)

- Team of 12 collaborators, including one chair and their deputy, with the mandate:

“To ensure that coherent and correct publications are produced by the LHCb Collaboration”

- Each typically reads 10–15 papers per year
 - The chairperson reads all of them
- Recommends corrections and clarifications on physics description and general spelling/grammar
- Two paper drafts are read every work day!

Publication procedure

When the physics review process is nearing completion, proponents write a paper draft and then:

1. Paper gets revised and signed off by an **EB** member
2. First circulation to the collaboration (of a PDF file): **2 weeks**
3. Corrected draft is read by 3 **EB** members.
4. Second circulation to the collaboration (of a PDF file): **1 week**
5. Final **EB** meeting open to all **EB** members
6. **EB** chair signs off on paper
7. The final version is shown to the collaboration for one day and then submitted to **arXiv**

Experience

We strongly encourage the use of Overleaf.

It is useful in steps:

1. Paper reviewer can **correct mistakes directly** and make comments
2. Rather than reading the same version and finding the same mistakes, the three EB readers **write comments** in Overleaf sequentially
3. Discuss a frozen PDF, but look at Overleaf during the meeting in case some changes happened during second circulation

Our experience is that **using Overleaf saves time for well written papers.**

For poorly written drafts, the **number of comments may be unmanageable.**

Issues

- Comments bar sometimes **too small** to see all comments easily.
- Undocumented (?) **limits on number of files**
- Most of our Overleaf projects are open to anyone with a link. In some cases we make it restricted, but then the managers need to add people one-by-one
 - Can we have **CERN single sign-on**? Integration with **e-groups** (LDAP)?
- We request authors to put the source in GitLab before submitting to arXiv and for long-term preservation
 - Could **Overleaf use CERN GitLab** instance as one of its backends?
- Markdown support via **pandoc**?

End