How I use Pandoc

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The web page entitled "What to do now that I'm retired?" is written using Pandoc, a set of tools supporting an extension of Markdown.

Creating HTML and PDF

The HTML and PDF versions are made from the source text file `WhatToDo.txt` using the CSS file `mypandoc.css`, which is a modified version of `pandoc.css` from the Pandoc demos page, and the HTML file `footer`, which is a modified version of `footer.html` from the Pandoc demos page (perhaps unwisely, I omitted the extension `.html` to shorten the shell commands below).

The HTML version is made by typing the following into a `bash` shell.

```
pandoc -s -S -toc -c mypandoc.css -A footer -mathjax WhatToDo.txt -o WhatToDo.html
```

The PDF version is made by typing:

```
pandoc -s -S -toc WhatToDo.txt -o WhatToDo.pdf
```

Making links open in a separate page

Often I have a link from, say `TEXT` to a web address, say `URL`, with the property that the link opens in a new window *and is also* live in the PDF version. I discovered by experiment that this can be achieved by putting an HTML link inside a Markdown link, i.e. using the horribly ugly

```
[<a href="URL" target="_blank">TEXT</a>](URL)
```

instead of the standard Markdown

```
[TEXT](URL)
```

I wish I knew a less kludgy method than this. Googling didn't reveal a better solution. To avoid having manually to write such URLs, I defined Emacs macros for translating between the nice Markdown notation and the horrible HTML expansion. A better way might be to use a Pandoc script, but I don't have the expertise to implement this.

Inserting Latex commands for the PDF without effecting the HTML

I found that "`\textrm{`*latex command*`}`" executes *latex command* for the PDF without affecting the HTML. I use this hack in several ways:

1. to insert text about the figure numbers that only appear in the PDF; example: "repeated `\textrm{in Figure 2}` below";

2. to force line breaks in the PDF but not the HTML (four spaces at the end of a line causes a line break in both the HTML and PDF), this is useful when the HTML is good, but the latex paragraph formatting causes stuff to overflow to the right;
   example: "`\textrm{\newline}`";

3. to insert footnotes, usually to give a URL in the PDF, but not in the HTML;
   example: "`\textrm{\footnote{\url{http://www.cl.cam.ac.uk/}}}`".

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