This is a basic XeLaTeX document (XeTeX using LaTeX macros), which will be processed using the xelatex program. The document source is in UTF-8 encoding.

Initially based on http://wiki.xelatex.org/doku.php.

1 XeLaTeX documents

XeLaTeX documents, which are processed using the xelatex program, use document source that is in UTF-8 encoding, so that you are free to write in any script that is supported by Unicode, as well as using mathematical operators (like $\surd$ ∞).

It is normal to use OpenType or TrueType fonts (as used for modern linux systems) in XeLaTeX.

2 multilingual text

Multilingual text is relatively simple in XeLaTeX (when compared to other versions of TeX), while still leaving you in total control of the styling.

2.1 Alphabetic languages

The normal modern fonts on a Linux system (particularly DejaVu) support many languages using variants of the cyrillic, greek and latin alphabets. These include Azerbaijani (Azərbaycan dili), Belarusian (беларуская мова), Czech (čeština), Greek (ελληνική γλώσσα), Lithuanian (lietuvių kalba), Romanian (limba română), Spanish (español), Turkish (Türkçe), Vietnamese (tiếng Việt) to name but a few. Thanks to omniglot and wikipedia for these examples.

2.2 Other scripts

Languages that use other scripts are not a problem, provided we define a suitable font and then change to it. For instance, we can write in Chinese, Japanese, or Korean (Simplified Chinese 中国), (Japanese 日本語), (Korean 한국어), if we have suitable fonts available. A full texlive install includes an OTF font for Simplified Chinese and a TTF font for Japanese.