LaTeX Primer

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Outline

What is LaTeX

- TeX is a typesetting program
- LaTeX is a document preparation system
- The result of compiling a document created in LaTeX is typically a PDF document
- it's all plaintext, which means it has awesome features
  - version controllable with things like git, mercurial, subversion (gross) and CVS (grosser)
  - compressable
  - easily ported and emailed
  - highly programmatic

More reasons LaTeX is awesome

- Keeps awesome bibliographies (BibTeX)
- Can be made aware of different journal formats
  - APA
  - Chicago Style
  - MLA
- Programattic
  - Means you can use fun languages like Python to generate really good looking reports from SQL databases
  - Or you can use with other usual suspects, like emacs org-mode and DocBook