



The Art of Technical \LaTeX

Modern Typography and Vector Graphics

From Standard Documents to Advanced TikZ

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The Art of Technical L^AT_EX

Modern Typography and Vector Graphics

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Changelog

v1.1	2026-01-19	Add installation and poster.
v1.0	2026-01-08	Initial release.

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0 Installing L^AT_EX with TeXworks and TeXstudio

A working L^AT_EX setup has two parts:

- a **L^AT_EX distribution** (compiler + packages), such as **MiK_TE_X** or **T_EX Live** (Windows/Linux) and **MacT_EX** (macOS),
- an **editor** to write and compile .tex files, such as **TeXworks** or **TeXstudio**.

0.1 Windows Installation

TBA

0.2 Linux Installation

Debian/Ubuntu:

```
sudo apt update
sudo apt install texlive texlive-latex-extra texlive-fonts-recommended texlive-science
```

Fedora:

```
sudo dnf install texlive-scheme-basic texlive-collection-latexextra
```

Arch Linux:

```
sudo pacman -S texlive-core texlive-latexextra texlive-fontsextra
```

Install TeXworks (Linux)

TeXworks is typically available as a package:

```
# Debian/Ubuntu
sudo apt install texworks
```

Install TeXstudio (Linux)

```
# Debian/Ubuntu
sudo apt install texstudio
```

0.3 macOS Installation

MacT_EX is a macOS distribution based on T_EX Live.

1. Download and install **MacT_EX** using the official .pkg installer.
2. After installation, ensure the T_EX binaries are available in your shell environment.

A common check in Terminal is:

```
pdflatex --version
```

1 Introduction to L^AT_EX

L^AT_EX (often pronounced “Lay-tek” or “Lah-tek”) is a high-quality typesetting system widely used for professional scientific and technical documents.

Instead of formatting text by hand (like in a word processor), we write a plain-text source file and then *compile* it into a polished PDF.

1.1 What is L^AT_EX?

What is L^AT_EX?

L^AT_EX is a document preparation system based on T_EX, designed for producing beautifully typeset documents, especially those containing complex mathematical expressions.

A helpful way to think about L^AT_EX is:

- We write *content* and *structure* (sections, theorems, figures, references).
- The compiler applies consistent typography and layout rules automatically.

This separation makes long documents easier to maintain: if we change the structure (add sections, figures, equations), numbering and references can update automatically when compiled again.

What T_EX and L^AT_EX Do

- T_EX is the underlying typesetting engine (it focuses on high-quality layout and spacing).
- L^AT_EX is a set of macros and conventions on top of T_EX that provides document structure: chapters/sections, figures, tables, bibliographies, and many more.

We usually write L^AT_EX source and let the engine produce the final PDF.

Why Use L^AT_EX? People choose L^AT_EX because it is strong where word processors often become difficult:

- **Professional-quality typography** with consistent formatting across the whole document.
- **Excellent mathematical rendering**, for example $a^2 + b^2 = c^2$ and complex formulas.
- **Automatic numbering and references** for equations, figures, sections, and bibliographies.
- **Scales well** to long reports, theses, and books: structure stays manageable.

When L^AT_EX Is a Good Fit

- Math-heavy documents (homework, lecture notes, papers).
- Reports with many figures/tables and cross-references.
- Theses and books with chapters and bibliographies.

When It Might Not Be Necessary

- Very short, simple documents where structure and references do not matter.
- Layout-heavy marketing designs (unless you already know advanced packages).

1.1.1 Compiling a Document

A L^AT_EX file is typically saved with the extension `.tex`. To produce a PDF, you run a compiler (engine) that reads the source and outputs the final document.

The Basic Compile Command A common engine is `pdflatex`. The typical workflow is:

```
pdflatex file.tex
pdflatex file.tex % run twice to update references
```

Running twice matters because references (like section numbers, equation numbers, and the table of contents) are resolved across compilation passes.

What Happens During Compilation When you compile, L^AT_EX:

- reads your structure (chapters, sections, lists),
- calculates layout (line breaks, page breaks),
- assigns numbers (figures, tables, equations),
- writes auxiliary files (used to resolve references),
- produces a PDF output.

Recommended Tools We can write and compile L^AT_EX using:

- **Overleaf**: online editor; no installation required.
- **TeX Live**: a full T_EX distribution commonly used on Linux/macOS.
- **MiKTeX**: a popular distribution on Windows.

1.2 Document Structure and Classes

A L^AT_EX source file is a plain text file, usually saved with the extension `.tex`. When you compile it, L^AT_EX produces a beautifully typeset output (most commonly a PDF).

1.2.1 Setup and Content

A L^AT_EX document is built from two main parts:

- **Preamble** (before `\begin{document}`): chooses the document class and loads packages.
- **Document body** (between `\begin{document}` and `\end{document}`): contains the content you want printed (text, math, figures, tables, etc.).

This “preamble + body” split is the standard structure shown in the reference material.

Example 1.1 (Minimal Structure).

```
\documentclass{article}

\begin{document}
  This is a LaTeX document.
\end{document}
```

1.2.2 Document Classes

The first line of a L^AT_EX file is often the most important:

```
\documentclass[options]{class}
```

It sets the foundation for the entire document.

article	best for shorter documents such as papers, essays, homework, and reports.
report	used for longer documents that need chapters (e.g., theses).
book	designed for books ; supports chapters and is set up for two-sided printing.
beamer	used for presentations ; the output becomes slide-based rather than page-based.

Class options customize the class behavior.

10pt, 11pt, 12pt	base font size (default is commonly 10pt).
a4paper, letterpaper	paper size
twocolumn	two-column layout.
oneside, twoside	single-sided or double-sided layout.

Example 1.2. `\documentclass[12pt, a4paper, twoside]{article}`

Remark. A beginner-friendly recommendation:

- Use 11pt or 12pt for readable notes.
- Use the correct paper size for your country/institution.
- Avoid `twocolumn` until you are comfortable with layout.

1.2.3 Packages

Packages are extensions that add new features and commands. We load them in the preamble using `\usepackage{...}`.

```
\usepackage{amsmath, amssymb}
\usepackage{graphicx}
\usepackage{hyperref}
```

<code>amsmath, amssymb</code>	improved math environments and symbols.
<code>graphicx</code>	enables <code>\includegraphics</code> for inserting images.
<code>hyperref</code>	clickable links and clickable cross-references in the PDF.

Example 1.3 (Margins with geometry).

```
\usepackage[left=1.5in, right=1.5in, top=1in, bottom=1in]{geometry}
```

1.2.4 Skeleton Template

A typical skeleton combines class selection, packages, metadata (title/author/date), and document body commands. The reference provides a standard example.

Example 1.4 (Typical Structure).

```
\documentclass[11pt]{article}
\usepackage[utf8]{inputenc}
\usepackage{amsmath, amssymb}
\usepackage{graphicx}
\usepackage{hyperref}

\title{My First Document}
\author{Student Name}
\date{\today}

\begin{document}
  \maketitle

  Hello, LaTeX World!

\end{document}
```

1.3 Text Formatting and Layout

1.3.1 Basic Text Commands

L^AT_EX offers two main approaches to text styling:

- **Direct styling commands** such as `\textbf` and `\textit`.
- **Logical emphasis** using `\emph`, which adapts to context.

The most common beginner commands are:

- `\textbf{bold}` → **bold**
- `\textit{italic}` → *italic*
- `\underline{underline}` → underline
- `\emph{emphasized}` → *emphasized*

A useful rule:

- Use `\emph` when you mean “emphasize this concept.”
- Use `\textit` or `\textbf` when you want a specific visual style.

1.3.2 Paragraphs and Line Breaks

In L^AT_EX, a new paragraph is created by leaving a blank line in your source. A manual line break can be forced using `\\`.

Example 1.5.

```
This is the first line.\\
This is the second line.
```

1.3.3 Quotes and Quotations

- `quote`: short quotations (indented, typically one paragraph).
- `quotation`: longer quotations (indented, with paragraph formatting).

Example 1.6.

```
\begin{quote}
  A well-structured document is easier to write and easier to read.
\end{quote}
```

1.3.4 Text Alignment

Alignment environments are helpful for small blocks of text:

- `\begin{center}...\end{center}` → centered text
- `\begin{flushleft}...\end{flushleft}` → left-aligned text
- `\begin{flushright}...\end{flushright}` → right-aligned text

Example 1.7.

centered text

left-aligned text

right-aligned text

1.3.5 Font Sizes

L^AT_EX provides relative font size switches that affect the enclosed group:

- `\tiny`, `\scriptsize`, `\footnotesize`
- `\small`, `\normalsize`, `\large`, `\Large`
- `\LARGE`, `\huge`, `\Huge`

Example 1.8.

This is tiny text.

This is scriptsize text.

This is footnotesize text.

This is small text.

This is normalsize text.

This is large text.

This is Large text.

This is Large text.

This is huge text.

This is Huge text.

1.3.6 Special Characters

Some characters are reserved because L^AT_EX uses them for commands or syntax.

<code>\%</code>	<code>%</code> (percent)
<code>\\$</code>	<code>\$</code> (dollar)
<code>\#</code>	<code>#</code> (hash)
<code>_</code>	<code>_</code> (underscore)
<code>\&</code>	<code>&</code> (ampersand)
<code>\{ \}</code>	<code>{ }</code> (braces)

Use `%` to write comments that will not appear in the output PDF:

`% This is a comment and will not appear in the output`

1.4 Lists and Tables

1.4.1 Unordered Lists (Bulleted)

Use the `itemize` environment to create bulleted lists. Each list item begins with `\item`.

Example 1.9.

```
\begin{itemize}
  \item Apples
  \item Bananas
  \item Cherries
\end{itemize}
```

- Apples
- Bananas
- Cherries

Example 1.10. We can nest `itemize` to create sub-bullets.

```
\begin{itemize}
  \item Fruit
  \begin{itemize}
    \item Apples
    \item Bananas
  \end{itemize}
  \item Vegetables
\end{itemize}
```

- Fruit
 - Apples
 - Bananas
- Vegetables

1.4.2 Ordered Lists (Numbered)

Use the `enumerate` environment for numbered lists. L^AT_EX automatically handles numbering, which is exactly the beginner-friendly point emphasized in the reference notes.

Example 1.11.

```
\begin{enumerate}
  \item First
  \item Second
  \item Third
\end{enumerate}
```

1. First
2. Second
3. Third

Example 1.12. We can nest `enumerate` just like `itemize`:

```
\begin{enumerate}
  \item Main step
  \begin{enumerate}
    \item Sub-step
    \item Sub-step
  \end{enumerate}
  \item Next main step
\end{enumerate}
```

1. Main step
 - (a) Sub-step
 - (b) Sub-step
2. Next main step

1.4.3 Description Lists

Use the `description` environment when each item needs a label.

Example 1.13.

```
\begin{description}
  \item[Dog] A friendly animal.
  \item[Cat] A curious animal.
\end{description}
```

Dog A friendly animal.

Cat A curious animal.

1.4.4 Tables

Tables in L^AT_EX are typically built in two layers:

- `tabular`: the grid itself (rows/columns).
- `table`: an optional floating wrapper for captions and labels.

Example 1.14.

```
\begin{tabular}{|l|c|r|}
\hline
Name & Age & Score \\
\hline
Alice & 24 & 95 \\
Bob & 22 & 88 \\
\hline
\end{tabular}
```

Name	Age	Score
Alice	24	95
Bob	22	88

- `&` separates columns.
- `\\` ends a row.
- `\hline` draws a horizontal line.

Alignment Options in Tables The column specification controls alignment:

- `l` – left aligned
- `c` – centered
- `r` – right aligned
- `|` – vertical line between columns

Beyond `l`, `c`, `r`, we will often need fixed-width columns:

- `p{3cm}`: a paragraph column of width 3cm (text wraps automatically).

Example 1.15 (Fixed-width column).

```
\begin{tabular}{|l|p{6cm}|}
\hline
Term & Explanation \\
\hline
LaTeX & A document preparation system for professional typesetting. \\
\hline
\end{tabular}
```

Term	Explanation
LaTeX	A document preparation system for professional typesetting.

1.4.5 Floating Tables

A table environment is a *float*: L^AT_EX may move it to an optimal location for page layout.

Example 1.16. Standard Pattern: table + tabular + caption/label

```
\begin{table}[h]
  \centering
  \begin{tabular}{lrr}
    \hline
    Item & Qty & Price \\
    \hline
    Apples & 3 & 1.20 \\
    Bananas & 5 & 0.80 \\
    \hline
  \end{tabular}
  \caption{Fruit Inventory}
  \label{tab:fruit}
\end{table}
```

Item	Qty	Price
Apples	3	1.20
Bananas	5	0.80

Table 1: Fruit Inventory

Placement Options The optional argument [h] suggests “place here”. Common options:

h	here
t	top of page
b	bottom of page
p	float page

- h: here
- t: top of page
- b: bottom of page
- p: float page

A common practical choice is [htbp] to give L^AT_EX flexibility.

Captions, Labels, and Referencing A best practice:

- Put \label after \caption.
- Refer to the table using Table~\ref{tab:fruit}. (Table 1)

1.5 Mathematical Typesetting

Mathematics is one of the strongest reasons to use L^AT_EX. Compared to ordinary word processors, L^AT_EX typesets formulas with consistent spacing, professional symbol shapes, and stable numbering. Once we learn the patterns, we can write math quickly and keep it readable in both short notes and long theses.

A major advantage is that L^AT_EX treats math as a structured language: we build expressions from commands (like `\frac` or `\sum`) rather than trying to align symbols manually.

1.5.1 Inline and Display Mathematics

We distinguish two modes: inline math (inside a sentence) and display math (on its own line).

Inline Mathematics Inline math is used inside a sentence.

Example 1.17.

The quadratic polynomial `$ax^2 + bx + c$` has degree `2`.

The quadratic polynomial `\(ax^2 + bx + c\)` has degree `\(2\)`.

The quadratic polynomial $ax^2 + bx + c$ has degree 2.

Displayed Mathematics Displayed math is used for important equations that appear on their own line. We list display math forms such as `\[\dots \]` (and also mentions `$$ \dots $$`).

Example 1.18.

The quadratic polynomial `$$ax^2 + bx + c$$` has degree `2`.

The quadratic polynomial `\[ax^2 + bx + c\]` has degree `\(2\)`.

The quadratic polynomial

$$ax^2 + bx + c$$

has degree 2.

1.5.2 Numbered vs. Unnumbered Display Math

- Use equation when you want a number you can reference later.
- Use an unnumbered display (commonly `\[...]`) for one-off formulas you will not reference.

Example 1.19 (Numbered display).

```
\begin{equation}
\int_0^\infty e^{-x^2} dx = \frac{\sqrt{\pi}}{2}
\end{equation}
```

$$\int_0^\infty e^{-x^2} dx = \frac{\sqrt{\pi}}{2} \quad (1)$$

Example 1.20 (Unnumbered display).

```
\[
\int_0^\infty e^{-x^2} dx = \frac{\sqrt{\pi}}{2}
\]
```

$$\int_0^\infty e^{-x^2} dx = \frac{\sqrt{\pi}}{2}$$

1.5.3 Superscripts and Subscripts

Superscripts and subscripts are fundamental.

- Superscripts use `^`: x^2 , a^{n+1} .
- Subscripts use `_`: a_1 , b_{ij} .

Example 1.21.

The sequence $a_n = n^2$ grows quadratically.

The sequence $a_n = n^2$ grows quadratically.

Remark.

- a_{12} means $a_1 2$ (subscript applies only to 1).
- $a_{\{12\}}$ means a_{12} with subscript 12.

1.5.4 Fractions and Roots

Fractions and roots are also highlighted as essential commands.

Example 1.22.

The solution is $x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$.

The solution is $x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$.

1.6 Theorems, Definitions, and Proofs

1.6.1 Package: amsthm

Mathematical writing often needs structured statements such as definitions, theorems, lemmas, corollaries, and remarks.

Statement type	Typical role
Definition	Introduces terminology; fixes conventions and notation.
Theorem	Principal result; proved in full detail.
Lemma	Auxiliary/technical result used in proofs.
Corollary	Immediate consequence of a theorem.
Proposition	Intermediate result; often specialized or less central than a theorem.
Claim	Local assertion inside a proof; proved on the spot.
Remark	Intuition, caveat, discussion of scope or sharpness.
Example	Illustrative instance; may justify hypotheses.
Notation	Declares symbols and standing conventions.
Assumption	Standing hypotheses for a section/chapter.
Observation	Minor fact clarifying structure.

Note. The naming hierarchy is conventional and varies by author; prioritize clarity.

In L^AT_EX, the most standard tool for this is the `amsthm` package, which provides:

- theorem-like environments with automatic numbering,
- consistent formatting (bold theorem headings, italic theorem body, etc.),
- a built-in proof environment that automatically prints a QED symbol.

Example 1.23. In our preamble, we define theorem-style environments like this:

```
\usepackage{amsthm}

\newtheorem{theorem}{Theorem}[section]
\newtheorem{lemma}[theorem]{Lemma}
\newtheorem{definition}[theorem]{Definition}
\newtheorem{corollary}[theorem]{Corollary}

\theoremstyle{remark}
\newtheorem*{remark}{Remark}
```

- `\usepackage{amsthm}` loads the theorem framework.
- `\newtheorem{theorem}{Theorem}[chapter]` creates an environment named `theorem`. Its printed title is “Theorem”, and it resets numbering each chapter. So you get Theorem 1.1, 1.2, then Theorem 2.1, etc.

- `\newtheorem{lemma}[theorem]{Lemma}` makes lemma share the same counter as theorem. That means a lemma can be Lemma 2.3 right after Theorem 2.2.
- `\theoremstyle{remark}` switches to a different style (usually non-italic body text).
- `\newtheorem*{remark}{Remark}` creates an unnumbered environment remark. The star * means “no numbering”.

<code>\theoremstyle{...}</code>	Heading	Body
plain	Bold (upright)	Italic
definition	Bold (upright)	Upright (roman)
remark	Italic	Upright (roman)

Environment (examples)	Style	Rationale
Theorem, Lemma, Proposition, Corollary	plain	Results/proofs read well with italic body.
Definition, Assumption, Notation	definition	Declarative text is usually upright.
Remark, Observation, Example	remark	Commentary often uses italic heading and upright body.

Numbered vs. Unnumbered Statements

- Use numbered statements for items you will reference later.
- Use unnumbered statements for short comments, informal notes, or one-off remarks.

1.6.2 Basic Environments

A good theorem section begins with clear definitions. Definitions tell the reader what words mean before you prove anything about them.

Example 1.24 (Definition Statements).

```
\begin{definition}[Even Number]
  An integer  $n$  is called \emph{even} if there exists an integer  $k$  such that  $n = 2k$ .
\end{definition}
```

Definition 1.1 (Even Number). *An integer n is called even if there exists an integer k such that $n = 2k$.*

Example 1.25 (Theorem Statements). A theorem states a mathematical fact we will justify with a proof.

```
\begin{theorem}[Sum of Evens]
  The sum of two even integers is even.
\end{theorem}
\begin{proof}
  Let  $a = 2m$  and  $b = 2n$  for some integers  $m$  and  $n$ .
  Then  $a + b = 2m + 2n = 2(m + n)$ , which is divisible by 2.
  Therefore,  $a + b$  is even.
\end{proof}
```

Theorem 1.2 (Sum of Evens). *The sum of two even integers is even.*

Proof. Let $a = 2m$ and $b = 2n$ for some integers m and n . Then $a + b = 2m + 2n = 2(m + n)$, which is divisible by 2. Therefore, $a + b$ is even. \square

1.6.3 Referencing Theorems and Definitions

In real writing, we should label key statements and refer back to them later. Use `\label` inside the theorem-like environment, then refer using `\ref`.

Example 1.26 (Label and reference).

```
\begin{theorem}\label{thm:sum-even}
  The sum of two even integers is even.
\end{theorem}

By Theorem~\ref{thm:sum-even}, we conclude that ...
```

Theorem 1.3. *The sum of two even integers is even.*

By Theorem 1.3, we conclude that ...

1.7 Figures and Graphics

1.7.1 Packages: `graphicx`

To insert images in L^AT_EX, you typically load the `graphicx` package. This package provides the command `\includegraphics`, which is the main tool for importing external images.

```
\usepackage{graphicx}
```

A practical beginner rule:

- Put image files in the same folder as our `.tex` file, or in a dedicated folder like `figures/`.
- If using a folder, include it in the path (e.g., `figures/plot.pdf`).

Common File Formats Most workflows accept:

- `.png`, `.jpg` for raster images (screenshots, photos),
- `.pdf` for vector graphics (plots, diagrams exported from tools).

1.7.2 Basic Usage: `\includegraphics`

The most common professional pattern is to place an image inside a `figure` environment, center it, add a caption, add a label, and then reference it in the text.

Example 1.27.

```
\begin{figure}[h]
  \centering
  \includegraphics[width=.6\linewidth]{example-image-a}
  \caption{A sample figure}
  \label{fig:sample}
\end{figure}
See Figure~\ref{fig:sample}.
```

- `\begin{figure}... \end{figure}` creates a *float* (LaTeX may move it for better layout).
- `\centering` centers the image.
- `\caption` creates a numbered caption.
- `\label` creates a reference key.
- `\ref` prints the correct figure number (and updates automatically if numbering changes).

Example 1.28 (Controlling Image Size).

- `width=...` e.g., `width=0.6\textwidth`
- `height=...` e.g., `height=4cm`
- `scale=...` e.g., `scale=0.8`

```
...  
\includegraphics[scale=0.5]{diagram}  
...
```

Example 1.29. For consistent layout, `width=...` is usually the best choice. A common pattern is:

- `width=\linewidth` inside a minipage or narrow container,
- `width=0.6\textwidth` for a medium figure in normal text.

If we specify both width and height, the image can stretch. A safer pattern is:

```
...  
\includegraphics[width=0.7\textwidth, keepaspectratio]{plot}  
...
```

1.7.3 Positioning Figures

Figures are floats, so L^AT_EX chooses a good placement by default. We can provide placement hints with:

- `h` — here (approximately)
- `t` — top of page
- `b` — bottom of page
- `p` — on a separate float page

1.7.4 Referencing Figures

Use `\label` and `\ref` to refer to figures. The reference notes explicitly demonstrate referencing with `Figure~\ref{...}`.

```
See Figure~\ref{fig:sample} for a visual illustration.
```

Use prefixes:

- `fig:...` for figures,
- `tab:...` for tables,
- `eq:...` for equations.

1.7.5 Side-by-Side Images

Side-by-side layouts are useful for comparisons (before/after, method A vs. method B). A simple approach is to use minipage blocks inside one figure float.

Example 1.30.

```
\begin{figure}[h]
  \centering
  \begin{minipage}{0.48\textwidth}
    \centering
    \includegraphics[width=\linewidth]{img1}
    \caption{Image 1}
    \label{fig:img1}
  \end{minipage}
  \hfill
  \begin{minipage}{0.48\textwidth}
    \centering
    \includegraphics[width=\linewidth]{img2}
    \caption{Image 2}
    \label{fig:img2}
  \end{minipage}
\end{figure}
```

The above produces two captions in one float, which can be acceptable but may look unusual in some styles. A more “textbook/paper” solution is to use subfigures (commonly via the subcaption package), so we get one main caption plus (a)/(b) subcaptions.

```
\begin{figure}[h]
  \centering
  % subfigure A here
  % subfigure B here
  \caption{Comparison of two methods}
  \label{fig:comparison}
\end{figure}
```

1.8 Cross-Referencing and Labels

Cross-referencing is one of the most important “professional writing” features in L^AT_EX. Instead of hard-coding numbers like “see Section 3” or “see Figure 2”, you create references that update automatically.

Cross-referencing allows you to:

- refer to sections, figures, tables, theorems, and equations dynamically,
- automatically update numbering when you insert, delete, or reorder content,
- improve navigability in long documents (especially with clickable links in the PDF),
- reduce mistakes (no outdated references after edits).

This is exactly the workflow emphasized in the reference notes: label items with `\label{...}` and refer with `\ref` or `\eqref`.

Example 1.31 (Section Reference).

```
\section{Methodology}
\label{sec:method}

As discussed in Section~\ref{sec:method}, we use...
```

Example 1.32.

```
\begin{figure}[h]
  \centering
  \includegraphics[width=0.5\textwidth]{plot}
  \caption{Data trend}
  \label{fig:trend}
\end{figure}

See Figure~\ref{fig:trend}.
```

This matches the reference approach: caption, label, then Figure~\ref{...} in text.

Example 1.33.

```
\begin{table}[h]
  \centering
  \begin{tabular}{lrr}
    \hline
    Item & Qty & Price \\
    \hline
    Apples & 3 & 1.20 \\
    Bananas & 5 & 0.80 \\
    \hline
  \end{tabular}
  \caption{A neat table}
  \label{tab:neat}
\end{table}

See Table~\ref{tab:neat}.
```

Example 1.34. Equations are a major reason cross-referencing matters: we often need to cite a specific formula later. The reference notes show a numbered equation with `\label` and a reference using `Eq.~\eqref{...}`.

```
\begin{equation}
  a^2 + b^2 = c^2
  \label{eq:pythagoras}
\end{equation}
```

From `Eq.~\eqref{eq:pythagoras}`, we know...

Example 1.35.

```
\begin{theorem}\label{thm:addition}
  Addition of even numbers is even.
\end{theorem}
```

`Theorem~\ref{thm:addition}` proves the statement.

Example 1.36. To make cross-references clickable in the PDF, load the `hyperref` package. The reference notes also show using `\href{...}{...}` for an external link.

- `\href{URL}{text}` — clickable external link text.
- `\url{URL}` — prints a clickable URL in a monospace-like style.

```
...
\usepackage{hyperref}
...

\begin{document}
  ...
  \href{https://www.latex-project.org}{Visit the LaTeX Project}
  ...
\end{document}
```

This mirrors the reference example of linking to `latex-project.org` via `\href`.

Remark. Use consistent prefixes:

- `sec`: for sections,
- `fig`: for figures,
- `tab`: for tables,
- `eq`: for equations,
- `thm`: for theorems.

1.9 Bibliography and Citations

Citations are a core part of academic and technical writing.

- give credit to original authors (avoids plagiarism),
- support claims with reliable evidence,
- help readers locate the sources for verification or further study.

A good citation system should be:

- consistent (same style everywhere),
- complete (enough details to find the source),
- easy to maintain (especially in large documents).

1.9.1 Manual Bibliography with `thebibliography`

This is the simplest approach and works well for:

- short assignments,
- one-file handouts,
- documents with only a few references.

The reference slides show the standard pattern: `\begin{thebibliography}{...}` and one `\bibitem{key}` per entry.

Example 1.37.

```
\begin{thebibliography}{9}

  \bibitem{knuth}
  D. E. Knuth,
  \emph{The \TeX book},
  Addison-Wesley, 1984.

  \bibitem{lamport}
  L. Lamport,
  \emph{\LaTeX: A Document Preparation System},
  2nd ed., Addison-Wesley, 1994.

\end{thebibliography}
```

In `\begin{thebibliography}{9}`, the 9 helps LaTeX reserve space for label widths. For small bibliographies (under 10 items), 9 is common. For up to 99 items, use 99.

Example 1.38 (Citing a Manual Entry). To cite a reference inside our text, use `\cite{key}`:

```
As shown in \cite{knuth}, the TeX system is powerful.
```

1.9.2 Using BibTeX (Recommended for Larger Projects)

For large projects, BibTeX separates bibliography data into a .bib file. Benefits:

- clean separation between writing and reference data,
- easy reuse of a bibliography database across multiple documents,
- automatic formatting via bibliography styles.

Example 1.39. Write BibTeX entries in a file such as references.bib. (Shown here as plain text you place in the .bib file.)

```
@book{knuth,  
  author = {Donald E. Knuth},  
  title = {The TeXbook},  
  year = {1984},  
  publisher = {Addison-Wesley}  
}  
  
@article{einstein,  
  author = {Albert Einstein},  
  title = {Does the Inertia of a Body Depend Upon Its Energy Content?},  
  journal = {Annalen der Physik},  
  year = {1905}  
}
```

Near the end of your document body (where you want the bibliography to appear):

```
\bibliographystyle{plain}  
\bibliography{references}
```

Cite inside the text as usual:

```
Einstein explained this in \cite{einstein}.
```

Remark. A typical compile sequence is:

- run pdf_latex (creates citation requests),
- run bibtex (builds bibliography from .bib),
- run pdf_latex twice (resolves references and formatting).

1.10 Custom Commands and Macros

As our documents grow, we will repeat the same notation, symbols, and formatting patterns many times. Custom commands (macros) let you write once and reuse everywhere.

Suppose we write the real numbers many times as \mathbb{R} . If we define a macro `\R`, then our source becomes shorter and clearer:

- without macros: `\mathbb{R}`
- with macros: `\R`

1.10.1 Defining New Commands

Use `\newcommand` in the preamble to define your own commands. A command name starts with a backslash and usually uses letters only (e.g., `\R`, `\vect`).

Syntax

```
\newcommand{\name}{replacement text}
\newcommand{\name}[n]{replacement with #1 to #n}
```

- `\name` is the command we will type in the document.
- `{replacement text}` is what L^AT_EX will insert when the command is used.
- `[n]` declares the number of required arguments.
- `#1, #2, ...` are placeholders for those arguments.

Example 1.40.

```
\newcommand{\R}{\mathbb{R}} % real numbers
\newcommand{\vect}[1]{\mathbf{#1}} % bold vectors
\newcommand{\abs}[1]{\left|#1\right|} % absolute value
```

Once defined, you can use them in math mode:

- \mathbb{R} denotes the set of real numbers.
- \mathbf{v} denotes a vector v typeset in bold.
- $|x|$ produces the absolute value of x .

1.10.2 A Note on Math Mode

Sometimes we want a command with a default argument. we can define an optional argument using `\newcommand` by putting a default value in brackets.

Example 1.41.

```
\newcommand{\seq}[2][n]{\{#2_1, #2_2, \dots, #2_{#1}\}}
```

- `\seq{a}` produces $\{a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n\}$.
- `\seq[3]{x}` produces $\{x_1, x_2, x_3\}$.

1.10.3 Declaring Math Operators

Functions like $\sin(x)$, $\log(x)$, and \lim are typeset as operators with correct spacing. If we write a function name as plain letters in math mode (like $\text{Var}(X)$), spacing and font may look wrong.

Example 1.42. To define operators with proper spacing and upright font, use `\DeclareMathOperator`:

```
\DeclareMathOperator{\Var}{Var}
\DeclareMathOperator*{\argmax}{arg\,max}
```

Inline usage:

- $\text{Var}(X)$
- $\arg \max_{x \in A} f(x)$

Display usage (showing typical operator styling):

$$\arg \max_{x \in A} f(x) \qquad \text{Var}(X)$$

Remark.

- `\DeclareMathOperator` behaves like `\sin`: subscripts appear to the side in display math.
- `\DeclareMathOperator*` behaves like `\lim`: subscripts can appear underneath in display math.

2 Posters: Beamerposter

A poster is a large-format document (often A0, A1, or 36in × 48in) designed for fast reading at a distance. A good poster is **not** a paper on a big page. It is a visual summary:

- a clear title and author line,
- 3–6 main blocks (Problem, Method, Results, Conclusion),
- a few strong figures and one key table,
- minimal text, large fonts, and consistent spacing.

For beginners, use **beamerposter** because it is stable, well-documented, and uses the familiar beamer “block” style.

2.1 The Poster Template

A L^AT_EX Poster Example

Student Name Coauthor Name
Department of Something, University Name
email@domain.com
Conference / Event, 2026

1. Introduction / Motivation

Write the problem in 3–6 lines. Posters should be readable quickly:

- ▶ What is the main goal?
- ▶ Why is it important?
- ▶ What is the challenge?

Example claim: we study the relationship $y = ax + b$ and estimate a, b from data.

2. Example

This is a boxed example using `exampleblock`.

Inline math: $a^2 + b^2 = c^2$.

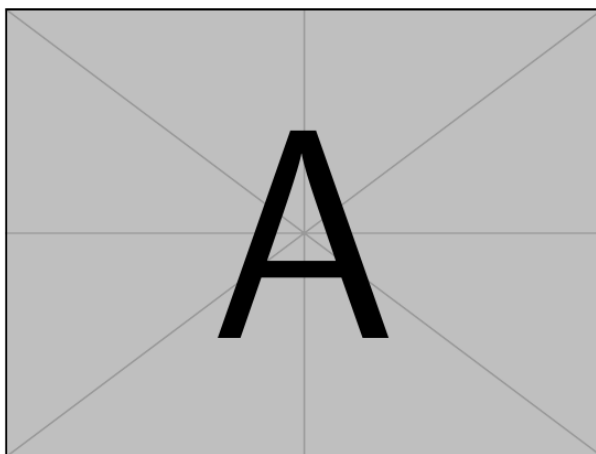
A displayed equation:

$$\hat{a} = \arg \min_a \sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - ax_i)^2.$$

3. Method (Simple Steps)

Keep the method short and visual:

1. Collect data (x_i, y_i) .
2. Fit parameters by minimizing loss.
3. Evaluate on a test set.



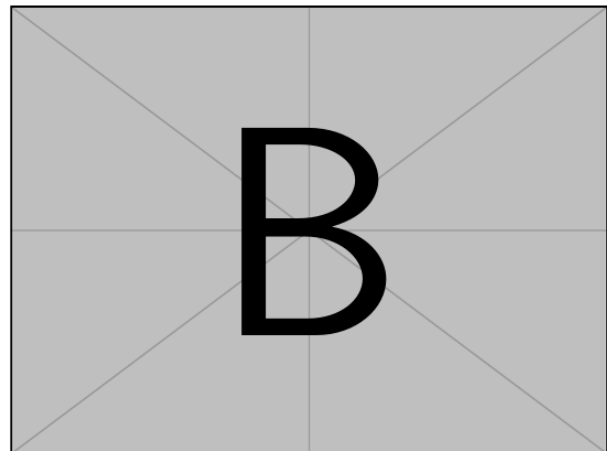
4. Key Contributions

- ▶ A simple approach that improves performance.
- ▶ A clean experimental design.
- ▶ Reproducible reporting with clear visuals.

5. Results (One Plot = One Message)

Make the main result obvious:

- ▶ Big axis labels in your plot.
- ▶ Thick lines, clear legend.



Headline: Our method improves accuracy by +6% over the best baseline.

6. Table (Optional, Clean Style)

Model	Score	Time (s)
Baseline A	0.81	12.4
Baseline B	0.84	15.1
Ours	0.90	10.2

Note: Keep tables small on posters. Use only key numbers.

7. Conclusion (Boxed Highlight)

- ▶ Main takeaway 1.
- ▶ Main takeaway 2.
- ▶ Limitation and future work.

8. Links / QR / References

Project link: <https://www.example.com>

References:

- ▶ A. Author, *Paper Title*, 2024.
- ▶ B. Author, *Another Title*, 2023.


```
\documentclass[final]{beamer}

\usepackage[size=a0,orientation=portrait,scale=1]{beamerposter}

\usetheme{default}
\usecolortheme{seahorse}

\usepackage{graphicx}
\usepackage{booktabs}
\usepackage{amsmath,amssymb}
\usepackage{hyperref}

\title{A \LaTeX{} Poster Example}
\author{Student Name \and Coauthor Name}
\institute{Department of Something, University Name \\ \texttt{email@domain.com}}
\date{Conference / Event, 2026}

\setlength{\parskip}{0.35em}

\begin{document}
  \begin{frame}[t]
    % header columns ...
    % main body columns ...
  \end{frame}
\end{document}
```

2.2 Step 1: Document Class

```
\documentclass[final]{beamer}
```

- beamer is usually for slides.
- With beamerposter, one frame becomes one large-format poster page.
- final reduces draft-style marks and is appropriate for submission/printing.

2.3 Step 2: Make It Vertical (Portrait)

```
\usepackage[size=a0,orientation=portrait,scale=1]{beamerposter}
```

- ‘size=a0’: the poster paper size (A0 is common for conferences).
- ‘orientation=portrait’: vertical poster (taller than wide).
- ‘scale=1’: global scaling of fonts and layout elements.

Option	Example Value(s)	Meaning / Effect
size	a0, a1, a2, a3, a4, letter	Sets the poster paper size.
orientation	portrait, landscape	Controls layout direction.
scale	0.95, 1.0, 1.05, 1.1	Global scaling of fonts and layout elements.

Table 2: Common beamerposter options for size, orientation, and scale

The ‘size’ option sets the poster paper size. Common values include:

- a0, a1, a2, a3, a4 (ISO paper sizes)
- letter (common US sizes)

The ‘orientation’ option controls whether the poster is vertical or horizontal:

- orientation=portrait (vertical, tall)
- orientation=landscape (horizontal, wide)

Category	Setting	Description
Size (ISO)	size=a0	Very large poster size
Size (ISO)	size=a1	Large poster size
Size (ISO)	size=a2	Medium poster size
Size (ISO)	size=a3	Small poster size
Size (ISO)	size=a4	Page size (not typical for posters)
Size (US)	size=letter	US letter size
Orientation	orientation=portrait	Vertical poster (taller than wide)
Orientation	orientation=landscape	Horizontal poster (wider than tall)

Table 3: Typical values for size and orientation in beamerposter

2.4 Step 3: Theme and Colors

```
\usetheme{default}
\usecolortheme{seahorse}
```

- The theme controls the general style of blocks and typography.
- The color theme changes the colors of block headers and accents.
- Beginners should keep themes simple and prioritize readability.

Type	Command	Typical Use / Look
Theme	<code>\usetheme{default}</code>	Clean, minimal, safe for posters
Theme	<code>\usetheme{Madrid}</code>	Clear navigation style, common in slides
Theme	<code>\usetheme{Boadilla}</code>	Simple, modern look
Theme	<code>\usetheme{Warsaw}</code>	Darker style, strong contrast
Theme	<code>\usetheme{AnnArbor}</code>	Bold headings, more colorful
Color theme	<code>\usecolortheme{seahorse}</code>	Soft, readable tones
Color theme	<code>\usecolortheme{dolphin}</code>	Stronger contrast
Color theme	<code>\usecolortheme{whale}</code>	Darker, heavier style
Color theme	<code>\usecolortheme{orchid}</code>	More colorful accents
Color theme	<code>\usecolortheme{beaver}</code>	Red/brown academic look

Table 4: Examples of Beamer themes and color themes for posters

2.5 Step 4: Packages

```
\usepackage{graphicx}
\usepackage{booktabs}
\usepackage{amsmath,amssymb}
\usepackage{hyperref}
```

- ‘graphicx’: insert images with ‘`\includegraphics`’.
- ‘booktabs’: clean tables using ‘`\toprule`’, ‘`\midrule`’, ‘`\bottomrule`’.
- ‘amsmath, amssymb’: better math support (align, symbols, ‘`\arg\min`’ patterns).
- ‘hyperref’: clickable links via ‘`\href`’ and ‘`\url`’.

2.6 Step 5: Title, Author, Institute, Date

```
\title{A \LaTeX{} Poster Example}
\author{Student Name \and Coauthor Name}
\institute{Department ... \\\texttt{email@domain.com}}
\date{Conference / Event, 2026}
```

2.7 Step 6: One Frame = One Poster Page

```
\begin{document}
  \begin{frame}[t]
    ...
  \end{frame}
\end{document}
```

- A poster is usually one single frame.
- The option [t] top-aligns the content, which is helpful for column layouts.

2.8 Step 7: The Header

Our header uses columns but only one full-width column:

```
\begin{columns}[t]
  \begin{column}{1.0\textwidth}
    \begin{block}{}
      \centering
      {\VeryHuge \textbf{\inserttitle}\par}
      \vspace{0.35em}
      {\Large \insertauthor\par}
      {\large \insertinstitute\par}
      {\large \insertdate\par}
    \end{block}
  \end{column}
\end{columns}
```

- `\inserttitle` prints the value set by `\title`.
- `\insertauthor` prints the value set by `\author`.
- `\insertinstitute` prints the value set by `\institute`.
- `\insertdate` prints the value set by `\date`.
- `\VeryHuge` is useful for posters because titles must be readable from far away.

2.9 Step 8: The Main Body Layout (Two Columns)

```
\begin{columns}[t]
  \begin{column}{0.49\textwidth}
    % left column blocks...
  \end{column}
  \begin{column}{0.49\textwidth}
    % right column blocks...
  \end{column}
\end{columns}
```

Why '0.49\textwidth'?

- It leaves a small gap so the columns do not collide.
- Using 0.50 + 0.50 often causes overflow in posters.

2.10 Step 9: Block Boxes

Beamer provides three useful boxed environments:

- `block`: normal content
- `exampleblock`: examples/demos
- `alertblock`: emphasis (main result, conclusion, warning)

Example patterns:

```
\begin{block}{Title} ... \end{block}  
\begin{exampleblock}{Example} ... \end{exampleblock}  
\begin{alertblock}{Key Message} ... \end{alertblock}
```

3 Presentations: Beamer

TBA

4 Vector Graphics: TikZ

TBA