1 Why TEX?

This section describes some of the major advantages of TEX systems.[1]

Compared to word processors

Most people have used a word processor, **so a comparison may be helpful**. With a word processors your text is placed while you type it, referred to as *"what you see is what you get."* In contrast, TEX is a formatter: it separates the steps of entering the material and placing it on the page.

To see the difference, consider how a typical user of each system might start a new section. In a word processor a typical user might start that section by

1. hitting Enter twice to get two lines of vertical space

2. typing "`Section 1.2:  New results`",

3. clicking to ***highlight*** that text,

4. clicking to select a larger type size,

5. clicking to select a new type style,

6. and finally entering two more lines of vertical space.

A typical user TEX user will type into a file the line "`\section{New results}`". THAT IS, A WORD PROCESSING USER IS FORMATTING THE TEXT AS THEY ENTER IT, while the TEX user describes the meaning of the text and later TEX will format it.

2 Conclusion

As described section 1 in TeX is awesome!

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[1]This text is taken from the the homepage of CTAN.