

# **L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X for Economics and Business Administration**

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# Why this workshop?

- In the *social sciences* few attention to what tools to use (and why they make sense)
- L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X is used very much in the scientific world and *works* brilliantly together with
  - statistical packages, such as `Stata` and `R`,
  - markdown/HTML,
  - reference managers.
- Why / want to give this workshop
  - intrinsic interest
  - my goal: pre-conferences workshops / courses

# What I want (and don't want) with this workshop

- Give a general introduction of why some tools work together
  - L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X
  - Reference managers
- Give an introduction to L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X
  - First the basics
  - Next workshop: some advanced stuff
- What I do not want
  - Tell you what applications to use (**you** need to decide and make a **well-informed** decision)

# Background

- T<sub>E</sub>X has been devised by Donald E. Knuth in the late 70's
- L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X is a set of macro's around TeX and devised in the 80's
- L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X is a *typesetting program*, not a *Word processor*
  - It is actually some code that needs to be compiled
  - Code is typed in by an editor
- So,
  - Huge differences between Word and L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X
  - for L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X you need an editor:
    - Specific editors: TexStudio, TexShop, RStudio
    - General editors: Sublime, TextMate, Notepad++, Vim, Emacs

# Disadvantages

- Not WYSIWYG
- You need to learn (quite) some commands
  - Learning curve, but
  - hurray for [cheat sheets](#) and Google
- Difficult to cooperate with people that went to the *dark side*
- *Basic* L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X has *difficulties* with incorporating new fonts (Hoefler, minion pro)
  - XeTeX
  - For the purists: L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X does it right ([L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X vs Word](#))

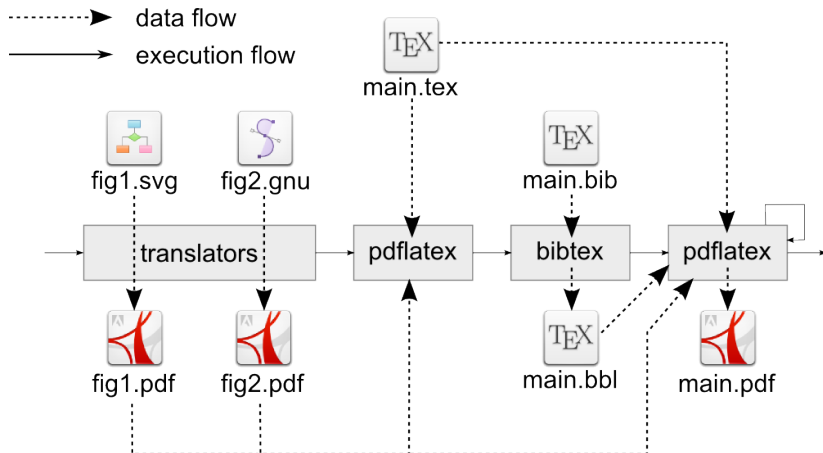
# Advantages

- Free (as in beer) and ubiquitous
- WYSIWYM
- Consistent lay-out throughout the whole document (including tables, appendices, formulas, source code, etc)
- Internal references are a breeze (references, ToC, ToT . . . )
- Forced to structure documents
- Macros, thus scriptable
- Large community, thus a package for almost everything (books, articles, presentation, posters, exams, musicscores)
- Superior typography & output
- Large publishers (i.e., Elsevier and Springer) have L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X templates for their articles

# How does it work in practice?

- You edit a `.tex` file without thinking about how it looks
  - distraction free writing (yeah right)
- You then compile it
  - L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X is unforgiving: if there is an error, usually it does not compile
  - Typically, errors are missing brackets or parentheses.
- Typically, source `.tex` file is compiled into `.pdf`

# A process diagram



**Figure:** Process diagram



# Code, documentation and output

- ❶ Synonyms
- ❷ All based on `.txt` files
- ❸ Encompasses almost anything
  - data itself (`.csv`, `.txt`)
  - set of commands for data cleaning and statistical analysis (`.do`, `.R`)
  - database with references (`.bib`)
  - text for articles, presentations or websites (`.tex`, `.html`)
- ❹ Only output is displayed/interpreted differently (e.g., in a browser or pdf viewer)

# Folder structure of your new project (theses, paper & research)

- Think *a priori* about project set-up
  - Separate analysis, data and output files
- Be careful with source data!
  - Separate source and derived data files
  - Typically
    - you get/collect data
    - transform data
    - analyse data
  - Keep track of all these stages!

# Document structure

```
\documentclass{article}
% a % indicates line is a comment
% This area is called preamble
\title{This is brilliant}
\author{Thomas de Graaff}

\begin{document}

\maketitle

\section{Introduction}

lorem ipsum ...

\end{document}
```