

Help Getting Started with Latex (by Rachel Aronow)

-LaTeX is a free typesetting program that is very useful for "typing math". To access Latex, you can either download a TeX distribution, or simply use an online editor such as sharelatex (<https://www.sharelatex.com>) or overleaf (<https://www.overleaf.com>). I personally recommend the online option (I use sharelatex), which has the following advantages:

- Save storage space on your personal computer
- Can access your projects from anywhere with internet access (a "google doc" for latex)
- Ease of use: the formatting is simple and intuitive
- Sharelatex is "smart" in that it will often catch compiling errors and recommend how to fix them, making debugging much more efficient. I haven't used Overleaf, but I'd guess it has a similar feature.

However, if off-line access is important to you, then you can also go the installation route. This differs depending on your operating system. You can find the right distribution for your system, along with installation instructions, here: <https://www.latex-project.org/get/#tex-distributions>

There are lots of resources available online for help using Latex. Google is your best friend. A good reference to start with can be found here: <https://www.maths.tcd.ie/~dwilkins/LaTeXPrimer/GSWLaTeX.pdf>

If you have access to Microsoft Office, Microsoft Word has a built-in equation editor that can be used as an alternative to LaTeX. You can access the equation toolbar in Word via *Insert --> Equation*.