

Markdown to \LaTeX or \XeTeX Test Document

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October 30, 2020

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1 Introduction: Why I do this, by Kevin Yao

I love \LaTeX for its pretty typesetting, but not like its verbose syntax very much. 95% of the time, I only use a very small subset of \LaTeX and really miss the simplicity of markdown every time I have to type in plain \LaTeX .

I also use \TeXmacs . Its a great tool and I love it. However, the source code of \TeXmacs documents, with an XML-like structure, is not human-readable. It's not good for source control, either.

So, my conclusion is that, since what I mostly use in \LaTeX can be mapped to markdown, why not write document in markdown and convert it to \LaTeX ? I find \Pandoc but it's too cryptic to use^[note1].

And an idea bubbles up in my head: why not write my own converter from markdown to \LaTeX ?

I have a great start point: \mistune . It's a fast, clean implementation of markdown with a killer feature - footnote. I tend to use footnote much in \LaTeX .

1.a Plan

My current plan of the converter includes:

- title and author (with meta header)
- sections (headers in markdown)
- lists (ordered with `enumerate` and unordered with `itemize` package)
- emphasize, strong and monospace styles
- hyperlink
- footnote
- math¹

Now let's see how much we can do...

Test quote:

Steve Jobs: stay foolish, stay hungry.

Test code:

```
int main()
{
    printf("Hello world!");
}
```

¹since there's no inline math in markdown, it is translated as is.

