

Markdown to LATEX or XELATEX Test Document

Documentation

The Unicorn Company October 30, 2020

Forewords

This is the corporate version of the md2LATEXfull manual. It is intended to show that you can end up with all kinds of graphic design, as you are writing, only, a .md file. Your manager will keep sure that you are good at MSWord.

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Contents

1	Introduction: Why I do this, by Kavin Yao	3
	1.a Plan	3

1 Introduction: Why I do this, by Kavin 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.

