

Please go to  
[www.overleaf.com](https://www.overleaf.com)  
and make an account  
...  
or open your favourite L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X editor

# L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X

## A SHORT INTRODUCTION

Jesse Knight

University of Toronto  
Libraries

November 12, 2022

# Overview

Introduction

How L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X Works

Getting Started

Resources

# What is L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X?

A typesetting program: *content*  $\rightarrow$  *a document*

# What is L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X?

A typesetting program: *content*  $\rightarrow$  *a document*

# What is L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X?

A typesetting program: *content*  $\rightarrow$  *a document*

input: filename.tex

L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X

output: filename.pdf

```

1 \documentclass{article}
2 \usepackage{amsmath}
3 \title{\LaTeX}
4 \author{Wikipedia}
5 \date{January 1, 2020}
6
7 \begin{document}
8   \maketitle
9   \LaTeX{} is a document preparation system for the \TeX{} typesetting
    program. It offers programmable desktop publishing features and
    extensive facilities for automating most aspects of typesetting and
    desktop publishing, including numbering and cross-referencing, tables
    and figures, page layout, bibliographies, and much more. \LaTeX{} was
    originally written in 1984 by Leslie Lamport and has become the
    dominant method for using \TeX; few people write in plain \TeX{}
    anymore. The current version is \LaTeXe.
10
11   % This is a comment, not shown in final output.
12   % The following shows typesetting power of LaTeX:
13   \begin{align}
14     E_0 &= mc^2 \\
15     E &= \frac{mc^2}{\sqrt{1-\frac{v^2}{c^2}}}
16   \end{align}
17 \end{document}

```



L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X

Wikipedia

January 1, 2020

L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X is a document preparation system for the T<sub>E</sub>X typesetting program. It offers programmable desktop publishing features and extensive facilities for automating most aspects of typesetting and desktop publishing, including numbering and cross-referencing, tables and figures, page layout, bibliographies, and much more. L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X was originally written in 1984 by Leslie Lamport and has become the dominant method for using T<sub>E</sub>X; few people write in plain T<sub>E</sub>X anymore. The current version is L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X 2<sub>ε</sub>.

$$E_0 = mc^2 \quad (1)$$

$$E = \frac{mc^2}{\sqrt{1 - \frac{v^2}{c^2}}} \quad (2)$$

# Advantages of L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X

- portable and easy to install
- automatic numbering and cross-referencing (e.g. page numbers)
- automatic tables of contents
- automatic and flexible page layout
- automatic bibliography creation
- built-in font and font-size control
- built-in font and font-size control



# Advantages of L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X

- ▶ separate content and formatting
- ▶ automate numbering, cross-references, ...everything! (except writing)
- ▶ beautiful math
- ▶ comments and version control
- ▶ no version compatibility issues
- ▶ it's free and open source!

# Advantages of L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X

- ▶ separate content and formatting
- ▶ automate numbering, cross-references, ...everything! (except writing)
- ▶ beautiful math
- ▶ comments and version control
- ▶ no version compatibility issues
- ▶ it's free and open source!

# Advantages of L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X

- ▶ separate content and formatting
- ▶ automate numbering, cross-references, ...everything! (except writing)
- ▶ beautiful math
- ▶ comments and version control
- ▶ no version compatibility issues
- ▶ it's free and open source!

# Advantages of L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X

- ▶ separate content and formatting
- ▶ automate numbering, cross-references, ...everything! (except writing)
- ▶ beautiful math
- ▶ comments and version control
- ▶ no version compatibility issues
- ▶ it's free and open source!

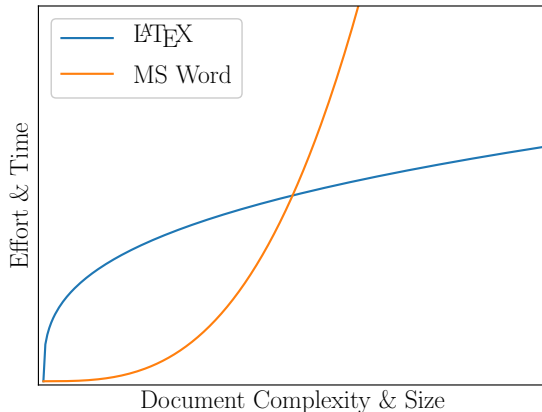
# Advantages of L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X

- ▶ separate content and formatting
- ▶ automate numbering, cross-references, ...everything! (except writing)
- ▶ beautiful math
- ▶ comments and version control
- ▶ no version compatibility issues
- ▶ it's free and open source!

# Advantages of L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X

- ▶ separate content and formatting
- ▶ automate numbering, cross-references, ...everything! (except writing)
- ▶ beautiful math
- ▶ comments and version control
- ▶ no version compatibility issues
- ▶ it's free and open source!

# $\text{\LaTeX}$ vs MS Word



# How does L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X Work?

Three layers:

1. “kernel” – parses code, stores things, creates PDF  
+ “built-ins” – functions, e.g. `\newcommand{\pi}{3.14}`; then `\pi` becomes “3.14”
2. “classes” – types of document, e.g. an article, having: format, title, etc.  
+ “packages” – modify or extend a class, e.g. add graphics
3. “document” – this specific document, e.g. your thesis



# How does L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X Work?

Three layers:

1. “kernel”
  - parses code, stores things, creates PDF
  - + “built-ins” – functions, e.g. `\newcommand{\pi}{3.14}`; then `\pi` becomes “3.14”
2. “classes”
  - types of document, e.g. an article, having: format, title, etc.
  - + “packages” – modify or extend a class, e.g. add graphics
3. “document” – this specific document, e.g. your thesis

# How does L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X Work?

Three layers:

1. “kernel” – parses code, stores things, creates PDF  
+ “built-ins” – functions, e.g. `\newcommand{\pi}{3.14}`; then `\pi` becomes “3.14”
2. “classes” – types of document, e.g. an article, having: format, title, etc.  
+ “packages” – modify or extend a class, e.g. add graphics
3. “document” – this specific document, e.g. your thesis

# How does L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X Work?

Three layers:

1. “kernel” – parses code, stores things, creates PDF  
+ “built-ins” – functions, e.g. `\newcommand{\pi}{3.14}`; then `\pi` becomes “3.14”
2. “classes” – types of document, e.g. an article, having: format, title, etc.  
+ “packages” – modify or extend a class, e.g. add graphics
3. “document” – this specific document, e.g. your thesis

# How does L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X Work?

Three layers:

1. “kernel” – parses code, stores things, creates PDF  
+ “built-ins” – functions, e.g. `\newcommand{\pi}{3.14}`; then `\pi` becomes “3.14”
2. “classes” – types of document, e.g. an article, having: format, title, etc.  
+ “packages” – modify or extend a class, e.g. add graphics
3. “document” – this specific document, e.g. your thesis

# How does L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X Work?

Three layers:

1. “kernel” – parses code, stores things, creates PDF  
+ “built-ins” – functions, e.g. `\newcommand{\pi}{3.14}`; then `\pi` becomes “3.14”
2. “classes” – types of document, e.g. an article, having: format, title, etc.  
+ “packages” – modify or extend a class, e.g. add graphics
3. “document” – this specific document, e.g. your thesis

## Kernel: Putting Stuff on a Page

Boxes:

- characters
- words
- lines
- paragraphs
- pages



*it's a frog*

## Kernel: Putting Stuff on a Page

Boxes:

- characters
- words
- lines
- paragraphs
- pages

Combining boxes:

- ▶ **modes:** horizontal, vertical, math
- ▶ **glue:** stretchy space
- ▶ **penalties:** avoid “bad” layouts



*it's a frog*

## Kernel: Putting Stuff on a Page

Boxes:

- characters
- words
- lines
- paragraphs + floats
- pages



*it's a frog*

Combining boxes:

- ▶ **modes:** horizontal, vertical, math
- ▶ **glue:** stretchy space
- ▶ **penalties:** avoid “bad” layouts



# Editors



- ▶ no install + package management
- ▶ must have internet connection
- ▶ pay to integrate reference database
- ▶ some collaborate features

# Editors



- ▶ no install + package management
- ▶ must have internet connection
- ▶ pay to integrate reference database
- ▶ some collaborate features



- ▶ install + manage packages locally
- ▶ no internet connection required
- ▶ free to integrate reference database
- ▶ DIY collaborate

# Your First Document

```
\documentclass{ut-thesis}  
% document header  
\begin{document}  
  % document content  
  Hello World  
\end{document}
```

Go to: [Overleaf.com](https://overleaf.com)

# Your First Document

```
\documentclass{ut-thesis}  
% document header  
\begin{document}  
  % document content  
  Hello World  
\end{document}
```

Go to: [Overleaf.com](https://overleaf.com)

# Document Elements

- Title, author, page, date, etc.
- Sectioning with `\section{}`
- Lists
- Tables, figures & tables
- Figures
- Tables of contents
- Bibliography

# Document Elements

- ▶ title, author, year, degree, department
- ▶ chapters, sections, etc.
- ▶ math
- ▶ floats: figures & tables
- ▶ cross-references & table of contents
- ▶ citations & bibliography

# Document Elements

- ▶ title, author, year, degree, department
- ▶ chapters, sections, etc.
- ▶ math
- ▶ floats: figures & tables
- ▶ cross-references & table of contents
- ▶ citations & bibliography

# Document Elements

- ▶ title, author, year, degree, department
- ▶ chapters, sections, etc.
- ▶ math
- ▶ floats: figures & tables
- ▶ cross-references & table of contents
- ▶ citations & bibliography



# Document Elements

- ▶ title, author, year, degree, department
- ▶ chapters, sections, etc.
- ▶ math
- ▶ floats: figures & tables
- ▶ cross-references & table of contents
- ▶ citations & bibliography

# Document Elements

- ▶ title, author, year, degree, department
- ▶ chapters, sections, etc.
- ▶ math
- ▶ floats: figures & tables
- ▶ cross-references & table of contents
- ▶ citations & bibliography

# Document Elements

- ▶ title, author, year, degree, department
- ▶ chapters, sections, etc.
- ▶ math
- ▶ floats: figures & tables
- ▶ cross-references & table of contents
- ▶ citations & bibliography

## Helpful Resources

- ▶ [Overleaf](#) – online L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X writing application
- ▶ [L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X Install Guide](#) – to install L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X on your computer (offline)
- ▶ [TeXstudio](#) – great editor for composing L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X “code” (offline)
- ▶ [T<sub>E</sub>X Stack Exchange](#) – Q & A style how-to and debugging help
- ▶ [L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X Cheat Sheet](#) – a really nice reference for common commands
- ▶ [Github Repository](#) – example documents: article, thesis, CV, poster, slides