

T_EX Installation

If you frequently work with L^AT_EX, it is generally recommended to have a complete L^AT_EX installation on your computer. However, in recent years, several online tools have been developed that allow you to use L^AT_EX in your browser without installation. One notable tool is [Overleaf](#), which also offers collaborative document editing capabilities.

For the largest part of the L^AT_EX course, it is sufficient to have a free [Overleaf](#) account. For those who also want to work offline or prefer not to create an account, installing the latest 2025 version of the [T_EX Live distribution](#) is recommended. For writing a thesis with L^AT_EX, an installation is highly recommended.

The following instructions explain how to install the latest T_EX Live distribution. While not necessarily required for the course, it is recommended for long-term use of L^AT_EX. A functional T_EX system essentially consists of two parts: a T_EX distribution and an editor.

1 The T_EX Distribution

The L^AT_EX distribution takes care of downloading all necessary files and placing them in the correct locations. Different distributions are available for different operating systems. If there is already an outdated or unused T_EX system installed on your computer, it is recommended to *completely* remove it before installing a new one to avoid potential conflicts.

Windows

For Windows, besides [T_EX Live](#), the [MikTeX](#) distribution is also available. MikTeX is relatively easy to install and can automatically install missing packages.

To install T_EX Live, simply download and run the installer `install-tl-windows.exe`. Choosing the installation scheme `simple install` will download and install all packages and programs included in T_EX Live from the internet. Information, instructions, and downloads for T_EX Live can be found at: <https://www.tug.org/texlive/>

Mac

For Mac OS, there is the [MacTeX distribution](#), which automatically installs T_EX Live and sets up the editor TeXShop. The project page <https://www.tug.org/mactex> offers downloads, instructions, and support.

Unix/Linux

Most Linux distributions have a T_EX Live package that can be installed via the system's package manager (apt, emerge, pacman, yum, etc.). It is important to ensure that the latest version of 2025 is available in the package repositories. Alternatively, T_EX Live can also be installed manually on Linux.

2 The Editor

With the T_EX distribution, we have all the necessary packages and programs to compile T_EX files into PDFs. To create T_EX files, we need an editor. Essentially, any editor that can save text files in UTF-8 encoding is suitable for T_EX. However, there are several editors specifically developed for working with L^AT_EX, which include syntax highlighting and some useful additional features. These are often called integrated development environments (IDEs), which come with their own PDF viewers and quick access to important T_EX functions.

Since most of the time will be spent in the editor, and the actual T_EX system works in the background, it is worth putting some effort into choosing the right editor. Below is a list of popular editors.

TeXworks The free editor TeXworks is modeled after TeXShop, available under Mac. It comes with the T_EX Live installation on Windows, and it can be installed independently on Linux. TeXworks includes its own PDF viewer and supports syncT_EX, which allows navigation between source code and PDF: clicking on a location in the PDF opens the corresponding location in the source code, and vice versa! This can be a very powerful tool, especially for large documents.

TeXmaker A reliable, feature-rich editor for Linux, Mac, and Windows with syncT_EX support.

TeXstudio Editor based on TeXmaker, offering additional features like real-time syntax checking.

TeXnicCenter A frequently recommended editor for Windows, automatically included with a MiK_TeX installation. syncT_EX is possible when used with the Sumatra PDF viewer.

Kile Kile is the KDE editor for L^AT_EX, but it should also be possible to run it on Mac and Windows. Kile is very easy and intuitive to use, offering all the features needed for efficient work with L^AT_EX, including an integrated preview function for DVI and PDF files with syncT_EX.

Vim, Emacs For the classic editors, Vim-LaTeX and AUCT_EX provide plugins that facilitate working with L^AT_EX. Those who already use Vim or Emacs will likely be happy with them, but for others, the learning curve might be too steep to learn L^AT_EX and a powerful editor *simultaneously*.

TeXShop A T_EX editor for Mac OS, included with MacT_EX. The editor is praised for its intuitive and well-integrated interface with the operating system.

Finding an editor that meets personal needs can be a lengthy process, and the list above is only intended to provide some suggestions. In case of doubt, TeXworks provides a good editor for both beginners and advanced users.

A detailed comparison of many T_EX editors can be found, for example, on Wikipedia:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comparison_of_TeX_editors