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

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# What

- A typesetting / document preparation system
- Intended to separate presentation from content: you focus on the content, and the program will take care of the visuals
- The opposite philosophy of WYSIWYG (What You See Is What You Get)
  - Microsoft Word and other word processing programs have formatting show up directly.
  - LaTeX is similar to HTML -> edit text, then “compile” to the final document

# History - TeX

- Created by Donald Knuth
- T, E, and X comes from tau, epsilon, chi, which comes from the Greek word τέχνη (skill, art, technique), which is where the pronunciation comes from
- Better mathematical formatting than ever before!

# LaTeX Itself

- Lamport TeX - created by Leslie Lamport
- A set of macros built on top of TeX
- C to Assembly is like LaTeX to TeX: a higher level language that makes TeX more accessible to users
- Shift away from presentation/formatting to the content
- TeX allows more control over formatting, spacing, etc.

# Sample Uses

- science and math reports
- notetaking
- wide support for different languages and writing systems
- flexible: packages for more things (music writing, graphs, etc)
- Some packages are pre-installed, many more can be found online

# Editors

- Widely used for its equation formatting
  - Google Docs, MS Office, Piazza
- Emacs, Vim, etc
- Many other editors, some specializing in TeX/LaTeX
- Online editors

# Resources

- Large online community
- [tex.stackexchange.com](https://tex.stackexchange.com)
- Various other sites