

Introduction to \LaTeX

A better way of typesetting documents

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Recurse Center

November 19, 2015



What is \LaTeX ?

Why use it?

Examples

\LaTeX basics

Limitations

Resources

–Break–

Basic code examples

Using packages

Math in \LaTeX

Other useful features



- ▶ A system/markup language for typesetting documents
- ▶ Originally geared towards scientific/technical documents
- ▶ Free software
- ▶ Very customizable
- ▶ Part of the greater \TeX family (\TeX , XeLaTeX, LuaLaTeX...)





A basic document





Online collaborative editor: <https://www.sharelatex.com/>





- ▶ Wikibooks manual:
<https://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/LaTeX>
- ▶ ShareLaTeX documentation:
<https://www.sharelatex.com/learn>
- ▶ T_EX/L_AT_EX Stack Exchange:
<http://tex.stackexchange.com/>



If you need to leave, now's a good time!
More details after the break.





In preamble: `\usepackage{packagename}`

- ▶ Page layout: `\usepackage[margin=1.5in]{geometry}`
- ▶ Include image files: `graphicx`
- ▶ Include web links: `hyperref`
- ▶ Display code: `verbatim` or `listings`
- ▶ Control line spacing more easily: `setspace`
- ▶ Customize headers/footers: `fancyhdr`
- ▶ Customize figure/table captions: `caption`
- ▶ More control over lists: `enumitem`



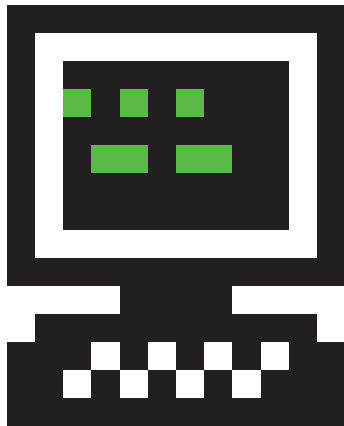


Figure 1: The RC logo



Table 1: Recusers

Name	Pseudonym	Batch
Veronica Hanus	Flight Witch	Fall 2
Anjana Vakil	Spandex Governor	Fall 2

Useful packages:

- ▶ Controlling table widths: `tabularx`
- ▶ Multi-row cells: `multirow`
- ▶ Better formatting: `booktabs`



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Pitfalls:

- ▶ Standard themes are uuuugly
- ▶ Setting up a template you like can be a headache
- ▶ Many academics who use \LaTeX for articles still use PowerPoint etc. for slides/posters



`.bib` files

List all your sources in bibtex format.

Many citation systems (e.g. Google scholar, Mendeley) offer an “export to bibtex” option.

`biblatex` Package

Allows you to fully customize citation and bibliography styles.