

Learning L^AT_EX

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Abstract—While using WYSIWYG (“what you see is what you get”) text editor, like Microsoft Word or Google Docs, have you ever tried to format something to what you want, and getting frustrated because the result is not what you want, while the editor also messing up the rest of your works? Me too.

But there are better alternatives to write documents professionally. One of the alternatives is L^AT_EX. With this paper I would like to learn and use L^AT_EX to write this paper, and share the experiences in learning to use L^AT_EX.

I. INTRODUCTION

LaTeX (stylized: L^AT_EX), is a document preparation system. When writing, the writer uses plain text instead of formatted text found in WYSIWYG text editor like Microsoft Word. The writer uses markup tagging to define the structure of a document, to stylize text in a document. The writer usually writes the document in a .tex file, and then use program to compile the document into output file (such as PDF or DVI).

Documents produced using LaTeX usually are of higher quality than documents produced using WYSIWYG editor. This is because when using LaTeX, the writer only focuses on the contents without caring about the formatting like margins, font and fontsize, styling, etc. Those are handled by LaTeX, so the writer could get high-quality and consistent document.

LaTeX is widely used in academia for publication of scientific documents in many fields.