

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

Writing with Collaboration Tools

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# Introduction

- What is  $\text{\LaTeX}$ ?
  1. Created for scientists by scientists
  2. describes “what it is” not “how it should look” (WYSIWYM)
- Why would you use it?
  1. focus on content!
  2. create formulas, tables, and figures

# Outline for Today

1. Setup account in Overleaf
2. Structure of a document
3. Basic commands and creating sections
4. Creating and nesting lists
5. A fun math teaser

# Structure of a Document

- *preamble*: contains all of the commands that determine the overall theme and format of the document.
- document class: argument which tells  $\text{\LaTeX}$  what kind of document you'll be creating.
- There certain things that are beyond the capability of  $\text{\LaTeX}$  which is when we call in different packages.
- Commonly used packages: math, international characters, bibliographies, graphics, tables, and many other possibilities.

# Exercise 1: Basic Commands

1. Begin a new blank project
2. Follow the text on Exercise 1 handout
3. Certain symbols require a backslash in order to appear (% , & , \$ , #)
4. Paragraphs are naturally indented and words are separated by one or more spaces - type as you normally would!

## Exercise 2: Creating Lists

1. Lists are an easy example of setting up environments
2. Create lists within lists!

## Exercise 3: A Teaser for Next Week

- $\text{\LaTeX}$  is especially functional and flexible with math
- Create an in-line equation that is perfectly formatted and spaced
- Next week will explore the AMSMath package and math markup

# Upcoming Workshops

August 31st, 4:00 - 5:00

L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X: Introduction to  
Typesetting in Math

Sept. 7th, 4:00 - 5:00

L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X: Creating Tables, Figures,  
& Bibliographies