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Getting started with \LaTeX

What it is



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What L^AT_EX is

L^AT_EX is a system for high quality typesetting of documents.

L^AT_EX (first rel. 1984 by L. Lamport) is a set of macros for T_EX.

T_EX (first rel. 1978 by D. Knuth) is a low-level language created to typeset documents.

The purpose of L^AT_EX is to simplify T_EX typesetting.

What \LaTeX is NOT

\LaTeX is NOT a word processor!

Why use L^AT_EX

- Professional-looking documents. Professionally crafted additional layout available
- Advanced typesetting of mathematics.
- Consistency throughout the document and easy generation of complex structures such as footnotes, references, table of contents, and bibliographies
- Plenty of free add-on packages
- L^AT_EX encourages authors to write well-structured texts
- It's free software (both as in free beer and free speech)¹

¹<https://www.gnu.org/philosophy/free-sw.en.html>

What you can use L^AT_EX for

The image displays a musical score for the song "The Colours of the Sea" by The Beatles. The score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a time signature of 4/4. It consists of five staves of music. The first two staves are in 4/4 time, and the last three staves are in 3/4 time. The music includes various notes, rests, and a trill (tr) in the final measure. Below the score, four guitar chord diagrams are shown for the chords D, Cadd9, G/B, and Gm/Bb. To the right of the score, four chessboard diagrams illustrate the opening moves of a game: 1. e4, 1...e5, 2. f3, and 3...exd4. The chessboards are labeled with algebraic notation and show the positions of the pieces on the board.

1 e4

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

a b c d e f g h

1 e4 is the most common opening move

1...e5 2 f3 3 O-O

3...exd4 4 ♠b5 a6 5 O-O

xxo

x o

x oo

x oo

D Cadd9 G/B Gm/Bb

And the colours of the sea blind your eyes with trembling mermaids

What you will take home

- Overview of L^AT_EX workflow
- L^AT_EX basic features including
 - Document's info (title, author)
 - Document sectioning
 - Inclusion of figures and simple tables.
 - Inclusion of simple math formulae
 - Bibliography management
- Know where/how to find further documentation about L^AT_EX.