



Federico Cantini <federico.cantini@lib4ri.ch>

Getting started with \LaTeX

What it is



Unless otherwise noted, this work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License, which means that it can be freely copied, redistributed and adapted as long as appropriate attribution is given.

What \LaTeX is

\LaTeX is a system for high quality typesetting of documents.

\LaTeX (first rel. 1984 by L. Lamport) is a set of macros for \TeX .

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

The purpose of \LaTeX is to simplify \TeX typesetting.

What L^AT_EX is NOT

L^AT_EX 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 2/4 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. The first chessboard shows the move 1. e4. The second chessboard shows the move 1... e5. The third chessboard shows the move 2. Qf3. The fourth chessboard shows the move 2... exd4. The chessboards are labeled with algebraic notation and the corresponding move number.

1 e4

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

tr tr 9

D Cadd9 G/B Gm/Bb

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

1...e5 2 Qf3 Qc6 3 d4

3...exd4 4 &b5 a6 5 O-O

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.