What is TEX?

LATEX is a document preparation program for creating documents that are

- beautiful

- easy to correct

- easy to update

- portable to any machine

For simple papers, the essential commands can be learned quickly, and provide easy ways to create sections (and subsections, and subsubsections) that are automatically renumbered, cross-references that have a natural format and are easy to enter, and bibliographies that can easily be formatted in a wide of styles. Beyond these easy-to-use commands is a wide range of capabilities to do just about anything necessary for the typesetting of documents from leaflets to books, including

- creating or importing graphics files

- making complex tables

- writing mathematical equations of all types

- multilingual documents

- nested lists, either enumerated or bulleted

It is important to note that it is a document preparation system, not a word processor. This affects the user in various ways. For instance,

- Rather than simply entering text, you enter text and commands to format the text.

- You can create fully formatted text, if you are writing a book, you can create a file which can simply be copied and bound.

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