

Introduction to L^AT_EX

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What is \LaTeX

- ▶ \LaTeX is a typesetting language
- ▶ You type your text surrounded by various commands

What is \LaTeX

- ▶ \LaTeX is a typesetting language
- ▶ You type your text surrounded by various commands
- ▶ and then compile your document to see how it looks
- ▶ \LaTeX is not a word processor!

A basic L^AT_EX document

```
\documentclass[a4paper,10pt]{article}
\usepackage[utf8x]{inputenc}
\title{A Sample LaTeX Document}
\author{Tom Lake}
\begin{document}
\maketitle
\section{Introduction}
  This is where the document starts
\end{document}
```

And this is how it looks

A Sample LaTeX Document

Tom Lake

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1 Introduction

This is where the document starts

So what did that mean?

- ▶ `\documentclass[a4paper,10pt]{article}`
- ▶ This line tells \LaTeX that you want an article on A4 paper with 10 point text
- ▶ Other choices include reports, books and beamer (for presentations like this)
- ▶ `\usepackage[utf8x]{inputenc}`
- ▶ \LaTeX allows you to include various packages that let you extend it's abilities
- ▶ This is useful for adding extra symbols, different ways of displaying text or different types of document

So what did that mean? (2)

- ▶ `\title{A Sample LaTeX Document}`
- ▶ `\author{Tom Lake}`
- ▶ These lines set the document's Title and Author
- ▶ If you compile your document into a PDF, there are packages that you can use to put these values into the metadata

So what did that mean? (3)

- ▶ `\maketitle`
- ▶ This line makes \LaTeX display the document title - if you don't do this, it won't show up!
- ▶ `\section{Introduction}`
- ▶ This is where the document starts
- ▶ The section command defines a section and displays it as a heading
- ▶ The line underneath is the start of the document text

Maths Mode

- ▶ By inserting text between $\$..\$$ or $\backslash[...\backslash]$ you can tell LaTeX to use maths mode
- ▶ $\alpha = x^2 - 4\beta^3 \times \frac{\gamma}{5}$
- ▶ You can also do tables, tables of contents and lots of other shiny things
- ▶ Including presentations like this (in half an hour)

Any questions?