

# Introduction to Scientific Typesetting

## Lesson 1: Getting Started

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An Overview

Word Processors vs.  
 $\text{\LaTeX}$

Our First  $\text{\LaTeX}$   
Document

Errors

The Structure of a  $\text{\LaTeX}$   
Document

Digging Beneath the  
Surface

Environments and  
Commands

Symbols of Interest

**Word Processors vs.  $\text{\LaTeX}$**

**Our First  $\text{\LaTeX}$  Document**

**Errors**

**The Structure of a  $\text{\LaTeX}$  Document**

**Digging Beneath the Surface**

**Environments and Commands**

**Symbols of Interest**

An Overview

Word Processors vs.  
 $\text{\LaTeX}$

---

The Weaknesses of  
Word

The History of  $\text{\LaTeX}$

The Strengths of  $\text{\LaTeX}$

The Weaknesses of  
 $\text{\LaTeX}$

What is  $\text{\LaTeX}$ ?

Our First  $\text{\LaTeX}$   
Document

---

Errors

---

The Structure of a  $\text{\LaTeX}$   
Document

---

Digging Beneath the  
Surface

---

Environments and  
Commands

---

Symbols of Interest

---

# Word Processors vs. $\text{\LaTeX}$

# The Weaknesses of Word

An Overview

Word Processors vs.  
 $\LaTeX$

The Weaknesses of  
Word

The History of  $\LaTeX$

The Strengths of  $\LaTeX$

The Weaknesses of  
 $\LaTeX$

What is  $\LaTeX$ ?

Our First  $\LaTeX$   
Document

Errors

The Structure of a  $\LaTeX$   
Document

Digging Beneath the  
Surface

Environments and  
Commands

Symbols of Interest

- WYSIWYG programs combine *composition* and *typesetting*
  - most Word users don't know much
  - may lose logical structure of a document
- bibliographies, cross-references, figure labels must be completed *by hand*
- different versions mean compatibility issues
- cost!

Even worse . . .

Word is *terrible* at math!

An Overview

Word Processors vs.  
L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X

The Weaknesses of  
Word

The History of L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X

The Strengths of L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X

The Weaknesses of  
L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X

What is L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X?

Our First L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X  
Document

Errors

The Structure of a L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X  
Document

Digging Beneath the  
Surface

Environments and  
Commands

Symbols of Interest

## ■ T<sub>E</sub>X

- Donald Knuth, 1978 (frozen in 1989)
- frustrated at result of Art of Computer Programming, realized high quality digital typesetting system was necessary

## ■ L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X

- Leslie Lamport, early 1980s (manual published in 1986)
- needed macro package on top of T<sub>E</sub>X
- has become the standard

# The Strengths of L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X

An Overview

Word Processors vs.  
L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X

The Weaknesses of  
Word

The History of L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X

The Strengths of L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X

The Weaknesses of  
L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X

What is L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X?

Our First L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X  
Document

Errors

The Structure of a L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X  
Document

Digging Beneath the  
Surface

Environments and  
Commands

Symbols of Interest

- portability and compatibility—text files!
- very flexible
- cost (free!)
- consistency throughout document
- allows you to focus on content
- automation of tedious tasks (cross-references, bibliographies, etc.)
- radical, global changes can be implemented consistently with very little work
- decision-making about formatting can be left to an expert (or not)

# The Weaknesses of L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X

An Overview

Word Processors vs.  
L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X

---

The Weaknesses of  
Word

The History of L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X

The Strengths of L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X

The Weaknesses of  
L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X

What is L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X?

Our First L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X  
Document

---

Errors

---

The Structure of a L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X  
Document

---

Digging Beneath the  
Surface

---

Environments and  
Commands

---

Symbols of Interest

---

- undeniable learning curve
- complex formatting may occasionally take more time than a word processor (e.g., tables)

# What is L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X?

An Overview

Word Processors vs.  
L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X

The Weaknesses of  
Word

The History of L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X

The Strengths of L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X

The Weaknesses of  
L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X

What is L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X?

Our First L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X  
Document

Errors

The Structure of a L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X  
Document

Digging Beneath the  
Surface

Environments and  
Commands

Symbols of Interest

- L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X is a *markup language* — think HTML
  - all work is done in text files
  - L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X then processes this file *in its entirety* and decides how best to typeset the document
  - the output is either a device-independent file (DVI) or a PDF; a DVI can be converted easily to postscript (.ps) or PDF
- ▶ You must remember that L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X is *not* a word processor! Don't expect it to behave like one.

An Overview

Word Processors vs.  
 $\LaTeX$

Our First  $\LaTeX$   
Document

TeXnicCenter  
The Text of Our First  
File

Congratulations!

Errors

The Structure of a  $\LaTeX$   
Document

Digging Beneath the  
Surface

Environments and  
Commands

Symbols of Interest

# Our First $\LaTeX$ Document

An Overview

Word Processors vs.  
 $\LaTeX$

Our First  $\LaTeX$   
Document

TeXnicCenter

The Text of Our First  
File

Congratulations!

Errors

The Structure of a  $\LaTeX$   
Document

Digging Beneath the  
Surface

Environments and  
Commands

Symbols of Interest

TeXnicCenter is a free text editor that has very tight integration with  $\LaTeX$ . It was dormant for a while, but development has recently resumed.

1. Open TeXnicCenter from the Start Menu.
2. You'll have to tell TeXnicCenter where to look for the  $\LaTeX$  files. For this computer lab, the location is:

```
C:\Program Files (x86)\MiKTeX 2.9\miktex\bin
```

# The Text of Our First File

An Overview

Word Processors vs.  
 $\LaTeX$

Our First  $\LaTeX$   
Document

TeXnicCenter

The Text of Our First  
File

Congratulations!

Errors

The Structure of a  $\LaTeX$   
Document

Digging Beneath the  
Surface

Environments and  
Commands

Symbols of Interest

1. Create a new document.

```
-----  
\documentclass{article}
```

```
\begin{document}
```

```
Hello, world!
```

```
\end{document}
```

```
-----
```

2. Save your document. (You might want 1 document per folder.)
3. Make sure that  $\LaTeX \Rightarrow \text{DVI}$  is in the “build” box.
4. “Build” your document. (Ctrl + F7 or use mouse.)
5. View your document. (F5 or use mouse.)

# Congratulations!

An Overview

Word Processors vs.  
 $\LaTeX$

Our First  $\LaTeX$   
Document

TeXnicCenter

The Text of Our First  
File

Congratulations!

Errors

The Structure of a  $\LaTeX$   
Document

Digging Beneath the  
Surface

Environments and  
Commands

Symbols of Interest

# Congratulations!

An Overview

Word Processors vs.  
 $\LaTeX$

Our First  $\LaTeX$   
Document

**Errors**

When Things Aren't  
Perfect

Finding Errors

The Structure of a  $\LaTeX$   
Document

Digging Beneath the  
Surface

Environments and  
Commands

Symbols of Interest

# Errors

# When Things Aren't Perfect

An Overview

Word Processors vs.  
 $\LaTeX$

Our First  $\LaTeX$   
Document

Errors

When Things Aren't  
Perfect

Finding Errors

The Structure of a  $\LaTeX$   
Document

Digging Beneath the  
Surface

Environments and  
Commands

Symbols of Interest

Errors are written on a “log” file. TeXnicCenter displays this at the bottom of the window.

Type this—it will produce an error.

```
-----  
\documentclass{article}
```

```
\begin{document}
```

```
\includegraphics{globe.eps}
```

```
Hello, world!
```

```
\end{document}
```

```
-----
```

An Overview

Word Processors vs.  
 $\LaTeX$

Our First  $\LaTeX$   
Document

Errors

When Things Aren't  
Perfect

Finding Errors

The Structure of a  $\LaTeX$   
Document

Digging Beneath the  
Surface

Environments and  
Commands

Symbols of Interest

You should see the following at the bottom of your window:

```
LaTeX-Result: 1 Error(s), 0 Warning(s),  
0 Bad Box(es), 1 Page(s)
```

1. Press F9.
2. TeXnicCenter will take you to the error and try to explain it. (Sometimes this is difficult to understand, but you'll get the hang of it.)

Errors aren't always "fatal," but sometimes they are.

3. You may occasionally need to pay attention to the "Warnings," but not usually.

An Overview

Word Processors vs.  
 $\text{\LaTeX}$

Our First  $\text{\LaTeX}$   
Document

Errors

The Structure of a  $\text{\LaTeX}$   
Document

Document Structure

The Basic Rules

Digging Beneath the  
Surface

Environments and  
Commands

Symbols of Interest

# The Structure of a $\text{\LaTeX}$ Document

# Document Structure

An Overview

Word Processors vs.  
 $\LaTeX$

Our First  $\LaTeX$   
Document

Errors

The Structure of a  $\LaTeX$   
Document

Document Structure

The Basic Rules

Digging Beneath the  
Surface

Environments and  
Commands

Symbols of Interest

Here's the basic idea:

```
-----  
\documentclass{article}
```

Preamble

```
\begin{document}
```

```
Hello, world!
```

Body

```
\end{document}
```

-----  
Everything before `\begin{document}` is called the “preamble.”  
Everything in the “document” *environment* is called the “body.”

An Overview

Word Processors vs.  
 $\LaTeX$

Our First  $\LaTeX$   
Document

Errors

The Structure of a  $\LaTeX$   
Document

Document Structure

The Basic Rules

Digging Beneath the  
Surface

Environments and  
Commands

Symbols of Interest

## Preamble

This is where you tell  $\LaTeX$  how you want your document handled. A book? An article? Margins? Etc.  
(We will discuss preamble commands a lot.)

## Body

This is where the text of your document goes.

An Overview

Word Processors vs.  
 $\LaTeX$

Our First  $\LaTeX$   
Document

Errors

The Structure of a  $\LaTeX$   
Document

Digging Beneath the  
Surface

Special Characters

Spaces in the Source  
File

Periods

More with Periods

Environments and  
Commands

Symbols of Interest

# Digging Beneath the Surface

# Special Characters

An Overview

Word Processors vs.  
 $\LaTeX$

Our First  $\LaTeX$   
Document

Errors

The Structure of a  $\LaTeX$   
Document

Digging Beneath the  
Surface

Special Characters

Spaces in the Source  
File

Periods

More with Periods

Environments and  
Commands

Symbols of Interest

Remember,  $\LaTeX$  is *not* a word processor!

Everything after % on a line is called a “comment” and will not show up.

This can be really helpful in making notes to yourself!

Other special characters:

# \$ & ~ - ^ \ { } |

This means that if you want to produce these characters, you need some special code.

For example,

type “\&” in order to see: &.

There will be a list of the commands needed for this in one of the documents on Sakai.

# Spaces in the Source File

An Overview

Word Processors vs.  
 $\LaTeX$

Our First  $\LaTeX$   
Document

Errors

The Structure of a  $\LaTeX$   
Document

Digging Beneath the  
Surface

Special Characters

Spaces in the Source  
File

Periods

More with Periods

Environments and  
Commands

Symbols of Interest

Two or more spaces in text are the same as one. Within the body of document, the following give the same output:

```
        Hello world!  
Hello      world!
```

Additionally,

- A tab or end-of-line character is the same as a space.
- A blank line indicates the end of a paragraph.
- Two or more blank lines are the same as one.
- Spaces at the beginning of a line are ignored.

Don't get carried away with the freedom this offers. It is important to maintain the readability of your source file!

An Overview

Word Processors vs.  
 $\LaTeX$

Our First  $\LaTeX$   
Document

Errors

The Structure of a  $\LaTeX$   
Document

Digging Beneath the  
Surface

Special Characters

Spaces in the Source  
File

Periods

More with Periods

Environments and  
Commands

Symbols of Interest

**Rule:** A period after a capital letter signifies an abbreviation or an initial. Every other period signifies the end of a sentence.

This rule works most of the time.

**Follow-up Rule:** If an abbreviation does not end with a capital letter and is not the last word in the sentence, then follow the period with an interword space ( $\backslash_$ ) or a tie ( $\sim$ ).

Examples:

- `...birds like ducks,  
geese, etc.\ are my favorite...`
- `Dr.~Smith told me that I had a cavity...`

An Overview

Word Processors vs.  
L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X

Our First L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X  
Document

Errors

The Structure of a L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X  
Document

Digging Beneath the  
Surface

Special Characters

Spaces in the Source  
File

Periods

More with Periods

Environments and  
Commands

Symbols of Interest

**Another Rule:** If a capital letter is followed by a period and is at the end of a sentence, precede the period with `\@`.

```
Make sure to take your vitamin C\@.  It will  
help you fight your cold.
```

**Last Period Rule:** Add thin space (`\,`) or no space within strings of initials and be consistent.

- `R.\,S. Higginbottom`
- `R.S. Higginbottom`

An Overview

Word Processors vs.  
 $\LaTeX$

Our First  $\LaTeX$   
Document

Errors

The Structure of a  $\LaTeX$   
Document

Digging Beneath the  
Surface

**Environments and  
Commands**

Environments

Commands

Symbols of Interest

# Environments and Commands

An Overview

Word Processors vs.  
 $\LaTeX$

Our First  $\LaTeX$   
Document

Errors

The Structure of a  $\LaTeX$   
Document

Digging Beneath the  
Surface

Environments and  
Commands

Environments

Commands

Symbols of Interest

Anything between

`\begin{name}`

and

`\end{name}`

is called the *content* of the environment.

Then “name” would be the *name* of the environment.

We’ve already seen one environment: the document environment!

The body of the article is the content of the document environment.

We’ll discuss some text environments shortly.

An Overview

Word Processors vs.  
 $\LaTeX$

Our First  $\LaTeX$   
Document

Errors

The Structure of a  $\LaTeX$   
Document

Digging Beneath the  
Surface

Environments and  
Commands

Environments

Commands

Symbols of Interest

Usual syntax for a command is:

```
\commandname [options] {argument}
```

Arguments are mandatory; options are optional.

Note that arguments are enclosed in braces, options (or optional arguments) are enclosed in brackets.

An example:

```
\includegraphics [rotate=90] {globe.eps}
```

An Overview

Word Processors vs.  
 $\LaTeX$

Our First  $\LaTeX$   
Document

Errors

The Structure of a  $\LaTeX$   
Document

Digging Beneath the  
Surface

Environments and  
Commands

**Symbols of Interest**

Quotation Marks

Dashes

More on Dashes

Practice

# Symbols of Interest

An Overview

Word Processors vs.  
 $\LaTeX$

Our First  $\LaTeX$   
Document

Errors

The Structure of a  $\LaTeX$   
Document

Digging Beneath the  
Surface

Environments and  
Commands

Symbols of Interest

Quotation Marks

Dashes

More on Dashes

Practice

You'll need the left-quote button (usually the same button as the tilde) and the right-quote button to make quotations.

```
'Where do we go?'  
' 'Where do we go?''
```

If you need both, you might want to separate them:

```
' 'She asked, 'Where do we go?'\,''
```

There are three lengths.

- **hyphen**      Type this with a single dash:

type: `third-world country`

see: `third-world country`

- ***en dash***      This is used for number ranges (and other things).  
Type with two dashes

type: `office hours are 3--4`

see: `office hours are 3-4`

An Overview

Word Processors vs.  
`LATEX`

Our First `LATEX`  
Document

Errors

The Structure of a `LATEX`  
Document

Digging Beneath the  
Surface

Environments and  
Commands

Symbols of Interest

Quotation Marks

Dashes

More on Dashes

Practice

An Overview

Word Processors vs.  
 $\LaTeX$

Our First  $\LaTeX$   
Document

Errors

The Structure of a  $\LaTeX$   
Document

Digging Beneath the  
Surface

Environments and  
Commands

Symbols of Interest

Quotation Marks

Dashes

More on Dashes

Practice

- *em dash* This is used to mark an abrupt change in thought or to add emphasis. Type this with three dashes:

type: an aside---like this one---can be distracting

see: an aside—like this one—can be distracting

Other examples of em dashes:

- You are the friend—the only friend—who offered to help.
- Never have I met such a lovely person—before you.
- I wish you would—oh, never mind.

Examples taken from

<http://www.grammarbook.com/punctuation/dashes.asp>.

An Overview

Word Processors vs.  
 $\LaTeX$

Our First  $\LaTeX$   
Document

Errors

The Structure of a  $\LaTeX$   
Document

Digging Beneath the  
Surface

Environments and  
Commands

Symbols of Interest

Quotation Marks

Dashes

More on Dashes

Practice

Look at the handout and take some time to reproduce it using  $\LaTeX$ .  
I'll be available to help you if needed.