

**MA 330 L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X HANDOUT**  
**FRIDAY, JAN 25**

- (1) Getting L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X : To install L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X on your home PC, go to the course webpage and click on the link for [www.latex-project.org](http://www.latex-project.org). There is a link on that page under the heading “Getting L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X.” There are instructions here for how to install L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X on Windows, Mac and Linux systems. The process involves downloading an install file and you will be on your way!
- (2) Writing a L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X document: Open up a new file in the tex editor that was installed earlier — for Windows this will be TeXnicCenter. Alternatively, open a new file in any text editor (notepad, wordpad, vi, emacs, etc). Save your file as NAME.tex where NAME is your file name. This is called your *plain tex* document.

You now need to write up your document: unfortunately, at first it will look somewhat ugly. However, after you typeset your plain tex file, you will get a nice file. To show you the basic structure of a plain tex document, I have passed out the sample plain tex file provided by the Mathematical Association of America for authors submitting to their journal MATHEMATICS MAGAZINE. They illustrate how to create a basic document, providing a nice template that you might want to use for your own papers. For more detailed instructions, go to the course website and click on the link provided for an introduction to L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X.

- (3) Typesetting a L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X document: Once you have finished NAME.tex, there are several ways to transform your plain tex file into a .pdf (or .dvi or .ps) file. If you install one of the programs from [www.latex-project.org](http://www.latex-project.org), for example TeXnicCenter, then there are buttons at the top of the screen to “build” your file. You can also select the kind of output you want, e.g. .pdf, .dvi, or .ps. Often, to make all your bibliographical references and numerical labels come out correctly, you have to build several times.

The other way is to use a command line prompt; if you know how to do this, you probably know how to search to find the correct commands to typeset your document.

- (4) Viewing your finished product: Go to the folder where you saved NAME.tex; you will see a lot of extra files that were created in the typesetting process as well as your output file, for example NAME.pdf. All that you have to do is open the file and you’re done!
- (5) *If you have any questions, please talk to me!*