

# An introduction to Latex

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## Introduction

What is Latex?

Why Latex?

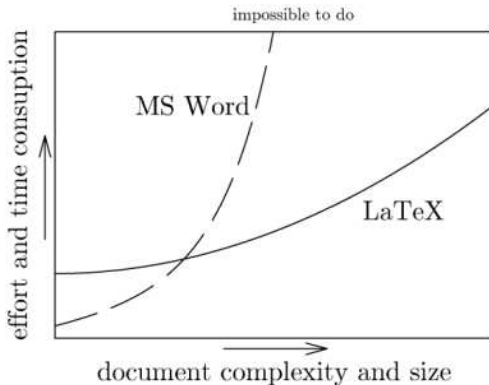
## Getting started

## A typical document

## What is Latex?

- ▶ Started in 1985 by Donald Knuth
- ▶ Typesetting versus word processing
- ▶ Wide acceptance in academic community

## Why Latex?



Source: <http://www.johndcook.com/blog/2008/04/03/microsoft-word-and-latex/>

## Getting started

*Compiling* involves converting text commands to a finished product by means of a *compiler*

A *Package* is a miniature compiler that performs a specific function (for example, mathematical equations or a bibliography)

A *text editor* is a simple program used to aid in the writing and editing of text (for example, Notepad)

You need a package manager, a compiler, and a text editor to typeset in Latex!

Compiler and package manager: Miktex ([www.miktex.org](http://www.miktex.org))

Text editor: LEd ([www.latexeditor.org](http://www.latexeditor.org))

Install Miktex first (the light version!), THEN a text editor that is designed for use with latex. The editor should detect the Miktex installation and set up the compiler shortcuts automatically.

A typical document:

- ▶ Packages
- ▶ Front matter
- ▶ Main body
- ▶ Equations
- ▶ Figures
- ▶ Tables
- ▶ References

And with that, we move on to the demonstration.