

Getting Started with L^AT_EX

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1 How this works

You are reading a PDF that was generated from about forty lines of plain text. Headings are numbered automatically, spacing and fonts follow a professional standard, and nothing on this page was nudged into place by hand. Change the text, recompile, and the layout takes care of itself.

2 Mathematics, the party trick

Notation that word processors fight you over is native here:

$$\hat{\theta} = \arg \max_{\theta} \sum_{i=1}^n \log p(x_i \mid \theta)$$

Inline mathematics like $e^{i\pi} + 1 = 0$ sits comfortably in a sentence, and equation numbering, when you want it, is automatic.

3 Structure for free

Lists and tables stay consistent across a whole thesis:

- Sections, figures, and equations number themselves.
- Cross-references update when things move.
- Bibliographies format themselves from a reference file.

Tool	Learning curve	Ceiling
Word	flat	low
Markdown	flat	medium
L ^A T _E X	steep	none

4 Your move

Open this file in Overleaf, change something, and press recompile. That is the entire barrier to entry.