First Steps in *LATEX*

by George Grätzer

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For the last few years, researchers, scientists and other technical people who, as a matter of fact, are journal contributors, could not, even if knowledgeable or less knowledgeable, curious about or less curious about new scientific and mathematical text publishing procedures, escape the moment of getting acquainted to a modern text editor known as LaTeX. They were called to know of and adapt on fly to the LaTeX facilities and modern solutions for working out mathematical and scientific texts to be submitted for publication. Publishers have, on their side, turned their faces to this most helpful and intelligent text editor for some time. Publishers of literature and journals in the field of Mathematics, Information Technology, Physics, Engineering and Science, were those who urged technical authors enter the world of a fast and efficient computer editing tool, which is LaTeX. Conference and congress organizers were also quick in aligning to the performance of this product and in making it indispensable to authors when desktop publishing their papers.

Aware of the penetration and propagation of such an editing tool in scientific media, of the difficulties these might face with, or the expectative position some of these might take before working with it, the author thought of and written down the essential LaTeX notions, to produce *"First Steps in LaTeX"*.

First Steps in LaTeX makes you learn quickly and is the real solution for when you are under time pressure to write an article full of mathematical formulae.

To open the book is to enroll in LaTeX users group because you would realise how well everything is explained and how difficult it is for you to miss the explanations.

First Steps in LaTeX also complies with the American Mathematical Society exigencies and, as the author entrusts the reader, within a few hours after reading it , he will be able to produce a LaTeX- written text.

The Chapters of the book are the reader's guiding steps: Introduction, Typing text, Typing math, Formulas and user-defined commands, the Anatomy of an article, an AMS article, Working with LaTeX. Suggestions for further reading are given and Appendices help you with Math symbol tables, Text symbol tables and show the LaTeX presence on the Internet.

Remarkable points of this Introduction to *LaTeX* are:

-an easy- to- understand approach

-the blocks for building mathematical formulas to learn mathematical writing,

 -the examples which illustrate basic structures in *LaTe X.*

First Steps in LaTeX includes all knowledge necessary for learning how to work with the mathematical texts editor in association with practical examples.

At the end of the book the reader can find an Index of terms and symbols, indicating an AMS enhancement of LaTex.

We recommend *First Steps in LaTex* to all research workers, teachers, students willing to write in LaTex and, especially, to mathematicians, physicists, engineers, scientists and technical typists.

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