

Document 2

MAS115 Presentation Lecture

1 What is \LaTeX ?

In the Week 1 computer lab you wrote some \LaTeX . You used a programme called TeXworks, part of a bundle called MiKTeX, which processed files through PDFLaTeX. Let's look at each of these in turn.

1.1 \LaTeX

\LaTeX is a MARK-UP LANGUAGE. Commands are used to 'mark-up' text to control how it looks. When the computer processes a \LaTeX file, it reads the mark-up to create the document as intended. For example, $\$$ -signs mean that text should be displayed as mathematics and $\$\$$ means display-math (maths displayed large, on a new line).

There are lots more commands to learn, including $\backslash\text{emph}\{\text{emphasised text}\}$ to display EMPHASISED TEXT and $\backslash\text{footnote}\{\text{This is a footnote}\}$ to create a footnote¹.

1.1.1 Structuring a document

In Lab 1, you used $\backslash\text{section}\{\dots\}$ commands to create sections. \LaTeX automatically numbers sections and formats the title in a consistent way (usually large and bold as a heading).

Sections are the main chunks of your document. They can be divided into subsections using $\backslash\text{subsection}\{\dots\}$. Again, \LaTeX will format and number these. If you think you want a subheading that means you need a subsection. You can even go as far as subsubsections!

The main text of your document is split up into paragraphs. Each paragraph deals with one idea, and a new paragraph signifies a step forward.

In \LaTeX , paragraphs are input by leaving a blank line space, as in

```
Paragraph 1 starts here... blah blah blah blah  
blah blah blah blah blah blah blah blah
```

```
Paragraph 2 starts here... blah blah blah blah  
blah blah blah blah blah blah blah blah
```

\LaTeX will then display the two chunks of text as separate paragraphs.

¹This is a footnote