Reading 1: A Quickstart Guide to Latex

1. What is LaTeX?

LaTeX is a standard tool for typesetting professional or mathematical documents, often used in academia. We'll use it because it makes typesetting math easier.

2. Where do I typeset?

We recommend you get started on Overleaf, an online editing tool for LaTeX. You'll want to start by making an account.

3. How do I create a document?

There are multiple methods described in detail here. We will recommend the following approach for beginners:

(a) Download the provided template file for the homework, on the 'Assignments' tab of the course website.

(b) Compress the template file into a .zip file.

(c) From the homepage, click the green 'New Project' button on the upper-left.

(d) On the pop-up menu, click 'Upload Project'. Then, load the zipped template file from your system.

4. What's on this screen?

Your Overleaf screen should have 3 columns. From left to right:

- The project structure, where you .tex file is.
- Your TeX source code.
- A preview of your code as a PDF. This preview can be refreshed whenever you update the source code by clicking the green 'Recompile' button.

There is a 'download PDF' button near the Recompile button that you will want to use to get the final PDF for submission.

5. Alright, but how do I actually write stuff?

We recommend you start by looking over our EdStem lesson 'LaTeX practice'. After that... it's a continual process of learning, just like other coding languages! If you want to learn how to make a particular symbol, we have many recommended references.

- **How to LaTeX:** This tutorial has details on actually installing LaTeX. Reference sections *How Do I Make that Symbol?* and *Some Useful Environments* are particularly useful.
- **Overleaf Documentation:** This is particularly useful if there is a particular thing you want to typeset, with plenty of examples on how to do so.
- **Detexify:** Know what the symbol you want to typeset looks like? Draw it into Detexify and this tool will suggest LaTeX commands to use.
- **Google it (or Bing it?):** Yes, you don't have to abandon your dear friend yet – if you want to typeset something, search it up! In this big world, many people have the answers to your questions.

6. I’m still stuck :(

No worries! That’s where we come in. Let us know what you’re stuck with on our Ed discussion board or drop by office hours – we’re here to help!