Complex tabular matter can span pages and can be printed landscape while retaining the portrait orientation of the caption and page number. Simple tabular matter can appear anywhere, without being a formalized table.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Production Information — a beginner’s guide to LATEX (3.6 ed.). Silmaril: Addison-Wesley Longman. (With Eitan M. Gurari and Ross Moore and Robert S. Sutor.)
- TEX uses plaintext (or Unicode) files which can be created and updated with any editor anywhere, and moved between different systems without danger of information loss or corruption.
- TEX is de­

non-Latin types include Japanese, Chinese, Devanagari, Urdu, Thai, Vietnamese, Coptic, Cyrillic, and many other languages and alphabets, including mixed bi-directional Arabic and Hebrew. Extensive user group coverage world-wide provides native-language support for non-Latin typesetting.

The fontmaking programs METAFONT and METAPOST come with all TEX systems for designing and implementing your own typefaces or special symbols.

The calculations of the underlying Tgk formatting engine are very precise: it works internally in micronts smaller than the wavelength of visible light (≈53 Å), resulting in great accuracy in positioning. Tgk can use any mixture of Anglo-American, Didot, or Adobe points, or metric or imperial units.

There are powerful tabular controls for both simple and complex designs, with fixed or auto-adjusting spacing which can be very precisely aligned to provide better visual effect. Formal tables and charts are automatically numbered, and can be captioned, labelled, crossreferenced, and included in a List of Tables and List of Figures.

Complex tabular matter can span pages and can be printed landscape while retaining the exact orientation of the caption and page number. Simple tabular matter can appear anywhere, without a formal numbered table.

Figures and illustrations

Figures can contain textual or graphical illustrations. Pictures can be included with scaling, rotation, and clipping, using industry standard PDF or EPS vector formats for diagrams, or PNG or JPG bitmaps for pictures.

PERSISTENCE AND RELIABILITY

LATEX also has its own CAD-like vector language for simple diagrams, and there are packages for typesetting music, line drawings, graphs, technical diagrams, block diagrams, and other graphical notations.

The system has been carefully designed so that documents written years ago can still be typeset. Because the file format is stable, your investment in intellectual property cannot be damaged by vendors’ arbitrary or planned obsolescence, or by changes in versions or formats.

LATEX material originally produced for paper printing, no matter how long ago, can quickly and easily be made available for today’s Web access. I have just recently had to provide a journal from 1987­1996 in a format available for the Web. The opening page was converted into HTML for quick scanning on the Web, while the complete articles, with all typesetting and font features [including Hebrew, phonetic, and Greek] were made available for viewing in PDF just by re­running the LATEX files.

The biggest advantage in publishing production is that similar coding of files means anyone can do any journal — there is no need to learn new sets of commands for style variations. Changes in platforms have no effect on production as LATEX is an abstract language, and can be compiled by any system you choose.

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