

In the beginning was the word. And for a Stanford math professor name Donald Knuth, the word was difficult to manage. Difficult, that is, whenever Dr. Knuth had to communicate to his publishers exactly now a formula in one of his textbooks was to be typeset. So the computer program named \TeX was written to do the job of describing and typesetting formulas. In time, it developed into a complete document formatting system, sufficient for producing entire textbooks or other technical documents.

To prepare a document with \TeX , you type your text into an ASCII file, seasoning it with \TeX commands wherever special formatting or non-ASCII symbols are desired.