# Do journals honor IATEX submissions?

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#### **Abstract**

The survival of LATEX in the academic world will depend on TEX and LATEX evolving towards changing publishing practices, but also on publishers actually accepting LATEX submissions. Much has been said about the former, with a recent feature number of *TUGboat* addressing the subject of electronic publishing. When it comes to the latter issue, however, it is often taken for granted that scientific journals honor LATEX submissions.

An extensive research over the Internet reveals that, on the contrary, at the turn of the century many journals still regret to accept IATEX submissions, sometimes preferring RTF or even bare ASCII sources to TEX or IATEX.

This note discusses some of the issues behind this situation and compiles all journals known to the author that accept electronic submission of LATEX articles in source form, thereby complementing the TEX counterpart [1].

#### 1 Introduction

This note addresses the survival of IATEX in the academic world, and it does it from the perspective of electronic publishing of IATEX articles in scientific journals. Such a perspective is necessarily limited, since survival of IATEX in the academic world will undoubtely depend on a multitude of factors, often intertwined, but it is quite interesting in itself since it will provide further motivation for PhD students, young scientists, and teaching assistants to adopt IATEX as an integral solution for their typesetting needs along their academic lives, from writing a PhD thesis to typesetting class notes, research articles, and textbooks.

In fact, the original motivation for writing down this note was to attract potential IATEX users among PhD students by showing them still another benefit of adopting IATEX for their typesetting tasks, namely that scientific journals accept and encourage electronic submission of IATEX sources. Such was also the motivation behind the chapter on electronic publishing in the author's recent IATEX textbook [13].

An extensive research over the Internet was then conducted in order to find all journals that accept electronic submission of LATEX articles in source form. Despite many journals not even mentioning the possibility for TEX or LATEX submissions, the research shows that LATEX use has spread well beyond the traditional subject areas of computer science, mathematics and physics.

Section 2 gives an overview of the whole process of LATEX article submission, processing, and publishing. The results of the research over the Internet are summarized in Sec-

tion 3 and they are discussed in Section 4. As a direct consequence of that discussion, the creation of a Technical Working Group to support and coordinate publisher's efforts is proposed in Section 5. The data resulting from the research over the Internet is presented in Appendix A.

# 2 Dynamics of LATEX submissions

Submission of articles marked up with LATEX may have different pros and cons for the people involved, from author and academic editor to reviewer and publisher. The whole process of submitting, processing and publishing a LATEX journal submission is briefly reviewed in the following in order to put some of the issues involved in the right perspective:

- 1. The author writes a LATEX article.
- 2. The author submits the article to one of the journal's academic editors
- 3. The academic editor selects one or more reviewers and sends them the article.
- 4. The reviewers judge the article and advise the academic editor on acceptance.
- 5. The academic editor decides to accept the article, with or without changes, or to reject it.
- 6. On acceptance, the —probably revised— article is sent over to the publisher.
- 7. The publisher processes the article.
- 8. Although the author can obtain galley proofs (laser printer output), in some cases the publisher sends a page proof (phototypesetter output) to the author.
- The publisher —usually a technical editor or a copy editor— applies final corrections to the article.

10. The article is included in a journal issue, either printed and/or electronic, and the issue is distributed.

Compared to traditional manuscript submission and processing, submission of LATEX sources offers many advantages:

Faster delivery IATEX sources can be sent by electronic mail or by ftp, a delivery method that is much faster than regular mail or even courier mail and much cheaper than the latter. This is an interesting issue, since an article is sent several times, at least three: author to academic editor, academic editor to each of the reviewers, and academic editor to publisher. It must be noticed, however, that editor and reviewers can still communicate by any means they choose about the review, including —but not limited to— further IATEX sources<sup>1</sup>, irrespective of whether the submission was a IATEX source.

**Reduced proof-reading** Since there is no need of rekeying the submitted article from a paper copy, there is no real need for the publisher to send galley proofs to the author. No typing errors are (supposed to be) introduced in the article<sup>2</sup>.

**Shorter publication time** Bypassing the typesetter and reducing or even eliminating proof-reading, production of page proofs is much faster and the overall cost of publication is reduced.

Reliability Whenever the publisher makes a IATEX macro package available, the author can compile the article and obtain a preprint which is almost identical to the published article, perhaps differing only in page numbering and journal identification. Layout problems can be fixed by the author even before first submitting the article, contributing then to a further reduction in publication time and cost. The dark side of this issue is a burden on the author, who gets distracted from the article's content and becomes more of a copy editor.

Availability The author has an almost final version of the submitted article, which can be further distributed —usually in the form of a DVI or Post-Script file— by electronic mail, ftp, the World-Wide Web (WWW), or a preprint archive [11]. This is indeed a highly controversial issue, since it affects the interests of the publisher, but as long as authors do not transfer copyright to publishers they are entitled to, say, put their articles in their WWW home pages. Some kind of balance will surely have

to be found between author's interest in having their work as broadly disseminated as possible and publisher's economic interest which makes such a dissemination possible<sup>3</sup>.

There are, however, some disadvantages to the submission and processing of LATFX sources:

Processing burden Processing the LATEX submission by academic editor and reviewers can be much of a burden on them. They need to assure that they get the complete submission, which often consists of several LATEX source files and a set of EPS illustrations. The submission may fail to compile due to missing parts, required LATEX macro packages not available at their installation, errors in included EPS figures, etc. It should not be overseen that most academic editors and almost all reviewers are not paid for their services.

Investment in learning Publishing staff and typesetters need to invest in learning TEX —which shows a steep learning curve— and in setting up and maintaining a whole TEX system, including high-resolution output devices and their drivers, integration of text and images, etc.

Some of these issues may explain why many journals accept and process LATEX submissions but in most cases the academic editors prefer paper submissions; see the discussion in Section 4 below.

# 3 Journals

Finding out those journals that accept electronic submission of articles marked up with LATEX would have not been possible if publishers did not offer journal information on the Internet. As a matter of fact, most publishers already maintain home pages for their journals on the World-Wide Web, and in many cases these pages offer extensive information for authors.

The following list gives the number of journals found within each scientific field that accept LATEX submissions, according to the *Science and Engineering Field Classification* made by the National Science Foundation. The classification scheme is available at http://www.qrc.com/nsf/srs/rdexp/.

•	Computer Sciences	97
•	Mathematical Sciences	89
•	Engineering	77

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>In the case of the *Rewriting Techniques and Applications* conferences, for instance, review reports are standard L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X document templates which the conference organizers send to the reviewers, who fill them in and send back to the organizers, who then send over to the authors, and the whole process takes place over electronic mail.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>During the review of the book "On Being a Machine, Vol. 1: Formal Aspects of Artificial Intelligence," by A. Narayanan (Ellis Horwood, 1988) I had found over 300 typographic mistakes which the author attributed to the publisher's re-keying of the submission. A. Narayanan moved then to LATEX and provided Ellis Horwood with camera-ready copies for the second volume, "On Being a Machine, Vol. 2: Philosophy of Artificial Intelligence" (Ellis Horwood, 1990). The review appeared in *Artificial Intelligence* 12(4):96–97, 1991.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>A first step in this direction has been taken recently by Elsevier Science for the *Electronic Notes in Theoretical Computer Science* series of Conference Proceedings, whereby authors are forbidden to make their contributions available by anonymous ftp or ever the WWW but are allowed instead to include links from their WWW pages to Elsevier Science's own WWW pages, where full access to articles is only granted to people accessing from an institution which holds a subscription to the *Theoretical Computer Science* journal.

•	Physical Sciences	1
•	Life Sciences	1
•	Environmental Sciences	3
•	Social Sciences	3
•	Other Sciences (Multidisciplinary)	7
	Total	

As can be seen from the previous list, adoption of LATEX in scientific publishing has spread well beyond the traditional subject areas of computer science, mathematics and physics. Notice, however, that for each journal accepting submissions of articles marked up with LATEX there may be up to ten journals in the same field which do not accept LATEX submissions.

#### 4 Discussion

Some of the issues behind the situation described in section 3 are depicted in the following in the form of short *provocative statements*, which are not meant to be definitive assertions but to rather spark further debate within the TEX community about the future of IATEX in the academic world.

# Publishers regret to accept LATEX submissions because it doesn't pay off

Let alone publishers who have never heard about LATEX, even for those who care about LATEX keeping up with LATEX developments may represent too big an overhead. Take for instance Springer Verlag, who has even replaced its well-known llncs macro package by the LATEX 2.09 formats (NFSS version 1) *CLMono01* and *CLMult01*.

As a matter of fact, the proof is that almost two years after the first release of  $\text{IATEX2}_{\mathcal{E}}$ , relatively few scientific publishers have updated their IATEX macro packages to  $\text{IATEX2}_{\mathcal{E}}$ .

Moreover, many publishers argue that setting up a TEX system, keeping it up-to-date, and polishing LATEX submissions to match their house styles is usually more expensive and time-consuming than re-keying the submitted articles from author-supplied hard copies.

# Publishers do not get articles marked up with IATEX for publication

One of the reasons why most publishers in the fields of environmental, life, and social sciences do not honor IATEX submissions is that they rarely get articles marked up with IATEX for publication. As a matter of fact, authors seem to be the driving force behind the adoption of IATEX by scientific publishers.

# Publishers force authors to submit standard IATEX articles

Publishers complain that it is almost impossible to have authors submit articles marked up with *standard* LATEX, that is, without author-defined macros, while authors complain that publishers limit their creativity by forcing them to comply with some LATEX macro package [8]. Maybe both sides are right in their complaints, but the truth is that

publishers have a good deal of work at polishing LATEX submissions and resolving macro name clashes, while it is both unreasonable and contrary to LATEX's philosophy to forbid authors defining new macros in their articles.

A solution to both sides of the problem can be foreseen in the form of either an extension to the IATEX kernel, a macro package or some kind of utility program, which would expand all author-defined macros and output a *standard* IATEX article source. The question is, what exactly is a *standard* IATEX article source?

# Journals honor IATEX submissions but academic editors do not

Although many publishers have all the hardware, software and know-how needed to process LATEX submissions, however, academic editors for each of the journals they publish always have the last word.

Take, for instance, some of the major scientific publishers which are moving into electronic publication [12]. Elsevier Science accepts, in principle, LATEX submissions for all of its 1100 journals but academic editors for only 7 of them are willing to accept LATEX submissions.

A similar pattern is repeated for other publishers. Academic editors at Springer Verlag only accept IATEX submissions for 8 of its 350 journals, at John Wiley & Sons only 9 out of 326 journals do, at Blackwell Science only one out of 200 journals does, and at Academic Press only two out of 175 journals accept IATEX submissions.

The question is, why do most academic editors desencourage submission of articles marked up with LATEX, even though publishers provide them with running TEX systems and house styles already encoded in LATEX macro packages?

# Journals may no longer honor IATEX submissions as they move electronic

Electronic journals, as well as preprint databases [11], accept any ASCII submission but in most cases prefer TeX or IATeX, at least in the fields of engineering and computer, mathematical, and physical sciences. When it comes to environmental, life, and social sciences, however, it is much more common to find journals which only accept either RTF or HTML submissions.

IATEX to HTML conversion may be seen as a practical solution. LaTeX2HTML [4] even allows the inclusion of hypertext links in articles. In practice, however, it may sacrifice typographical quality, since all mathematical formulas, figures and tables are converted to GIF (Graphics Interchange Format) images or PostScript pictures, which in most cases have a low resolution and cannot be zoomed in and out without distorting the image.

Besides, LaTeX2HTML fragments a well-structured LATeX document into too many little files. Although the degree of splitting can be controlled by a parameter, it is set to a high value by default and, in practice, this turns

reading the document with an HTML browser into a kind of...

As HTML develops into HTML3, with some degree of support for mathematics and tables, it is possible that HTML takes over as the preferred format for submission to electronic journals in the fields of engineering and computer, mathematical, and physical sciences as well.

Conversion of TEX and LATEX into SGML [9, 2] may help to avoid HTML ever displacing LATEX as one of the preferred formats for submitting articles to scientific journals, since the scientific publishing industry seems to be moving definitely towards SGML.

#### 5 Conclusion

An author may have to deal with many publishers, and therefore may need to comply with different TEX macro packages and instructions to authors. Adoption of LATEX by an author may prove to be, in that sense, a rewarding decision as long as publishers encode their house styles in LATEX macro packages. This would let authors concentrate on scientific content while keeping LATEX training needs down to a point somewhere between [7] and [5].

An ideal situation would be for the author to write a standard article-class LATEX document and to later add a

\usepackage{publisher}

mark, or even better a

\usepackage[journal] {publisher}

mark, right before submitting it to the publisher.

In practice, however, complying with the author instructions for a particular journal may involve various changes to the original LATEX source, ranging from low-level font selection to high-level macros for theorem-like environments, inclusion of encapsulated PostScript figures, and author affiliation.

Such a high degree of transparency of publisher styles with respect to the standard IATEX article-class can only be reached by a serious standardization effort. Maybe the time has come for the TFX Users Group to set up a new Technical Working Group (TWG), with the goal of coordinating publishers' efforts at encoding their journal styles in IATEX macro packages. Such a TWG should also liason with the LATEX3 Project Team in order to enhance the standard IATEX article.cls document class and perhaps also book.cls and report.cls, by including more structural information in the front matter which would offer a standard interface to authors and could also be easily adapted to the particular needs of different publishers. As a matter of fact, some publisher packages that show the need for such an enhancement have been available for several years, among which Springer [10], Elsevier Science [3], DANTE [6], and many others.

In any case, the author sincerely hopes not to be charged with the whole task just because of having had such a bright idea.

### Acknowledgement

I am very grateful to Barbara Beeton, Sebastian Rahtz and Christina Thiele for early comments on the very idea of this paper, and to the anonymous referees, whose suggestions have led to a substantial improvement of the article.

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# A Journals accepting manuscripts marked up with LATEX

This appendix lists journals for which at least one of the editors accepts electronic submissions written using IATEX, grouped by publisher. An HTML version of this list is available on the Internet at the address http://www-lsi.upc.es/~valiente/journals.html that links about 40 publishers and

more than 400 journals to their home pages on the World-Wide Web. Any help to bring it more complete and to keep it up-to-date is warmly welcome.

#### Academia Scientiarum Fennica

• Annales Academiæ Scientiarum Fennicæ

#### **Academic Press**

- · Analytical Biochemistry
- J. of Approximation Theory

#### **American Astronomical Society**

- · Astrophysical J.
- · Astrophysical J. Supplement
- · Astrophysical J. Letters
- · Astronomical J.

#### **American Institute of Physics**

• The J. of the Acoustical Society of America

#### **American Mathematical Society**

- Bulletin of the AMS
- Electronic Research Announcements of the  $\mathcal{A}_{\mathcal{M}}\mathcal{S}$
- J. of the  $\mathcal{A}_{\mathcal{M}}\mathcal{S}$
- Mathematics of Computation
- Notices of the AMS
- Proc. of the AMS
- Trans. of the AMS

# **American Physical Society**

- · Physical Review A
- Physical Review B
- Physical Review C
- Physical Review D
- Physical Review E
- Physical Review Letters
- Reviews of Modern Physics

#### Association for Computing Machinery

- ACM Trans. on Mathematical Software
- Comm. of the ACM
- J. of the ACM
- IEEE/ACM Trans. on Networking
- J. of Experimental Algorithmics
- Trans. on Computer Systems
- Trans. on Computer-Human Interaction
- Trans. on Design Automation of Electronic Systems
- · Trans. on Graphics
- Trans. on Information Systems
- Trans. on Mathematical Software
- Trans. on Modeling and Computer Simulation
- Trans. on Prog. Languages and Systems

#### Birkhäuser Verlag

- Aequationes Mathematicae
- Algebra Universalis
- Aquatic Sciences
- Archiv der Mathematik
- Botanica Helvetica
- Chemoecology

- Circuits, Systems, and Signal Processing
- Commentarii Mathematici Helvetici
- Computational and Applied Mathematics
- Computational Complexity
- Eclogae Geologicae Helvetiae
- Elemente der Mathematik
- EXPERIENTIA
- Fresenius Environmental Bulletin
- Geometric and Functional Analysis
- Helvetica Physica Acta
- · Inflammation Research
- Insectes Sociaux
- Integral Equations and Operator Theory
- J. of Evolutionary Biology
- J. of Geometry
- J. of Mathematical Systems, Estimation, and Control
- MapleTech
- Medical Microbiology Letters
- Medicine
- · Nonlinear Differential Equations and Applications
- NTM
- Pure and Applied Geophysics
- Resultate der Mathematik
- Selecta Mathematica, New Series
- Sozial- und Präventivmedizin
- · Zeitschrift für angewandte Mathematik und Physik

#### **Blackwell Publishers**

• Computer Graphics Forum

#### Cameron University, Oklahoma

• Southwest J. of Pure and Applied Mathematics

#### Chapman & Hall

• Optical and Quantum Electronics

# **Computer Society of South Africa**

• The South African Computer J.

# **Deutsche Mathematiker-Vereinigung**

• Documenta Mathematica

#### **DANTE**

• Die TEXnische Komödie

#### **Elsevier Science**

- Artificial Intelligence
- Discrete Applied Mathematics
- Discrete Mathematics
- Electronic Notes in Theoretical Computer Science
- Linear Algebra and its Applications
- New Astronomy
- Theoretical Computer Science

#### Heldermann Verlag Berlin

- Beiträge zur Algebra und Geometrie
- · J. of Lie Theory

#### **Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers**

- Computer
- IEEE Annals of the History of Computing
- IEEE Computational Science & Engineering
- IEEE Computer Graphics and Applications
- IEEE Design & Test of Computers
- IEEE Electron Device Letters
- IEEE Expert
- IEEE J. on Selected Areas in Communications
- IEEE J. on Selected Topics in Quantum Electronics
- IEEE J. of Microelectromechanical Systems
- IEEE J. of Quantum Electronics
- IEEE J. of Solid-State Circuits
- IEEE Micro
- IEEE Microwave and Guided Wave Letters
- IEEE MultiMedia
- IEEE Parallel & Distributed Technology
- IEEE Photonics Technology Letters
- IEEE Signal Processing Letters
- IEEE Software
- IEEE Trans. on Antennas and Propagation
- IEEE Trans. on Applied Superconductivity
- IEEE Trans. on Automatic Control
- IEEE Trans. on Biomedical Engineering
- IEEE Trans. on Circuits and Systems for Video Technology
- IEEE Trans. on Circuits and Systems I: Fundamental Theory and Applications
- IEEE Trans. on Circuits and Systems II: Analog and Digital Signal Processing
- IEEE Trans. on Communications
- IEEE Trans. on Components, Packaging, and Manufacturing Technology Part A
- IEEE Trans. on Components, Packaging, and Manufacturing Technology Part B
- IEEE Trans. on Components, Packaging, and Manufacturing Technology Part C
- IEEE Trans. on Computer-Aided Design of Integrated Circuits and Systems
- IEEE Trans. on Computers
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- IEEE Trans. on Parallel & Distributed Systems
- IEEE Trans. on Pattern Analysis & Machine Intelligence
- IEEE Trans. on Plasma Science
- IEEE Trans. on Power Electronics
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- IEEE Trans. on Rehabilitation Engineering
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- IEEE Trans. on Signal Processing
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- IEEE Trans. on Systems, Man, and Cybernetics Part A: Systems and Humans
- IEEE Trans. on Systems, Man, and Cybernetics Part B: Cybernetics
- IEEE Trans. on Ultrasonics, Ferroelectrics, and Frequency Control
- IEEE Trans. on Very Large Scale Integration (VLSI) Systems
- IEEE Trans. on Visualization & Computer Graphics
- IEEE Trans. on VLSI Systems
- IEEE/ACM Trans. on Networking
- IEEE/OSA J. of Lightwave Technology
- Proc. of the IEEE

# **Institute of Physics Publishing**

- Bioimaging
- Classical and Quantum Gravity
- Distributed Systems Engineering
- European J. of Physics
- High Performance Polymers
- Inverse Problems
- J. of Micromechanics and Microengineering
- J. of Physics A: Mathematical and General
- J. of Physics B: Atomic, Molecular and Optical Physics
- J. of Physics: Condensed Matter
- J. of Physics D: Applied Physics
- J. of Physics G: Nuclear and Particle Physics
- J. of Radiological Protection
- Measurement Science and Technology
- Modelling and Simulation in Materials Science and Engineering
- Nanotechnology
- Network: Computation in Neural Systems
- Nonlinearity
- Physics Education
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- Physiological Measurement
- Plasma Physics and Controlled Fusion
- Plasma Sources Science and Technology
- Public Understanding of Science
- Pure and Applied Optics
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- Genetica
- Geology and Mining (Geologie en Mijnbouw)
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- Int. J. of Computer Vision
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- Int. J. of Salt Lake Research
- Int. J. of Value-Based Management
- Int. J. on Group Rights
- Int. Ophthalmology
- J. for General Philosophy of Science
- J. of Algebraic Combinatorics
- J. of Applied Phycology
- J. of Aquatic Ecosystem Health
- J. of Atmospheric Chemistry
- J. of Automated Reasoning
- J. of Biological Physics
- J. of Elasticity
- J. of Electronic Testing
- J. of Engineering Mathematics
- J. of Global Optimization
- J. of Inclusion Phenomena and Molecular Recognition in Chemistry
- J. of Intelligent Information Systems
- J. of Logic, Language and Information
- J. of Mathematical Imaging and Vision
- J. of Paleolimnology
- J. of Sol-Gel Science and Technology
- J. of Systems Integration
- K-Theory
- Letters in Mathematical Physics
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- LISP and Symbolic Computation
- Machine Learning
- Machine Translation
- Man and World
- Meccanica
- Medical Progress Through Technology
- Molecular Biology Reports
- Multidimensional Systems and Signal Processing
- Multimedia Tools and Applications
- Mycopathologia
- Natural Hazards
- New Forests
- Nonlinear Dynamics
- Nutrient Cycling in Agroecosystems
- Origins of Life and Evolution of the Biosphere
- Philosophical Studies
- Photosynthesis Research
- Plant and Soil
- Plant Cell, Tissue and Organ Culture
- Plant Growth Regulation
- Potential Analysis
- Real-Time Systems

- Review of Industrial Organization
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- · Social Indicators Research
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# Société de Mathématiques Appliquées et Industrielles

- ESAIM: Control, Optimisation and Calculus of Variations
- ESAIM: Probability and Statistics
- ESAIM: Proc.

#### **Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics**

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• Electronic J. of Linear Algebra

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• Acta Mathematica Universitatis Comenianæ

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