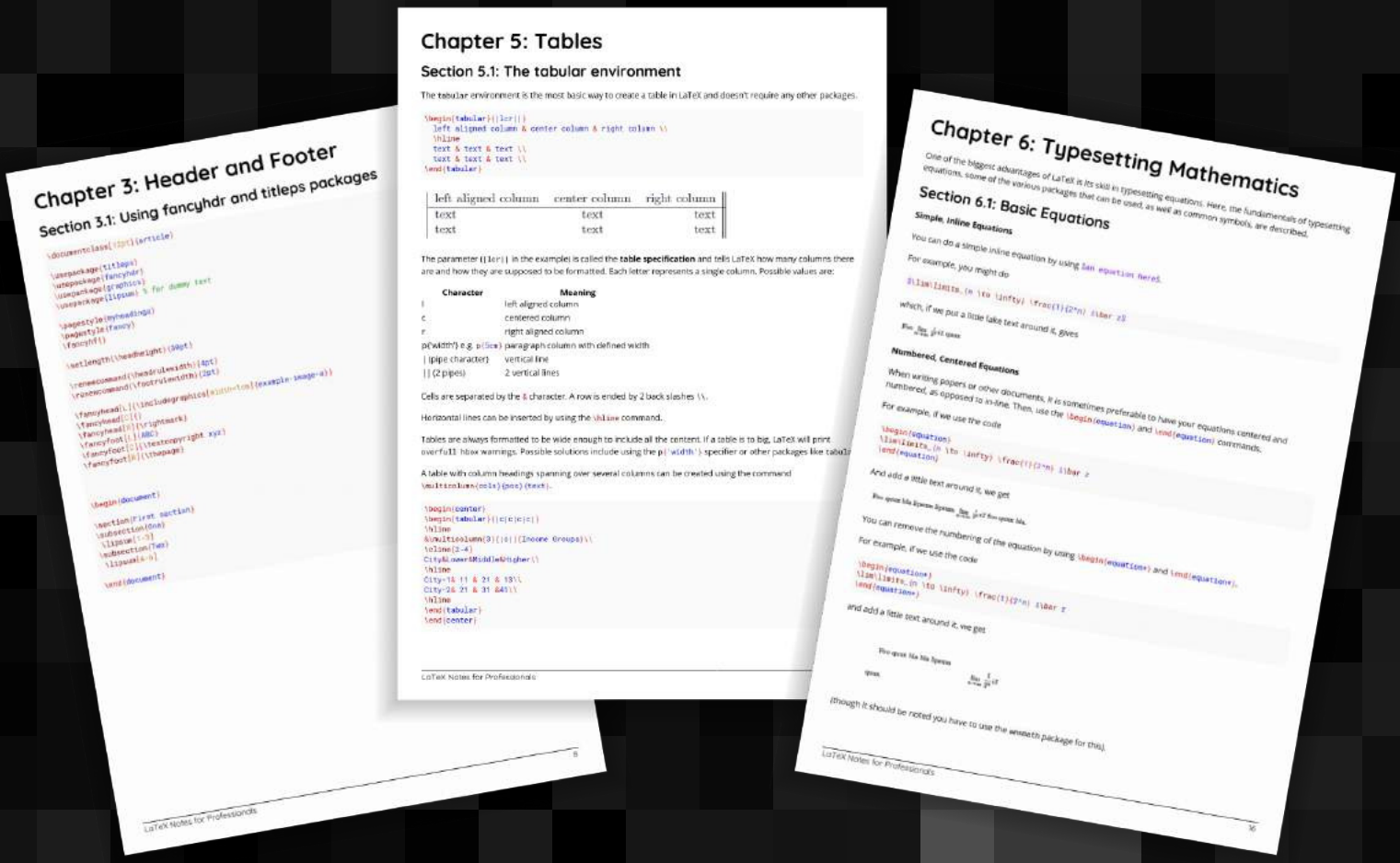
LaTeX

Notes for Professionals



50+ pages

of professional hints and tricks

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About

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Chapter 1: Getting started with LaTeX

Version	Release Date
LaTeX 2.09	1985-09-01
LaTeX 2e	1994-06-01

Section 1.1: LaTeX Editors

While you can create LaTeX documents using any editor and compiling using the console, there exist several plugins for widely used editors to simplify creating LaTeX documents, and there are specialized LaTeX editors. An exhaustive list of LaTeX editors is available on TeX.SE (the StackExchange site, dedicated to TeX, LaTeX & Friends).

The most widely used editors, according to this list, are:

- The Emacs editor with the AUCTeX extension.
- The Vim editor with the LaTeX-suite plugin.
- Texmaker – a specialized LaTeX IDE.
- TeXstudio – another LaTeX IDE.
- TeXworks – one more LaTeX IDE.

While experienced users of Emacs or Vim may want to stick to their editor (whose plugins provide a host of functionality unavailable elsewhere), a specialized IDE might be easier to install/use for beginners. The last three on the list have a preview function where one can see the results of the compilation of the document.

Additionally, there are online LaTeX tools that can be of use to beginners or people that must collaborate, e.g. ShareLaTeX and Overleaf.

Section 1.2: Installation and Setup

You can choose between major distributions of LaTeX:

- TeX Live (Windows, Linux, and OS X), the standard, cross-platform distribution.
- MacTeX (Mac) A packaged version of TeX Live made for OS X with some Mac-specific tools
- MiKTeX (Windows) A separate distribution entirely that

All distributions are more or less equivalent in an ideal world. TeX Live has the advantage of being available on all platforms and thus has much better community support. MiKTeX can take advantage of Windows-specific features. For licensing reasons, MiKTeX will also distribute a few packages that TeX Live will not.

In all cases, the full install is recommended. Specifically, using MiKTeX's download-on-command feature will hang/crash many editors.

Installation
Windows (TeXLive)

1. Download the most recent TeXLive `install-tl-windows.exe` from their website.
2. Run `install-tl-windows.exe` and follow the instructions.

Windows (MiKTeX)

1. Download the most recent MiKTeX installer from their website.
2. Run the installer and follow the instructions.

Mac OS X (TeXLive)