Shortcut to LaTeX

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RATHIAH HASHIM

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This book is dedicated to my parents,

my husband and

my lovely children – Rozie, Liyana and Amir –

for their continuous support and love.

Preface

This book is an introduction to LaTeX for those who have not used LaTeX before. It is a wonderful software to typeset your document and especially helpful for post graduate students to write and structure their theses or dissertations. With LaTeX, you can effectively integrate your text with tables, figures, math symbols and references. The approach in this book is dedicated to Window users.

When I was writing my thesis, everyone around me used LaTeX and we had to learn it on our own. Thanks to my lab mates – especially Liam, Siti, Owen and Tammy. LaTeX used to be more complicated than it is now. Even while writing this book, a lot of things have improved and I had to change it from time to time, postponing the publication to cater for the ongoing changes.

The beauty about LaTeX is that you don't need to know everything. Most people only learn the basics and upgrade their skills using internet resources. My book is to help you do that – to grasp the basic essentials! There are many books on LaTeX available but it is difficult to find a book that can teach you from the very basics including how to compile for the first time. This book is like "LaTeX for the idiots"! I remember once when I was trying to compile but couldn't find the right way to do it. I had the right document but didn't know what to do. There are so many LaTeX editors, compilers and as a beginner, you'll simply get confused. So hopefully this book is helpful enough to give the first few introductory steps to get you acquainted. Learning LaTeX can be time consuming and this book is your short cut to it.

Have fun J !

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