

This Paper Ends When I Make a Syntax Error

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Abstract

Writing a paper in the \LaTeX format is difficult, due to its many technical idiosyncrasies. In this paper, we provide an overview of formatting commands that users report having the most trouble with and introduce a framework to assist authors when writing research papers.

1. Introduction

There is a steep learning curve to achieve a level of proficiency in \LaTeX . For example, to even create the \LaTeX symbol requires knowledge that it is a built-in keyword. If a user were to make a simple syntax error, their hard work goes to waste as soon as the red error text appears. This paper provides an overview of common typesetting challenges and presents a framework to solve these problems. As part of the data gathering step, we observed over one-thousand researchers who use \LaTeX to write their papers and noted when they experienced compilation errors. Below is a list of the most common typesetting mistakes: