

# Why I use $\LaTeX$ and PDF

Souvik Sarkar  
sounix000@gmail.com

July 18, 2024

It might come across as peculiar that I choose to write my articles in  $\LaTeX$  and put them out on the web as PDF files, especially when lots of easier markups and browser-friendly alternatives are available. Although I don't owe an explanation to anyone about the choices I make for my personal webpage, I must remind myself of the reasons behind the choice when self-doubts and temptations of easier formats will arise.

- It looks beautiful and is an archival format. Just for sheer aesthetic pleasure, I will use  $\LaTeX$  and compile documents to PDF.
- My writings contain a lot of mathematics, figures/diagrams, code, tables, charts, etc. Nothing beats  $\LaTeX$  for typesetting and controlling the output in such documents.
- Mathjax and Katex might be sufficient for mathematical content in HTML, but I just don't like HTML as an output format for such kind of documents. The lack of predictable arrangements of mathematical elements in the output irks me.
- In my job I write a lot of HTML-friendly content using easier markups that are excellent for code and tables, and occasional illustrations. So for my personal writings I prefer something different.
- I romanticize academia, especially mathematics.  $\LaTeX$  gives me a taste of that in my personal writings. If not for anything else, I would continue using  $\LaTeX$  because of its association with academia.