

How many scholarly articles are written in LaTeX?

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How many people use the typesetting language LaTeX? [This is obviously a hard question](#). However, another way to look at it is to calculate the **percentage of published scholarly articles written in LaTeX**.

To begin, let's take a look at penetration and adoption of LaTeX across various disciplines, as shown in the Table below, extracted from a paper called "Don't format Manuscripts" ([Brischoux and Legagneux, 2009](#)). The results are not surprising here- **LaTeX use is limited to the hard sciences**, and especially: Mathematics and Stats, and then Physics and Computer Science.

	LaTeX rate	SE	N	Guideline words count	SE	N
Mathematics	96.9	3.1	4	604.4	158.5	10
Statistics and Probability	89.1	4.0	6	1208.6	259.4	10
Physics	74.0	11.7	3	2912.1	970.3	10
Computer Sciences	45.8	40.9	2	1354.3	195.3	10
Astronomy and Astrophysics	35.1	21.4	5	3171.4	856.8	10
Engineering	1.0	1.0	2	1429.8	169.5	10
Geosciences	0.8	0.6	6	2284.6	439.0	10
Ecology	0.4	0.4	4	3212.4	1160.7	10
Chemistry	0.3	0.3	3	1739.2	222.1	10
Biology	0.0	0.0	4	1879.7	402.7	10
Medicine	0.0		1	2490.8	362.3	10
Psychology	0.0	0.0	7	1646.5	267.6	10
Sport Sciences	0.0	0.0	6	1663.7	509.4	10
Mean/Total	26.8	5.6	53	1979.6	162.3	130

Table 1. Summary statistics (mean \pm SE) of the use of LaTeX in science disciplines (% of submitted papers) and the number of words contained in the guidelines for authors. The red line indicates the separation between LaTeX-using and non-LaTeX-using disciplines.

Then, let's look at the total number of scholarly papers published. Scopus lists 2,253,230 citable documents published in 2014, of which 151,085 in Mathematics, 274,287 in Physics and Astronomy, and 255,916 in Computer Science ([calculated using the compare tool on Scopus/SciMago](#)).

Assuming that a portion of these hard science papers were written in LaTeX (using the percentages of LaTeX penetration from Table 1) we find that **in 2014: 418,732 out of 2,253,230 articles (18%) were written**

using LaTeX.

The number of LaTeX articles was calculated as follows:

- Mathematics and Statistics: 151,085 (92% LaTeX = 138,998)
- Physics and Astronomy: 274,287 (60% LaTeX = 164,572)
- Computer Science: 255,916 (45% LaTeX = 115,162)

What do you think? Do you have other ideas on how to estimate how many people use LaTeX? Let me know by commenting on this post.

References

François Brischoux and Pierre Legagneux. Don't Format Manuscripts. *The Scientist*, 23(7):24, 2009.