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L^AT_EX

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Conversion of Microsoft word into L^AT_EX

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Abstract

We describe a program which converts Microsoft Rich Text Format files (as produced by Word, Excel, and other packages) into standard L^AT_EX. This program converts character glyphs, character attributes, style information, fonts, lists and tables to their "equivalents" (if any) in L^AT_EX.

Conversion of character, font and attribute information is hardwired in, to a set of tables in the program, which can be changed (by a programmer).

Conversion of style information is controlled by a Conversion Control File which can be amended by the user. This file assigns L^AT_EX constructs to Word style tags.

The latest version of the program converts mathematical mark-up in Word Formula Mode to the L^AT_EX equivalents. There are many difficulties with this approach and the paper will cover the main ones including the basic difficulty of recognising in a word processor file what is mathematics and what is not.

The program has been used to convert a complete textbook *Introduction to Information Technology* by Dr P. ZORKOCZY (Pitman, 1990) from Word into L^AT_EX for use in a hypermedia system.