

NAME

amstex – structured mathematical text formatting and typesetting

SYNOPSIS

amstex [*first-line*]

DESCRIPTION

The AMSTEX language is described in the book *The Joy of T_EX*, available from <https://ctan.org/pkg/joy-of-tex>.

AMSTEX is a T_EX format (macro package), not a modification to the T_EX source program, so all the capabilities described in **tex**(1) are present; see **tex**(1) for details of command-line parsing, etc.

AMSTEX was developed by the American Mathematical Society, and used in their publishing program for many years. However, it is no longer developed or used by them. Instead, authors are encouraged to use L^AT_EX, likely with the *amsmath* package among others, which provides many useful mathematical features. The AMSTEX format is still provided for the sake of supporting existing documents.

In the past, there were also formats named *amslatex* and *lamstex* which combined AMSTEX and L^AT_EX in various ways. These are no longer distributed; standard L^AT_EX is now what's recommended.

The AMSTEX macros have extensive support for math typesetting. In general, like L^AT_EX, they encourage writers to think about the content of their documents, rather than the form. The ideal, not always realized, is to have no formatting commands (like “switch to italic” or “skip 2 picas”) in the document at all; instead, everything is done by generic markup instructions: “emphasize”, “start a section”.

OPTIONS

See **tex**(1).

ENVIRONMENT

See **tex**(1).

BUGS

See **tex**(1).

SEE ALSO

latex(1), **tex**(1).

Michael Spivak, *The Joy of T_EX*, 2nd edition, American Mathematical Society, 1990, ISBN 0-8218-2997-1.

<https://ctan.org/pkg/joy-of-tex>

amsguide: Documentation for AMSTEX.

amsmath package page on CTAN: <https://ctan.org/pkg/amsmath>

AMSTEX package page on CTAN: <https://ctan.org/pkg/amstex>