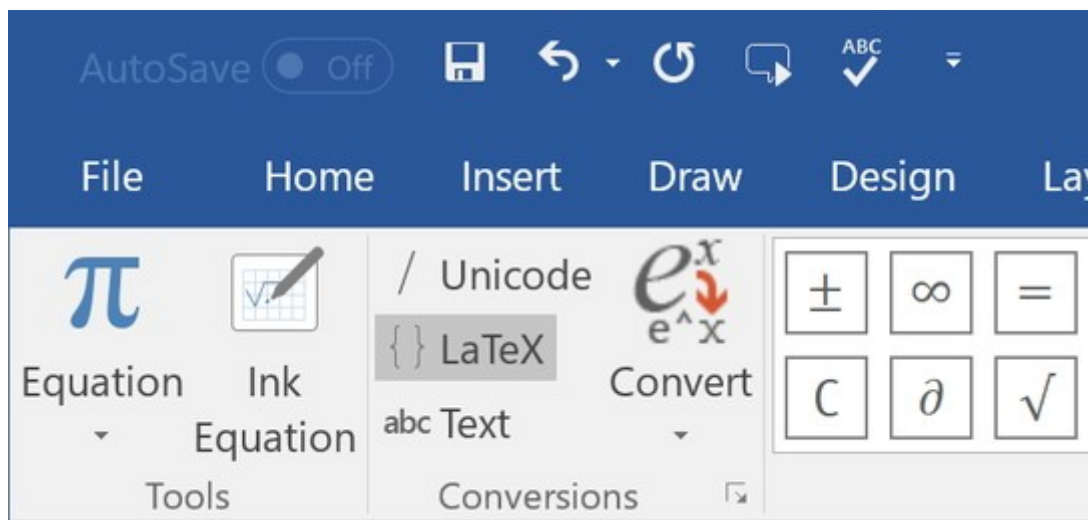


LaTeX-style math input now available in Office 365



On July 30th (local time), Microsoft Corporation announced that Office 365 will support LaTeX-style mathematical input. This will be available in next month's update (August feature update).

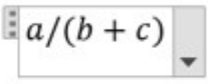
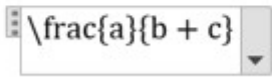
In addition to using the mouse to assemble mathematical components, the current version of Word also offers a text input method called UnicodeMath. This allows you to express fractional expressions as "a/(b+c)". It also has some compatibility with the LaTeX style, and when combined with the autocomplete function, it can automatically convert "¥alpha" to "α". For users with some familiarity with LaTeX, it's easy to learn, and can significantly improve the efficiency of mathematical input.

However, there seems to have been a strong demand for a style that is faithful to the LaTeX style. In response to this, the company has been developing a feature for Word that allows users to switch between "UnicodeMath" and "LaTeX" modes for mathematical input. However, due to significant room for improvement, the company has refrained from promoting this feature extensively. The company recommends "UnicodeMath" mode, which is easier to read, over "LaTeX" mode, which is written in ASCII. However, users familiar with "LaTeX" will likely find "LaTeX" mode more familiar.

"UnicodeMath" Mode and
"LaTeX" Mode

In future versions of Word, a
button to switch between
"UnicodeMath" and "LaTeX"
modes will be added to the ribbon,

allowing users to select their preferred mode in the mathematical input function. In "LaTeX" mode, the automatic build function that converts line input into mathematical formulas is disabled, so bullddown must be performed manually using Shift + Ctrl + =.

Format	Input	Output
UnicodeMath		$\frac{a}{b+c}$
LaTeX		$\frac{a}{b+c}$

Although "PowerPoint" and "OneNote" also support "LaTeX" mode, the procedure is somewhat complicated, requiring the insertion of control words. Hopefully, this will be improved in future versions.