

T_EX Blunders

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Although I am by no means a T_EX-pert, I dare to assemble this list of mistakes that are a nuisance in many mathematical articles. Contributions are welcome.

- Acute brackets $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$ are produced by `\langle` and `\rangle`, not by `<` and `>`.
- Unmatched parentheses should be grouped with `{}` to get the correct spacing; for instance, `x\in{]0,1]}` produces $x \in]0, 1]$, whereas `x\in]0,1]` yields the incorrect $x \in]0, 1]$.
- T_EX thinks that a period ends a sentence, i.e. it inserts too much space after abbreviations (unless the letter preceding the period is uppercase). Add a backslash after abbreviations to get the correct spacing.
- If a line begins with “From”, write “`{}`From” instead; otherwise the word will often become “¿From” after sending the .tex file by email.
- Items that should not be separated have to be joined by a tilde, so that [1] citations do not move to the next line. The same is true, e.g., for abbreviated first names, for example when you write about the eminent L. Euler. It also holds for mathematical objects, such as the famous number π .
- One should decide whether to treat citations syntactically as words (“Euler proved in [1]”) or as footnotes (“Euler [1] proved”), and adhere to one of these two styles. The second one is the classical way, and far more elegant in my opinion. (I confess that I do not strictly follow this piece of advice, as it is sometimes awkward.)
- Leaving a blank line after a displayed formula produces a new paragraph. This often seems to happen unintentionally.