

## 1 $\LaTeX$ Characters

Watch out for the characters:  $\&$ ,  $\#$ ,  $\$$ ,  $\%$ ,  $\_$ ,  $\^$ ,  $\sim$ ,  $\{$ , and  $\}$ . These are special reserved characters in  $\LaTeX$ . If you want to use one of these characters in a document, you will need to put a  $\backslash$  in front of them. For example:  $\backslash \$$  will put a  $\$$  into a document. Additionally, you need to put  $\{ \}$  after  $\^$  and  $\sim$  or these characters get squeezed too much by the characters around them like this  $\backslash \sim \{ \}$ .

The other special characters are:  $+$ ,  $=$ ,  $|$ ,  $<$ ,  $>$  and  $\backslash$ . These special characters are only available in math mode so you have to put  $\$$ 's around them in order to use them. For example:  $\$ + \$$  will put a  $+$  into a document. Additionally, since the  $\backslash$  is also the symbol for a reserved character, if you actually want to use a  $\backslash$  character in a document- besides just being in math mode you will also need to add the word `backslash` after the  $\backslash$ . This ends up looking like this in a document:  $\backslash \backslash \backslash$  which is a lot of work just to get a  $\backslash$ . You're actually encouraged in  $\LaTeX$  to use the `\newcommand` command to make an alias for a group of  $\LaTeX$  commands that you often use and that's what people often do for a  $\backslash$ . For instance, you could enter in the preamble: `\newcommand{\bs}{\ensuremath{\backslash}}` to use `\bs` for backslash in your document.

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## 2 More of the Same on L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X Characters

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