

## Common mostly minor LaTeX errors

This is a list of common errors in LaTeX. A lot of them arise from cryptic features of that software.

To see what is going on you might have to compare the LaTeX source and the PDF output of this little document.

**Quotes** Did you ever get "this" instead of "this"? To get proper double quotes you need to open with two single left quotes and then close with two single right quotes. You can also close with one double quote like "this". Some editors turn the double quote into two right singles.

**Commas in math** You wanted 1,000,000 but you got 1,000,000. To make it look right put braces { and } around the commas.

**Math functions** You got  $\sin(x)$  which looks like  $s$  times  $i$  times  $n$  of  $x$ , where you should have gotten  $\sin(x)$ . You need `\sin` inside your math. The same goes for `cos`, `tan`, `exp`, `log` and many others. It is also possible to add your own names like this.

**Images** Do not use compressed/lossy image formats like jpeg. You could get blurry dots in your images. It is better to convert them to PDF.

**Capitalization in references** If you're using BiBTeX and you're not careful you could find that even though you capitalize a word in your .bib file it gets typeset in lower case. That is because BiBTeX/LaTeX likes to put article titles in lower case even though if they're capitalized. To force capitalization for proper nouns etc, use braces. For example, using

```
title = {What {Tukey} said about {Monte Carlo}}
```

at the appropriate spot in your .bib file, would preserve capitalization.

**Orders of magnitude** Sometimes authors get  $\ll$  and  $\gg$  when they really want  $\lll$  and  $\ggg$ . The latter are `\lll` and `\ggg` inside math mode. The former are just two  $\lt$ 's and two  $\gt$ 's.