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DissLatexCommands

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Commands

Latex allows to simplify things which are used often. It's a decision of style how often you will use this things. Very often they make it harder to read the code of the document (especially after a break of some month or for other person which see it the first time). On the other hand they make it easier to create a consistent layout. All this commands are defined before the `\begin{document}` statement. It's also a good idea to export them to an own file and import them with `\input{comdef.tex}`

Here some tips and examples

- If Latex fails by some hyphenation you can explain them to Latex.
`\hyphenation{syllable-syllable}`
- Often used words can be replaced by short ones. eg: `\newcommand{\IOLU}{International organized latex users\xspace}`. Inside the text you need only to write `\IOLU` instead of the whole thing. The `\xspace` at the end needs the package `xspace` (`\usepackage{xspace}`) and handles the problems with space at the end of `\IOLU`. Don't define hundred of shorts in this style. Your text won't be readable. Another advantage is the uniform formatting of all occurrence of them.
`(\newcommand{\brand}{\textit{brand}\xspace})`.
- For an identical figure style use a command like this:

```
\newcommand{\myFig}[5][\columnwidth]{
  \begin{figure}[htbp]\begin{center}
    \includegraphics[width=#1]{#2}
    \caption{#3}
    \label{img:#5}
    \small{\textit{#4}}
  \end{center}\end{figure}
}
```

It uses 5 arguments, where the first one is optional: Width of the figure (default: column-width), name of the file, title, caption and reference name (where `img:` is added by default, to prevent duplicated names).

Example `\myFig[5cm]{psfile.ps}{Overview}{This picture show everything}{everything}` or without a given width

`\myFig{psfile.ps}{Overview}{This picture show everything}{everything}` If you define also `\newcommand{\fig}[1]{Figure \ref{img:#1}}` you can refer the picture just by using `\fig{everything}` (In the text figure 6 will appear as example).

The advantage of this two commands is that you can change the layout of all pictures just by changing the command definition.

- A little bit more complicate is `newenvironment` but it allows also more complicate things, because you may embed whole text passage.

```
{\newenvironment{myTab}[3][
```

```
{\begin{table}[#1]\begin{center}\caption{#2}\label{tab:#3}\vspace{3mm}}
  {\end{center}\end{table}
}
```

Defines a environment for tables. The arguments are position (optional), title and reference name (with an additional tab:

```
\begin{myTab}{the results of my work}{reswork}
```

Caption of the table, the table itself ...
`\end{myTab}`

-- JoergMaeder - 20 Dec 2010

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