AISC Meets Natural Typography

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1

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but some abuse is more harmful than others.

The trivial differences

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i or j In practice, this causes little confusion for experts, some for students.

metric tensor Is the metric tensor for flat Min-

kowski space
$$\begin{pmatrix} -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$
 or its negative
$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$$
? Is the temporal

variable the last, rather than the first, co-

ordinate, giving $\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$, or its

negative?

 \mathbf{N}

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\left(\frac{-1}{p}\right) is, alas, how professional typesetters encode it.

"this has the usual mathematical meaning" (1)

Mathematics $a_1 \cup a_2 \cup a_3$

LATEX a_1 \cup a_2 \cup a_3

OpenMath <OMS name="union" cd="set1"/>

MathML <apply> <union/> $<i>a_1</i>...</apply>$

"this has the usual mathematical meaning" (2)

Mathematics $\bigcup \{a_1, a_2, a_3\}$

 $LAT_EX \setminus \{a_1,a_2,a_3\}$

OpenMath <OMS name="big_union" cd="set3"/>

Or <OMS name="apply_to_list" cd="fns2"/>

MathML <apply> <union/> <bvar>i</bvar> <domain \dots > <set> <i> a_1 </i> ...</set>

"this has the usual mathematical meaning" (3)

Mathematics $\bigcup_{i=1}^{3} a_i$

LATEX \bigcup_{i=1}^3 a_i

OpenMath big_union on make_list

MathML <apply> <union/> <bvar>i</bvar> <lowlimit

$$Pq(u) = \int_0^u pq^2(t)dt$$
 (16.25.1)

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(where $pq^2(t)$ means $pq(t)^2$, and not $p \cdot q^2$) Short for 12 equations of the form

$$\operatorname{Sn}(u) = \int_0^u \operatorname{sn}^2(t) dt,$$

since $p, q \in \{s, c, n, d\}$.

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$$\operatorname{Sn}(u) = \int_0^u \operatorname{sn}^2(t) dt,$$

since $p, q \in \{s, c, n, d\}$. But when q = s

$$Pq(u) = \int_0^u \left(pq^2(t) - \frac{1}{t^2}\right) dt - \frac{1}{u}.$$

$$pq(u) = \frac{pr(u)}{qr(u)}$$
 (16.3.4)

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(except that here there is no distinctness assumption, but pp is to be taken as the constant function 1).

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(Function) Application $\sin x$ otherwise $\sin(x)$. $\sin(x+y)$ is different from 2(x+y), and f(x+y) is ?? This is encoded as ⁡.

Addition $4\frac{1}{2}$ could otherwise be rendered as $4+\frac{1}{2}$. This is (now) encoded as &InvisiblePlus;.

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Concatenation m_{12} could be rendered as $m_{1,2}$. This is encoded as ⁣. Even without this, MathML is less ambiguous than ordinary notation: m_{12} might equally be the twelfth item of a vector, but MathML would distinguish the following.

```
<msub>
    <mi> m </mi>
    <mrow>
        <mn> 1 </mn>
        <mn> 2 </mn>
        </mrow>
</msub>
```

```
<msub>
  < mi > m < /mi >
  <mrow>
    <mn> 12 </mn>
  </mrow>
</msub>
(of course, the <mrow> is redundant in this case).
```

An awful example.

Then the functor $T \mapsto \{\text{generically smooth } T - \text{morphisms } T \times_S \mathcal{C}' \to T \times_S \mathcal{C} \}$ from ((S-schemes)) to ((sets)) is

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The meanings of \pm

Arcsinh
$$z_1 \pm \operatorname{Arcsinh} z_2 = \operatorname{Arcsinh} \left(z_1 \sqrt{1 - z_2^2} \pm z_2 \sqrt{1} \right)$$
 means

$$\qquad \qquad \cup \quad \text{Arcsinh} \left(z_1\sqrt{1-z_2^2}-z_2\sqrt{1}\right) \\ \text{and the fact that the same equation holds for} \\ \text{Arcsinh} \, z_1 - \text{Arcsinh} \, z_2.$$

Ways forward?

• Fully semantic markup

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Don't hold your breath

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• Do nothing

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 Slightly more semantic LATEX

Example: fractions and QR symbols (\displaystyle and \textstyle)

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\fraction{a}{b}

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\fraction{a}{b}

$$\frac{\overline{b}}{a/b}$$
 (or possibly (a/b))

$$\overline{b}$$
 a/b (or possibly (a/b))

 $\qr{a}{b}$

The DML trichotomy

1. retro-digital, i.e. scanned.

2. retro-born-digital, i.e. reconstruction from a .pdf or .ps.

3. born-digital, i.e. not just the pixels, but the whole workflow.

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2. retro-born-digital, i.e. reconstruction from a .pdf or .ps.

3. born-digital, i.e. not just the pixels, but the whole workflow.

4. born-intelligent-digital, with semantics recoverable from the markup.