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{ \lbrace	[ \lbrack	[ \lceil
{ \{	] \rbrack	] \rceil
} \rbrace	< \langle	[ \lfloor
} \}	> \rangle	] \rfloor

These commands produce left and right delimiters. Mathematicians use delimiters to indicate the boundaries between parts of a formula. Left delimiters are also called “openings”, and right delimiters are also called “closings”. Openings and closings are two of T<sub>E</sub>X’s classes of math symbols. T<sub>E</sub>X puts different amounts of space around different classes of math symbols. You might expect the space that T<sub>E</sub>X puts around openings and closings to be symmetrical, but in fact it isn’t.

Some left and right delimiters have more than one command that you can use to produce them:

- ‘{’ (\lbrace and \{)
- ‘}’ (\rbrace and \})
- ‘[’ (\lbrack and ‘[’)
- ‘]’ (\rbrack and ‘]’)

You can also use the left and right bracket characters (in either form) outside of math mode.

In addition to these commands, T<sub>E</sub>X treats ‘(’ as a left delimiter and ‘)’ as a right delimiter.

You can have T<sub>E</sub>X choose the size for a delimiter by using \left and \right (p. ‘\left’). Alternatively, you can get a delimiter of a specific size by using one of the \big $x$  commands (see \big et al., p. ‘\big’).

*Example:*

The set  $\{\backslash, x \mid x > 0 \backslash, \backslash\}$  is empty.

*produces:*

The set  $\{x \mid x > 0\}$  is empty.