Isn't TEX cool? This document shows how you can use the typographic system TEX to write stuff like: If ρ and θ are both positive, then $f(\theta) - \Gamma_{\theta} < f(\rho) - \Gamma_{\rho}$.

To write a formula, you use backslash control sequences (like \root and \frac) and various types of braces (like $\{\}$) to create formulas that are then typeset beautifully. There are many quickie guides on the net', e.g. http://www-math.mit.edu/18.821/short-math-guide.pdf & ftp://ftp.ams.org/pub/tex/doc/amsmath/amsldoc.pdf & http://www.bitjungle.com/~isoent/isoent-ref.pdf.

Here's another example:

$$r = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$$
 The Quadratic Formula (1)

To typeset the quadratic formula (above), use this 'code:'

r &= $\frac{-b \pm \of {b^2-4ac}}{2a} &\text{text{The Quadratic Formula}}$

To understand how that 'code' results in the typeset formula you need to know that the \frac control sequence takes two arguments, \pm inserts plus-or-minus, the '&' characters tell TEX where to line up the columns, \of is part of \root, etc.

Here are some more examples:

$$y = \begin{bmatrix} x_{00} & x_{01} & x_{02} \\ x_{10} & x_{11} & x_{12} \\ x_{20} & x_{21} & x_{22} \end{bmatrix}$$
 This is an example of an array with subscripts. (2)

And this is an example of 'Solve for x.'

$$x+3=2x-4$$

 $x+3+4=2x-4+4$ Add 4 to both sides.
 $x+7=2x$ Combine like terms.
 $x+7-x=2x-x$ Subtract x from both sides.
 $7=x$ Combine like terms.

Check your results...

$$(7) + 3 = 2 (7) - 4$$
 Substitute 7 for x.
 $10 = 14 - 4$ Simplify.
 $10 = 10$