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\mathstrut

This command produces a phantom formula whose width is zero and whose height and depth are the same as those of a left parenthesis. \mathstrut is in fact defined as '\vphantom('. Its main use is for getting radicals, underbars, and overbars to line up with other radicals, underbars, and overbars in a formula. It is much like \strut (p. '\strut'), except that it adjusts itself to the different styles that can occur in math formulas.

Example:

\$\$\displaylines{
\overline{a_1a_2} \land \overline{b_1b_2}
\quad{\rm versus}\quad \overline{a_1a_2\mathstrut}
\land \overline{b_1b_2\mathstrut}\cr
\sqrt{\epsilon} + \sqrt{\xi} \quad{\rm versus}\quad
\sqrt{\epsilon\mathstrut} + \sqrt{\xi\mathstrut}\cr}\$\$
produces:

$$\overline{a_1 a_2} \wedge \overline{b_1 b_2}$$
 versus $\overline{a_1 a_2} \wedge \overline{b_1 b_2}$
 $\sqrt{\epsilon} + \sqrt{\xi}$ versus $\sqrt{\epsilon} + \sqrt{\xi}$