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`\smash` ⟨*argument*⟩

This command typesets ⟨*argument*⟩, but forces the height and depth of its containing box to be zero. You can use `\smash` and `\vphantom` in combination to give a subformula any height and depth that you wish.

Example:

    $${\smash{r_m \brace r_n}\vphantom{r}} \Longrightarrow r$$

produces:

$$\left\{ \begin{matrix} r_m \\ r_n \end{matrix} \right\} \Longrightarrow r$$