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\footnote $\langle argument_1 \rangle \langle argument_2 \rangle$ \vfootnote $\langle argument_1 \rangle \langle argument_2 \rangle$

These commands produce footnotes. $\langle argument_1 \rangle$ is the "reference mark" for the footnote and $\langle argument_2 \rangle$ is its text. The text can be several paragraphs long if necessary and can contain constructs such as math displays, but it shouldn't contain any insertions (such as other footnotes).

You shouldn't use these commands inside a subformula of a math formula, in a box within a box being contributed to a page, or in an insertion of any kind. If you're unsure whether these restrictions apply, you can be safe by only using \footnote and \vfootnote directly within a paragraph or between paragraphs.

These restrictions aren't as severe as they seem because you can use \vfootnote to footnote most anything. Both \footnote and \vfootnote note insert the reference mark in front of the footnote itself, but \vfootnote doesn't insert the reference mark into the text. Thus, when you use \vfootnote you can explicitly insert the reference mark wherever it belongs without concern about the context and place the \vfootnote in the next paragraph. If you find that the footnote lands on the page following the one where it belongs, move the \vfootnote back to the previous paragraph. There are rare circumstances where you'll need to alter the text of your document in order to get a footnote to appear on the same page as its reference mark.

Example:

To quote the mathematician P\'olya is a ploy.\footnote *{This is an example of an anagram, but not a strict one.} produces:

To quote the mathematician Pólya is a ploy.*

:

Example:

\$\$f(t)=\sigma\sigma t\;\raise 1ex \hbox{\dag}\$\$
\vfootnote \dag{The \$\sigma\sigma\$ notation was explained in
the previous section.}
produces:

 $f(t) = \sigma \sigma t^{\dagger}$

:

^{*} This is an example of an anagram, but not a strict one.

[†] The $\sigma\sigma$ notation was explained in the previous section.