math mode

math mode. A math mode is a mode that TEX is in when it is building a math formula. TEX has two different math modes: text math mode for building a formula to be embedded within a line of text, and display math mode for building a formula to appear on a line by itself. You indicate text math mode by enclosing the formula in \$'s, and display math mode by enclosing the formula in \$\$'s. An important property of both math modes is that input spaces don't count. See pages 290–293 of The TEXbook for details on how TEX responds to different commands in math mode.