

Variable-sized operators The summation $\sum_{j=0}^3 j^2$
`\sum_{j=0}^3 j^2` and the integral $\int_{x=0}^3 x^2 dx$
`\int_{x=0}^3 x^2 dx` expand when displayed.

$$\sum_{j=0}^3 j^2 \quad \int_{x=0}^3 x^2 dx$$

These do the same.

$$\int \int \int \iiint \bigcup \bigcap$$

Fences

$$\langle \rangle \lfloor \rfloor \lceil \rceil \left\langle \right\rangle \left\lfloor \right\rfloor \left\lceil \right\rceil$$

Fix the size with `\big`, `\Big`, `\bigg`, or `\Bigg`.

$$\left[\sum_{k=0}^n e^{k^2} \right] \quad \Big[\sum_{k=0}^n e^{k^2} \Big]$$

To have them grow with the enclosed formula, use `\left` and `\right` (although sometimes `\big`, etc., are necessary).

$$\left\langle i, 2^{2^i} \right\rangle \quad \left\langle i, 2^{2^i} \right\rangle$$

Every `\left` must match a `\right` and they must end on the same line in the output. For a one-sided fence, put a `\left.` or `\right.` on the other side.

$$\left. \frac{df}{dx} \right|_{x_0} \quad \left. \frac{df}{dx} \right|_{x_0}$$

Arrays, Matrices Make an array of mathematical text as you make a table of plain text.

$$\begin{array}{lcl} 0 & \leftrightarrow & 0 \\ 1 & \leftrightarrow & 1 \\ 2 & \leftrightarrow & 4 \\ \vdots & & \vdots \end{array}$$

Definition by cases is an array with two columns.

$$f_n = \begin{cases} a & \text{if } n = 0 \\ r \cdot f_{n-1} & \text{else} \end{cases}$$

A matrix is an array with fences. With a `pmatrix` environment, you need not specify column alignments.

$$\begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix}$$

For the determinant use `|A|` inline and `vmatrix` in display.

Spacing in mathematics Improve $\sqrt{2}x$ to $\sqrt{2}x$ with a thin space, as in `\sqrt{2}\,x`. Slightly wider are `\:` and `\;` (the three are in ratio 3 : 4 : 5). Get the improvement of $n/\log n$ instead of $n/\log n$ by using a negative thin space, as in `n/\!\!\log n`. Bigger spaces are: `\quad` for $\rightarrow \leftarrow$, and `\qquad` for $\rightarrow \leftarrow$, which are useful between parts of a display. Get arbitrary space as in `\hspace*{0.5cm}`.

Displayed equations The `equation*` environment puts an equation on a separate line.

$$S = k \cdot \lg W$$

You can break into multiple lines.

$$\sin(x) = x - \frac{x^3}{3!} + \frac{x^5}{5!} - \dots$$

Align equations using `align*`

$$\nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{D} = \rho \quad \nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{B} = 0$$

(the left or right side of an alignment can be empty). For each environment, get a numbered version by dropping the asterisk from the name.

Calculus examples The last three here are display style.

$$f: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \quad f: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

$$9.8 \text{ m/s}^2 \quad 9.8 \text{ m/s}^2$$

$$\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x+h) - f(x)}{h} \quad \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x+h) - f(x)}{h}$$

$$\int x^2 dx = x^3/3 + C \quad \int x^2 dx = x^3/3 + C$$

$$\nabla = i \frac{d}{dx} + j \frac{d}{dy} + k \frac{d}{dz} \quad \nabla = i \frac{d}{dx} + j \frac{d}{dy} + k \frac{d}{dz}$$

Discrete mathematics examples There are four modulo forms: $m \bmod n$ is from `m\bmod n`, and $a \equiv b \pmod{m}$ is from `a\equiv b\pmod{m}`, and $a \equiv b \pmod{m}$ is from `a\equiv b\pmod{m}`, and $a \equiv b \pmod{m}$ is from `a\equiv b\pmod{m}`.

For combinations the binomial symbol $\binom{n}{k}$ is from `\binom{n}{k}`. This resizes to be bigger in a display (to require the display version use `\dbinom{n}{k}` and require the inline version with `\tbinom{n}{k}`).

For permutations use n^r from `n^{\underline{r}}` (some authors use $P(n, r)$, or ${}_nP_r$ from `\{}_nP_r`).

Statistics examples

$$\sigma^2 = \sqrt{\sum (x_i - \mu)^2 / N} \quad \sigma^2 = \sqrt{\sum (x_i - \mu)^2 / N}$$

$$E(X) = \mu_X = \sum (x_i - P(x_i)) \quad E(X) = \mu_X = \sum (x_i - P(x_i))$$

The probability density of the normal distribution

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\sigma^2\pi}} e^{-\frac{(x-\mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}}$$

comes from this.

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\sigma^2\pi}} e^{-\frac{(x-\mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}}$$

For more See also the Comprehensive L^AT_EX Symbols List at mirror.ctan.org/info/symbols/comprehensive and DeT_EXify at detexify.kirelabs.org/classify.html.