

-- Welcome to <sci.math>. These suggestions may help you. [4]

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These notes are not official in any way, but if you are new to this group you may find them helpful.

1. Messages posted to <sci.math> may be about mathematics at any level. Please don't post OT (off-topic) messages about other things.

Some questions may do better in a more specialized news group such as <sci.stat.math>, <sci.stat.edu>, <sci.logic> or <sci.math.num-analysis>.

2. Your title should show what sort of mathematics is in your message. For example, "-- Differentiating trig functions" is a good title, but "-- Help!" is a bad title.

Also, two dashes and a space at the beginning of your title will help some users to separate your message from commercial spam. (If you reply to someone else's message, don't worry when your newsreader adds "Re:" at the beginning. Other users' filters should still detect "-- " anywhere in the title.)

3. Typing mathematical formulae may not be easy.

Use ^ for powers, for example $a^4 = a^4$.

Use plenty of brackets/parentheses. For example, $5e^{2x}$ could mean $(5e)^{2x}$ or $((5e)^2)x$ or $5(e^2)x$ or $5(e^{2x})$.

Use plenty of spaces. For example, $2x + 5y = 12$ is easier to read than $2x+5y=12$.

4. This news group is open to everybody, and some people have bad manners. Try to stay polite yourself. There are still plenty of users who want to discuss mathematics without rude arguments. I hope you enjoy being one of them.

5. You may want more information. Some good general advice about news groups, cross-posting, not top-posting, etc. is Stan Brown's

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"Playing Nice on Usenet" web site

<<http://oakroadsystems.com/genl/unice.htm>>.

For mathematical news groups there are detailed FAQ at

<<http://aah.ryan-usa.com/>> and the older

<<http://www.cs.uwaterloo.ca/~alopez-o/math-faq/math-faq.html>>.

In particular, more details about typing formulae are at

<<http://aah.ryan-usa.com/node15.html>>.

Ken Pledger.

[Suggestions for improving these brief notes are welcome.]

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