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Fractional Exponents vs Radicals

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Use of radicals may sometimes be avoided by substituting a fractional exponent: $(a^2-b^2)^{1/2}$ instead of a^2-b^2 . As with unstacking fractions, if clarity is sacrificed by making the equation fit within the text, it is preferable to set it off. For example, $E = 1.96 \{ [P(1 - P)]/m \}^{1/2}$ fits within the text, but the centered $E=1.96P(1-P)m$ might be more easily understood. |