
Subject: Re: typesetting math in IDL plots

Posted by [William J. Henney](#) on Tue, 07 Oct 1997 07:00:00 GMT

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You may want to check out the psfrag package (should be on CTAN sites)

It allows you to replace text strings in a postscript file with arbitrary LaTeX commands.

Will Henney, Instituto de Astronomia, UNAM

greg ushomirskiy wrote:

>
> I've been using IDL for quite a while now, and have never been able to
> figure out how to make equations (or greek symbols, for that matter)
> to look nice in IDL plots when they're output to postscript for
> publication. Hershey fonts look quite crummy, and the PostScript
> Symbol font is not much better. Moreover, if I want to show a formula
> with a ratio in it, it's a huge hassle.
>
> In my opinion, the best looking equations are those output by TeX. Is
> there a way to use TeX to create plot labels for axes, plot lines,
> tick marks, etc? I am well aware of the TeXtoIDL package (my
> officemate wrote it ;), but it uses PS Symbol fonts. At the least,
> what I want is to be able to use the TeX math fonts (Computer Modern)
> when outputting to PostScript. The "pie in the sky" goal is to use
> TeX to typeset the equation, since it's quite smart about symbol
> spacing, proper spacings, kerning, and things like that.
>
> Such a beast probably doesn't exist, does it? At the least, are AFM
> (Adobe font metrics) for TeX fonts available anywhere?
>
> Greg
>
> --
