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Subject: typesetting math in IDL plots

Posted by [greg ushomirskiy](#) on Fri, 03 Oct 1997 07:00:00 GMT

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Hello,

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

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