

---

Subject: Re: Publication-quality plots

Posted by [R.G. Stockwell](#) on Thu, 03 Jun 2004 20:30:52 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

"Kenneth Bowman" <k-bowman@null.tamu.edu> wrote in message  
news:k-bowman-D069ED.09204703062004@news.tamu.edu...

>

> This will obviously date me, but I have written scientific papers with:  
> a typewriter, Script (mainframe text processing tool), a \$20k dedicated  
> word processor, MacWrite, WriteNow, Word, and now finally TeX.

...

> Ken Bowman

My 2 cents, I strongly recommend IDL postscript into TeX/LaTeX files  
for publication quality manuscripts (with a chaser of adobe distiller).  
Many publishers provide their own style files, so you can create a  
camera ready manuscript that is almost identical to a reprint.

The very best thing about this combo is of course BIBTeX. The  
single greatest thing of all time in the history of the infinite multiverse (times two)!

For the nonTeXperts, bibtex keep track off all your references. All you do  
is go to webofscience.com (a pay site), download the bibliography of every paper  
ever published in science, and create a bibtex database file. Then as you write  
papers, and you want to reference a paper, you find it in the database, and  
copy-and-paste the key id into your latex file, for instance `\cite{dfanning2004}`.  
Bibtex will then automatically create the reference in your manuscript, and  
build the reference list at the end of your paper (or book or whatever).  
[and importantly, it will create the references in the required style, since  
every journal does uniquely identify itself by its combination of year first,  
title in italics, colon between pages, etc]

Another great thing is the modularity of the styles. I had a manuscript in  
a two column preprint form, and merely changed the style to use "slides"  
rather than "article", and a couple of commands to change the page size,  
and viola, my 4ft by 3ft poster for CEDAR is complete. NICE!

It is definitely worth the learning curve to start using TeX if you will be writing  
and scientific manuscripts, or any document that will get published.

Cheers,  
bob

---