Subject: TeXtoIDL update: Easy Greek letters in IDL
Posted by mcraig on Tue, 22 Jun 2004 19:01:14 GMT
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Greetings all,

I have posted a new version of TeXtoIDL, a package of routines that allows one to produce Greek letters, sub/superscripts, and some special symbols in the syntax used in the TeX formatting language. See the excerpt from the README below for details.

The new version, 2.1.2, fixes a bug in 2.1.1 that caused special symbols appearing at the beginning of a string to be treated as subscripts. In addition, all arrays are now referenced using square brackets, which should minimize conflicts between this and other libraries.

The package is at:

http://physweb.mnstate.edu/mcraig/TeXtoIDL/

If you have any questions or comments please let me know! Thanks to everyone who pointed out the bug and tracked down the fix.

Matt Craig

From the README:

PURPOSE:
   The purpose of the TeXtoIDL routines is to make it simple to use Greek
letters, subscripts and superscripts in making labels for plots in IDL. This is accomplished by allowing the user to use TeX control sequences for Greek letters and special symbols and for sub/superscripts. The TeX control sequences are simple and easy to remember, especially if you already use TeX for writing papers (for those unfamiliar with TeX, an explanation of that notation is below). The translation is done for either vector or PostScript fonts.

USE:
   Once installed, type (in IDL):
IDL> print,TeXtoIDL(/HELP)
for brief instructions. The command SHOWTeX will display the available TeX sequences on the current graphics device. In addition, subscripts and superscripts in the usual TeX notation are available. For more details on what TeX notation is, see the section
INTRO TO TeX, below.

EXAMPLE:
  If you type. . .
```
IDL> str = TeXtoIDL("\rho^2 + 2\Gamma_{ij}")
IDL> help, str
STR             STRING    = '!7q!X!U2!N + 2!7C!X!Dij!N'
IDL> xyouts,.5,.5,str,CHARSIZE=2.,/NORM
```

then on the screen you will see the Greek letter rho with a 2 in the exponent, and then a + and then a 2 and then the uppercase Greek letter gamma, with an "ij" in the subscript.
