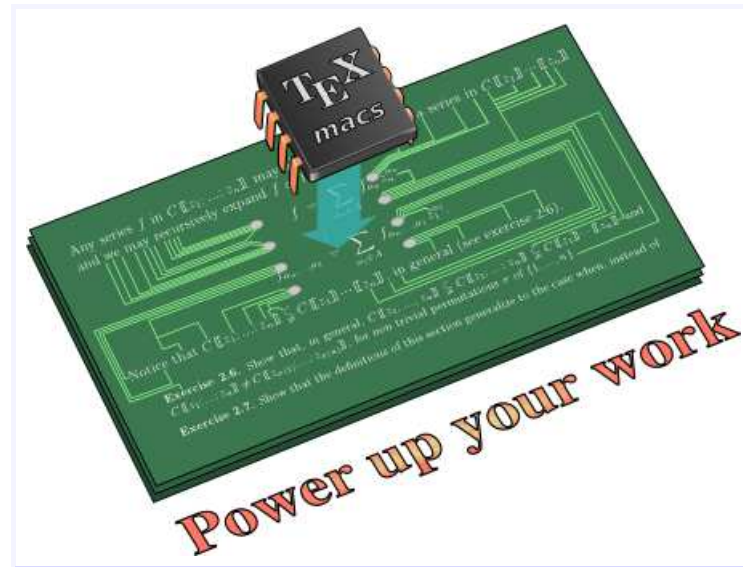


Mathematical Font Art

Joris van der Hoeven

CNRS, École polytechnique



ICMS, Berlin, July 14, 2016

<http://www.TEXMACS.org>

Challenge.

Use standard fonts on your system as mathematical fonts.

Challenge.

Use standard fonts on your system as mathematical fonts.

Difficulties.

- Lack of the most important font declinations as needed in scientific documents: **Bold**, *Italic*, SMALL CAPITALS, Sans Serif, Typewriter.
- Lack of specific glyphs: non English languages, mathematical symbols, and in particular big operators, extensible brackets and wide accents.
- Inconsistencies: sloppy design of some glyphs that are important for mathematics (such as $-$, $<$, etc.), leading to inconsistencies.

Challenge.

Use standard fonts on your system as mathematical fonts.

Difficulties.

- Lack of the most important font declinations as needed in scientific documents: **Bold**, *Italic*, SMALL CAPITALS, Sans Serif, Typewriter.
- Lack of specific glyphs: non English languages, mathematical symbols, and in particular big operators, extensible brackets and wide accents.
- Inconsistencies: sloppy design of some glyphs that are important for mathematics (such as $-$, $<$, etc.), leading to inconsistencies.

Only aim at modest quality.

- Produce something that “looks nice” at first sight.
- May not be as good as hand designed fonts for high quality typesetting.

Challenge.

Use standard fonts on your system as mathematical fonts.

Difficulties.

- Lack of the most important font declinations as needed in scientific documents: **Bold**, *Italic*, SMALL CAPITALS, Sans Serif, Typewriter.
- Lack of specific glyphs: non English languages, mathematical symbols, and in particular big operators, extensible brackets and wide accents.
- Inconsistencies: sloppy design of some glyphs that are important for mathematics (such as $-$, $<$, etc.), leading to inconsistencies.

Only aim at modest quality.

- Produce something that “looks nice” at first sight.
- May not be as good as hand designed fonts for high quality typesetting.

Approach.

Combination of “substitution” and “emulation” both for fonts and glyphs.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

The symbols α , β , γ are acceptable inside $x + \alpha + y + \beta + z + \gamma$.

The symbols α , β , γ do not look very well inside $x + \alpha + y + \beta + z + \gamma$.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

The symbols α , β , γ are acceptable inside $x + \alpha + y + \beta + z + \gamma$.

The symbols α , β , γ do not look very well inside $x + \alpha + y + \beta + z + \gamma$.

Idea.

- Automatically determine major font characteristics \rightsquigarrow metric on fonts.
- Find substitution fonts that are closest according to this metric.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

The symbols α , β , γ are acceptable inside $x + \alpha + y + \beta + z + \gamma$.

The symbols α , β , γ do not look very well inside $x + \alpha + y + \beta + z + \gamma$.

Idea.

- Automatically determine major font characteristics \rightsquigarrow metric on fonts.
- Find substitution fonts that are closest according to this metric.

Typical characteristics.

- Discrete ones: sans serif, small capitals, handwritten, ancient, gothic, etc..
- Italic slant.
- Height of an “x” symbol, ascent above and descent below the “x” symbol.
- Horizontal and vertical stroke widths in “o” and “O” symbols.
- Average aspect-ratios of uppercase and lowercase letters (“narrowness”).
- Average area of glyphs that is filled (related to weight).

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Emboldened

Slanted

Small CAPITALS or CAPITALS

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Emboldened

Slanted

Small CAPITALS or CAPITALS

Magnified or Extended

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Emboldened

Slanted

Small CAPITALS or CAPITALS

Magnified or Extended

Blackboard Bold

Z

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

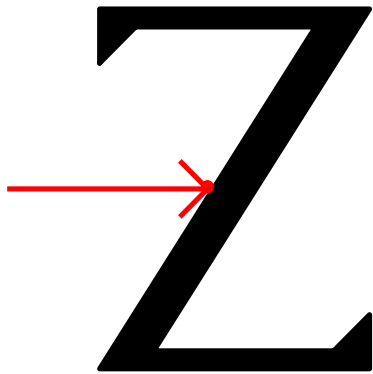
Emboldened

Slanted

Small CAPITALS or CAPITALS

Magnified or Extended

Blackboard Bold



1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

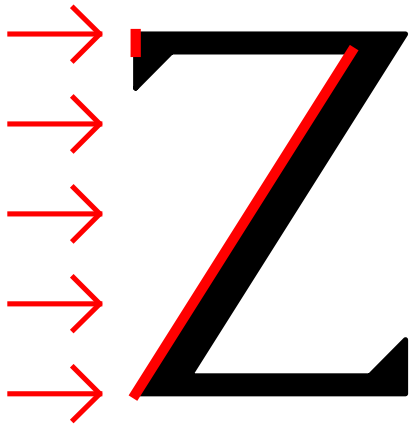
Emboldened

Slanted

Small CAPITALS or CAPITALS

Magnified or Extended

Blackboard Bold



1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Emboldened

Slanted

Small CAPITALS or CAPITALS

Magnified or Extended

Blackboard Bold

Z

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Emboldened

Slanted

Small CAPITALS or CAPITALS

Magnified or Extended

Blackboard Bold

Z

Regular	Bold	Italic	Small Caps	Blackboard Bold	Mathematics
Optima	Bold*	<i>Italic</i>	SMALL CAPS	$\mathbb{C}, \mathbb{N}, \mathbb{Q}, \mathbb{R}, \mathbb{Z}$	$x^2 + f(x, \frac{a}{b+c})$
Cochin	Bold*	<i>Italic*</i>	SMALL CAPS	$\mathbb{C}, \mathbb{N}, \mathbb{Q}, \mathbb{R}, \mathbb{Z}$	$x^2 + f(x, \frac{a}{b+c})$
Chartrand	Bold	<i>Italic</i>	SMALL CAPS	$\mathbb{C}, \mathbb{N}, \mathbb{Q}, \mathbb{R}, \mathbb{Z}$	$x^2 + f(x, \frac{a}{b+c})$
Essays1743	Bold*	<i>Italic*</i>	SMALL CAPS	$\mathbb{C}, \mathbb{N}, \mathbb{Q}, \mathbb{R}, \mathbb{Z}^*$	$x^2 + f(x, \frac{a}{b+c})$
Myne Textur	Bold	<i>Italic</i>	SMALL CAPS	$\mathbb{C}, \mathbb{N}, \mathbb{Q}, \mathbb{R}, \mathbb{Z}$	$x^2 + f(x, \frac{a}{b+c})$
Chalkduster	Bold	<i>Italic</i>	SMALL CAPS	$\mathbb{C}, \mathbb{N}, \mathbb{Q}, \mathbb{R}, \mathbb{Z}$	$x^2 + f(x, \frac{a}{b+c})$
Comic Sans	Bold	<i>Italic</i>	SMALL CAPS	$\mathbb{C}, \mathbb{N}, \mathbb{Q}, \mathbb{R}, \mathbb{Z}$	$x^2 + f(x, \frac{a}{b+c})$
Papyrus	Bold	<i>Italic</i>	SMALL CAPS	$\mathbb{C}, \mathbb{N}, \mathbb{Q}, \mathbb{R}, \mathbb{Z}$	$x^2 + f(x, \frac{a}{b+c})$

Figure 1. Emulation of bold, italic, small capitals and blackboard bold.

* These declinations are already supported by the original font.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Superposition.

$+, - \longrightarrow \pm$

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Superposition.

+ , - → ±

Clipping.

↳ , ⇒ → ⌊ , ⇒ → ⇨

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9**Superposition.**

$$+, - \longrightarrow \pm$$
Clipping.

$$\dashrightarrow, \Rightarrow \longrightarrow \dashv, \Rightarrow \longrightarrow \dashv \Rightarrow$$
Linear transformations.

$$O, I \longrightarrow \circ, I \longrightarrow \Phi$$

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9**Superposition.**+, - \longrightarrow \pm **Clipping.** \mapsto, \Rightarrow \longrightarrow \vdash, \Rightarrow \longrightarrow \Rightarrow **Linear transformations.**O, I \longrightarrow o, I \longrightarrow Φ **Simple graphical constructs.** Lines, circles, ...= \longrightarrow = \longrightarrow C

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9**Superposition.**+, - \longrightarrow \pm **Clipping.** \mapsto, \Rightarrow \longrightarrow \vdash, \Rightarrow \longrightarrow \Rightarrow **Linear transformations.**O, I \longrightarrow o, I \longrightarrow Φ **Simple graphical constructs.** Lines, circles, ...= \longrightarrow = \longrightarrow C**Ad hoc operations.**< \longrightarrow < \blacktriangleleft \longrightarrow \blacktriangleleft

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9**Superposition.**+, - \longrightarrow \pm **Clipping.** \mapsto, \Rightarrow \longrightarrow \vdash, \rightsquigarrow \longrightarrow \twoheadrightarrow **Linear transformations.**O, I \longrightarrow \circ, \mathbb{I} \longrightarrow Φ **Simple graphical constructs.** Lines, circles, ...= \longrightarrow = \longrightarrow \subset **Ad hoc operations.**

< \longrightarrow < \blacktriangleleft \longrightarrow \blacktriangleleft

\longrightarrow \blacktriangleright

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

	Γ	Δ	Θ	Λ	Ξ	Π	Σ	Υ	Φ	Ψ	Ω	\mp	$:=$	\approx	\asymp	\neq	\rightarrow	\Leftrightarrow	\lessgtr	\square	\blacktriangleright
Optima	Γ	Δ	Θ	Λ	Ξ	Π	Σ	Υ	Φ	Ψ	Ω	\mp	$:=$	\approx	\asymp	\neq	\rightarrow	\Leftrightarrow	\lessgtr	\square	\blacktriangleright
Cochin	Γ	Δ	Θ	Λ	Ξ	Π	Σ	Υ	Φ	Ψ	Ω	\mp	$:=$	\approx	\asymp	\neq	\rightarrow	\Leftrightarrow	\lessgtr	\square	\blacktriangleright
Didot	Γ	Δ	Θ	Λ	Ξ	Π	Σ	Υ	Φ	Ψ	Ω	\mp	$:=$	\approx	\asymp	\neq	\rightarrow	\Leftrightarrow	\lessgtr	\square	\blacktriangleright
Cuprum	Γ	Δ	Θ	Λ	Ξ	Π	Σ	Υ	Φ	Ψ	Ω	\mp	$:=$	\approx	\asymp	\neq	\rightarrow	\Leftrightarrow	\lessgtr	\square	\blacktriangleright
Essays 1743	Γ	Δ	Θ	Λ	Ξ	Π	Σ	Υ	Φ	Ψ	Ω	\mp	$:=$	\approx	\asymp	\neq	\rightarrow	\Leftrightarrow	\lessgtr	\square	\blacktriangleright
Am. Typewr.	Γ	Δ	Θ	Λ	Ξ	Π	Σ	Υ	Φ	Ψ	Ω	\mp	$:=$	\approx	\asymp	\neq	\rightarrow	\Leftrightarrow	\lessgtr	\square	\blacktriangleright
Chalkboard	Γ	Δ	Θ	Λ	Ξ	Π	Σ	Υ	Φ	Ψ	Ω	\mp	$:=$	\approx	\asymp	\neq	\rightarrow	\Leftrightarrow	\lessgtr	\square	\blacktriangleright
Chalkduster	Γ	Δ	Θ	Λ	Ξ	Π	Σ	Υ	Φ	Ψ	Ω	\mp	$:=$	\approx	\asymp	\neq	\rightarrow	\Leftrightarrow	\lessgtr	\square	\blacktriangleright
Papyrus	Γ	Δ	Θ	Λ	Ξ	Π	Σ	Υ	Φ	Ψ	Ω	\mp	$:=$	\approx	\asymp	\neq	\rightarrow	\Leftrightarrow	\lessgtr	\square	\blacktriangleright
Paper Cuts	Γ	Δ	Θ	Λ	Ξ	Π	Σ	Υ	Φ	Ψ	Ω	\mp	$:=$	\approx	\asymp	\neq	\rightarrow	\Leftrightarrow	\lessgtr	\square	\blacktriangleright

Figure 2. Emulation of various mathematical symbols in various fonts.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

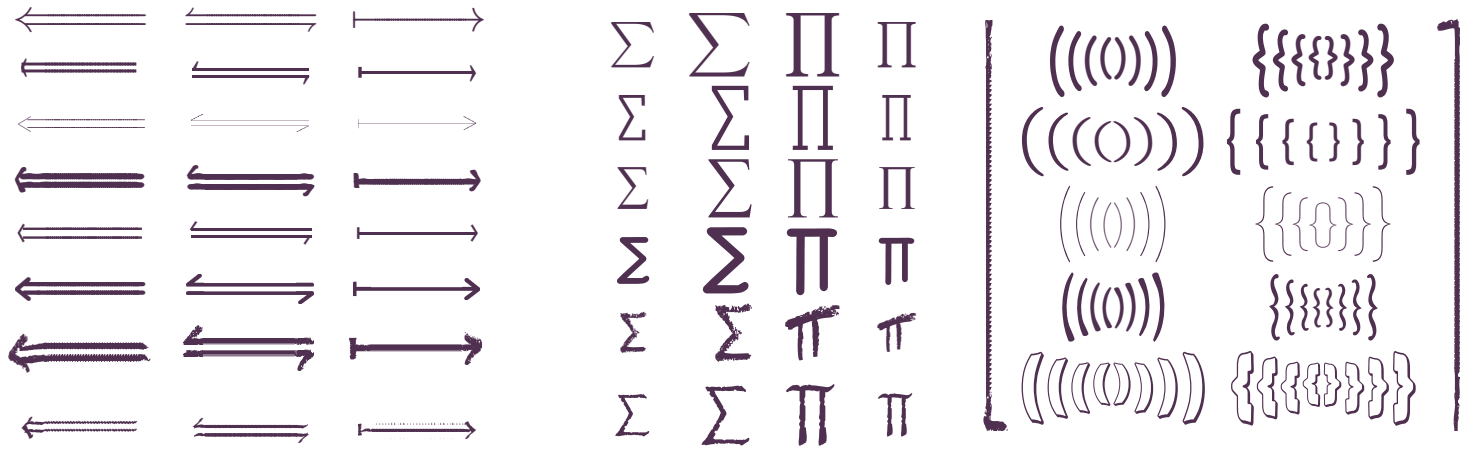


Figure 3. Assorted rubber symbols from various fonts.

Main news.

Medium quality scientific typesetting possible using a variety of fonts.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Main news.

Medium quality scientific typesetting possible using a variety of fonts.

Fingerprint of a font.

Reconstruction of essentially all mathematical symbols from a few ones:

$+ = \sim < \sphericalangle \subset \succ$ or $\rightarrow \cdot \circ \wedge ([\{$

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Main news.

Medium quality scientific typesetting possible using a variety of fonts.

Fingerprint of a font.

Reconstruction of essentially all mathematical symbols from a few ones:

+ = ~ < ↵ ⊂ > or → . ○ ^ ([{

To do.

- Toolkit for automatic analysis of fonts.
- Toolkit for automatic transformations of fonts.
- Systematically base such toolkits on vector graphics.