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because LaTeX matters

Displaying text inside the math-environment

Posted on 1. October 2008 — 11 Comments

By default, Latex will print text within formulas in *italics*, omitting white spaces. Now if you need to add normal text into a formula or even write a formula using words, you can do this with the text-command inside the math-environment:

```
1   \usepackage{amsmath}
2
3   \text{...}
```

Example:

```
\text{velocity} = \frac{\text{distance}} {\text{unit of time}}
```

Btw. The "text-command" will also take care of the spaces, which would otherwise be ignored.

Note:
Spaces in the math-environment can be produced using:

- `\;` for a thick space,
- `\:` for a medium space,
- `\,` for a thin space and
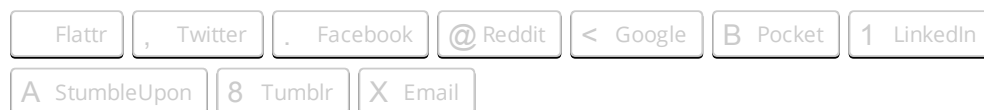- `\!` for a negative thin space.

Intertext

Using the math-environment align to display a series of equations, whole lines of text can be added in between using the "intertext"-command without affecting the alignment of the equations:

```
1  \begin{align}
2  ...
3  \intertext{...}
4  ...
5  \end{align}
```

Example:

```
1  \begin{align}
2  F = f_1+f_2+f_3+...+f_n
3  \intertext{can be written as}
4  \sum_1^n{f_i}
5  \end{align}
```

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Normal text in math mode   Cont: Equal cell width (right and centre aligned content)   Whitespace in math mode

Posted in: LaTeX, math, Tips & tricks | Tagged: formula, LaTeX, mat, text

11 Comments

Thomas

2. October 2008 at 14:45

Not exactly sure how powerful \text is, but in case it doesn't work or doesn't do

what you want, try \mbox instead. It's just a box that, within a math environment or not, uses the font of the surrounding text.

Reply

Lorenzo
3. October 2008 at 10:01

It's soooo ugly seeing variable names in formulas written without \text{} or \mbox{}… I think it's one of the most common mistakes…

nice post!

Reply

Chi
11. June 2009 at 1:47

Never knew intertext existed. Thanks!

Reply

erik
8. January 2010 at 9:34

To my clone when he comes to this site: \text requires including the amstext package. (Yes, comments are the monological part of blogging.)

Reply

nolith
1. May 2010 at 10:15

Thanks a lot

Reply

Mohd
19. September 2012 at 20:26

Thank you so much. I needed that a lot

Reply

erik's clone
14. January 2013 at 13:46

@erik thanks man, I made it here three years later.

Reply

tom
14. January 2013 at 14:42

Awesome! Thanks to your comment I finally fixed the post, adding the required package to the sample code. Thanks, Tom.

Reply

Rajadurai Kanniappan
8. January 2014 at 9:38

How can i add the symbols along with text in the same line…for eg..the summation of every items are (summation symbol).

Reply

tom

8. January 2014 at 12:17

Either write a paragraph and use inline math (`$...$`) or text within the math environment (`\textrm`).

```
1  \documentclass{article}
2  \begin{document}
3
4  The summation of every item is: $\sum$
5
6  $$ \textrm{The summation of every item is: } \su
7
8  \end{document}
```

Reply

Rajadurai Kanniappan

8. January 2014 at 13:00

Thanks Tom…

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