Making Flashy Presentations with LaTeX

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Abstract

The purpose of this talk is to give a brief overview of three tools available to use LaTeX for making presentations: FoilTeX, pdfTeX, and ppower4.

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- PDF is "portable" – free readers are available for many platforms including Windows, Mac, UNIX (e.g. Adobe's Acroread).
- We don't have to use Powerpoint[1] or Windows!
  - ⋆ Powerpoint files can be difficult to view, particularly on non-Windows machines.
  - ⋆ Powerpoint presentations are huge files which can be hard to move between machines while PDF files typically fit on a single floppy disk.
  - ⋆ *Windows is icky.*

[1] I admit point-n-click can be an advantage and Powerpoint has more features for presentations than LATEX.

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- To create a PDF file from a LATEX file we would normally create a DVI file with `latex file.tex`, convert that to PS with `dvips -ofile.ps file.dvi` and then convert that to PDF with `ps2pdf file.ps file.pdf`.

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- The package PDFTEX produces PDF files directly from LATEX files – `pdflatex file.tex`. More importantly, it allows us to use some of the more advanced features of PDF files.

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That's it!

Next is a sample slide produced with FoilTEX.

The Arthropod Vector

- *Aedes aegypti*, the yellow fever mosquito
  - Very active in urban and suburban areas
  - Breeds in any standing water (e.g. old tires, cans, cisterns, etc.)
  - Well adapted to humans
  - Frequently takes partial blood meals
  - Life span is around 21 days

- *Aedes albopictus*, the Asian tiger mosquito
  - Active in forested areas
  - Not important for most human transmission of disease but may be important for its role in disease reservoir in forests
  - More resistant to cold temperatures
  - Higher rates of vertical transmission of dengue virus
  - Recently arrived in North America

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- Three different commands for backgrounds
  - ⋆ `\pagecolor{color}` for solid color.
  - ⋆ `\vpagecolor[color1]{color2}` for vertical gradient (like this page).
  - ⋆ `\hpagecolor[color1]{color2}` for horizontal gradient.

PPOWER4 Continued

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- We can use transition effects for pages too. For example the next page is set to Box Out.

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Miscellany Continued

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- And we can use the `picture` environment to make simple figures.

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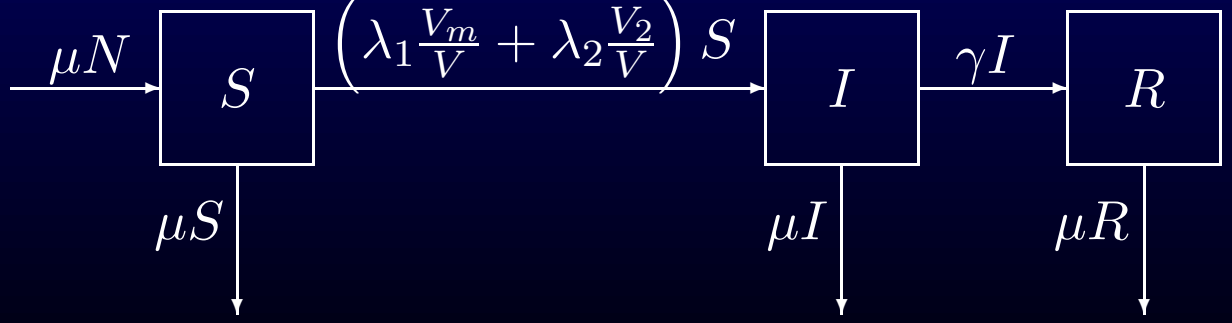

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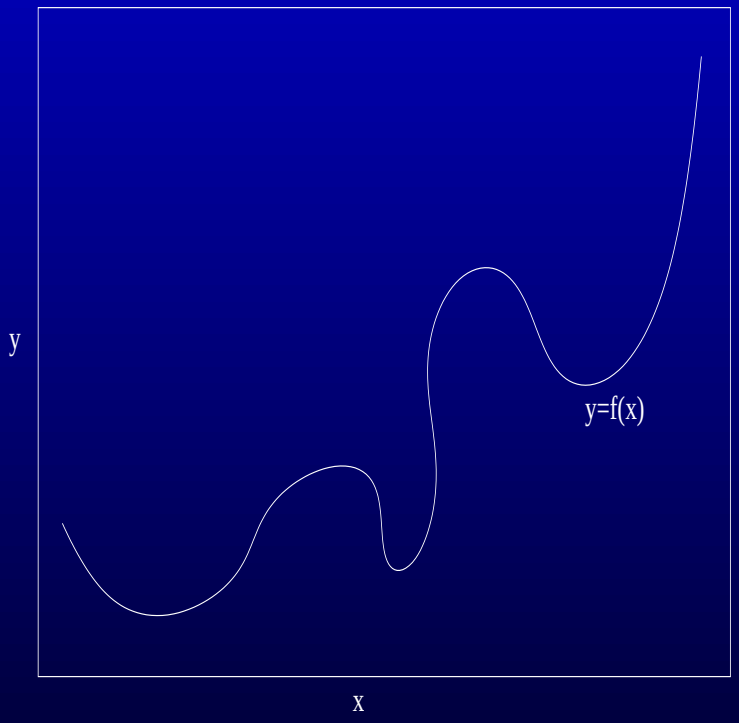

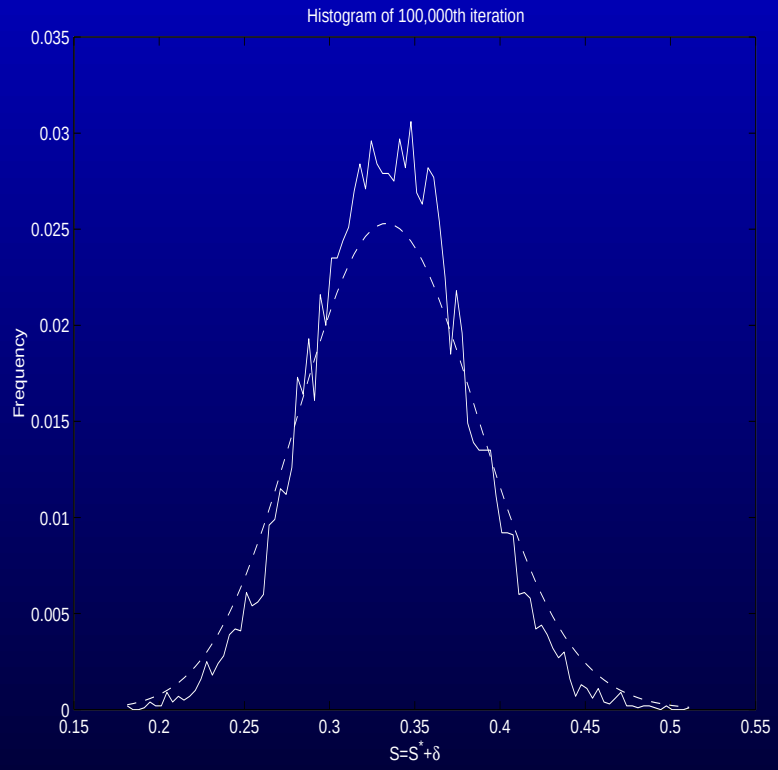

These were saved as `eps` files and then converted to PDF using `epstopdf`.

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This is a `jpg` file. We can also use `tiff` and `png`.

Summary

- These tools (PDFTEX, FoilTEX and PPOWER4) allow us to make really flashy presentations with all of the usual benefits of LATEX (nice math formatting, including figures, ...). The resulting presentation is then viewable on a wide variety of machines.

References

- This document:
  http://www.amath.washington.edu/~medlock/presentation.html
- Local (AMath) LATEX documentation:
  /usr/local/lib/tex/doc
- Comprehensive TEX Archive Network (CTAN) – the packages can be found here:
  http://www.ctan.org
- PPOWER4 homepage:
  http://www-sp.iti.informatik.tu-darmstadt.de/software/ppower4/

- Adobe's information on PDF:
  http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/adobepdf.html

- Download Adobe's Acroread:
  http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html

- XPDF – a PDF viewer for X11:
  http://www.foolabs.com/xpdf/