

数学公式插件对比

Subtitle

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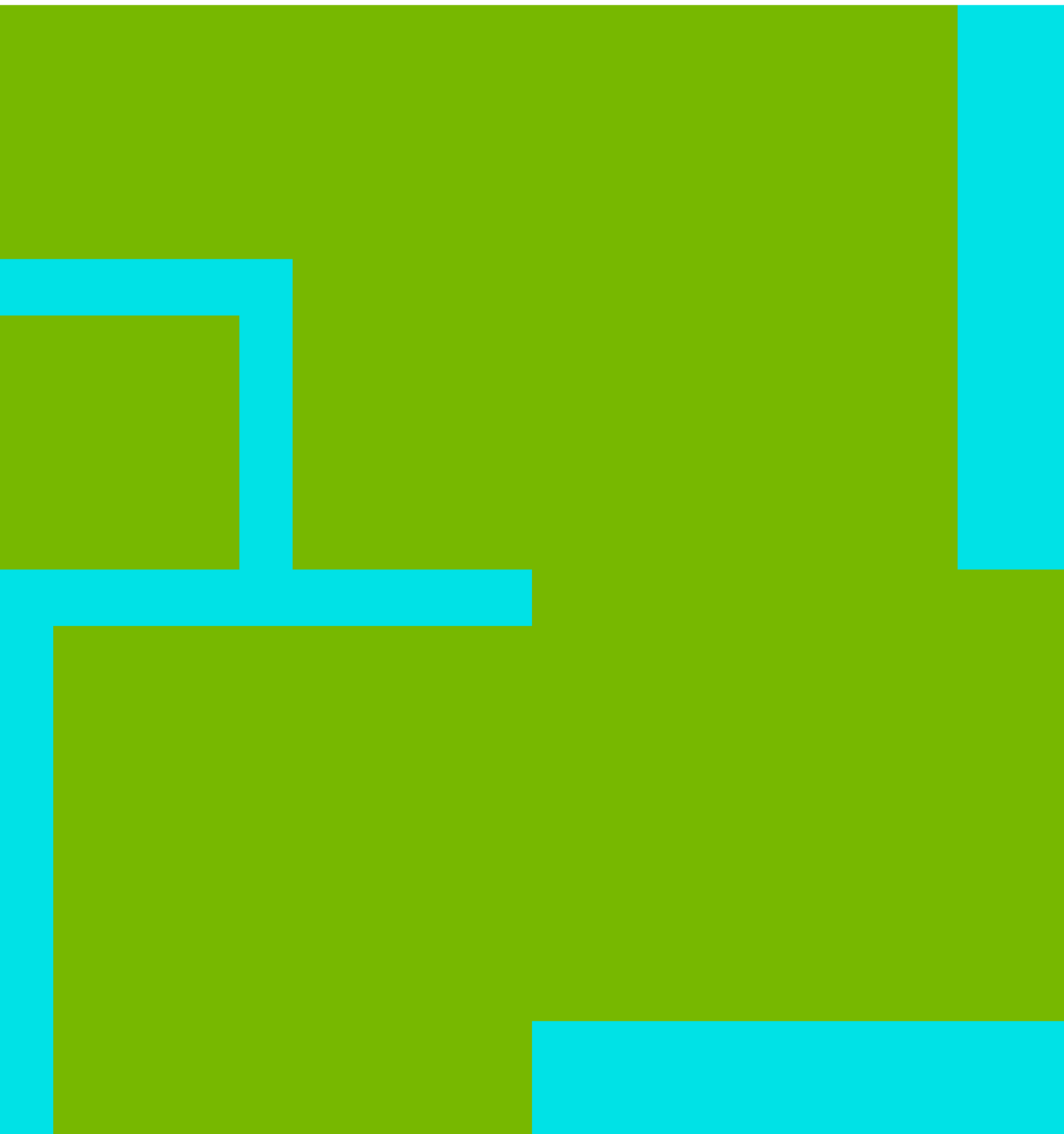


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数学公式插件对比

jsMath ASCIIMathML, PHPMathPublisher, MathJax and MathTeX

The following chart compares various math Web publishing options. Any of these can be used in blogs and forums (with some setup), and some can be used for sending math in an email.

For some background, see: [MathJax - render math on the Web on all browsers](#)

The shaded cells indicate the best candidate for that criterion. (Updated June 2011.)

	Images	jsMath	ASCIIMathML	PHP Math Publisher	MathJax	MathTeX
Description	Traditional Web development - create images on local computer, include in HTML file, upload the file to server.	Scripts, forms and images reside on server. User inputs LaTeX into HTML file. Browser processes code and displays math using text and images. No image under development.	One script resides on server. User inputs (weird) code. Browser processes code and displays math as images.	Scripts, forms and images reside on server. User inputs LaTeX into HTML file. Browser processes code and displays math as images.	Scripts, forms and images reside on server. User inputs LaTeX into HTML file. Browser processes code and displays math using text and images. Allows for "long-quick math" - when you can only equations from here! Wikipedia.	LaTeX processor on server. User inputs source code for image in LaTeX format. Image is created by server, on the fly.
Set up (for non-developer)	Nothing to do!	Need to upload scripts, forms, images.	Very easy and light - just needs one JS file on your server (or not even that - just a link).	Easy set up on server (just a few files). Caches images after creating them.	Easy - just call the MathJax script at the top of the page.	Very troublesome to set up LaTeX on server.
Easy to use (for math teacher or student)	Fiddly - need to create images locally and then upload to server.	Fiddly - requires LaTeX input.	Very easy to use - entering math is like calculator input (and you can use HTML symbols).	Fiddly - requires LaTeX input.	Can read math using MathML or LaTeX. There is a good list of MathML editors here.	Fiddly - requires LaTeX input.
Cross-browser	Yes (because images)	Doesn't render the matrix - it had some problems.	Only works on Firefox (or IE with a plugin). Rendering in other browsers is poor.	Yes (because images)	All browsers OK except very slow on IE, which made it unusable for me.	Yes (because images)
Mobile-friendly	Yes (because images)	Slow to render but looks good.	Slow to render - doesn't render properly (like non-Firefox desktop browsers).	Yes (because images)	Yes, but slow.	Yes (because images)
Works in my needs (RSS)?	Yes (because images)	No.	No.	Yes (because images)	No.	Yes (because images)
Example page	http://www.vsemath.com/planewave-analysis-geometry2-wikipedia.php?lang=en	http://www.squarecirclez.com/blog/jsmath-in-wordpress-blog/657/jsmath-in-wordpress-blog/	http://www.squarecirclez.com/blog/math-in-emails-forums-and-web-pages-using-asciimathml/20811/math-in-emails-forums-and-web-pages-using-asciimathml/	http://www.squarecirclez.com/blog/math-rendering-in-wordpress-using-mathpublisher/2339/math-rendering-in-wordpress-using-mathpublisher/	http://www.squarecirclez.com/blog/?p=5113&lang=en	http://www.squarecirclez.com/blog/jsmath-in-wordpress-blog/657/jsmath-in-wordpress-blog/

Conclusion

While there are some very good attempts at solving the problem of getting math onto a Web page in the above applications, none of them really solves **all** the following requirements:

- Easy to install
- Easy to use (especially for students)
- Cross-browser
- Mobile-friendly (small file sizes, low CPU requirements)

MathTeX would be a winner if there was an easy to use WYSIWYG editor. While there are various LaTeX editors, they all require a 2-step process (create the code in one application, then copy it to somewhere else for the Web).

Other solutions

My table doesn't include the following methods for publishing math on the Web:

- [Google Docs](#) (they recently changed the way you input math and did a bad job. It used to be a lot better)
- [Zoho Writer](#) (This is probably one of the most promising solutions, as its WYSIWYG LaTeX editor is quite user friendly and the documents in Zoho Writer can be shared, like Google Docs).
- [TeXify](#) (gives output as image, link for email, drag and drop to Google Docs - but you still have to know LaTeX to get any sense out of it!)

I hope this comparison has been of some use to you.

Any comments? Please leave them on: [MathJax - render math on the Web on all browsers](#)

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