

Re: Mathematical ASL?

Source: <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.math/2005-08/msg05109.html>

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 - *Date:* 26 Aug 2005 13:33:35 -0700
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Stephen J. Herschkorn wrote:

> This from a good friend who is technically very savvy and quite familiar
> with ASL.

>> Interestingly, things like arithmetic are arguably more
>> straightforward in ASL than in English. Because it is a spatial
>> language, it can represent spatial concepts (like "add up these two
>> columns of numbers, take the sums at the bottom and calculate their
>> ratio") extremely clearly and concisely. For hearing people learning
>> sign language, watching signers "talk math" is rather hard, since the
>> syntax of English expression is quite thoroughly replaced with the
>> spatial syntax of ASL. (Of course, understanding number speech is one
>> of the later fluencies one gains when learning any foreign
>> language). I have never seen vector calculus or group theory
>> interpreted, but it wouldn't surprise me if the difficulty we have
>> rendering written equations, or even diagrams, in English speech is
>> substantially reduced in ASL.

Mmmmm... commutative diagrams in ASL, anyone?

Igor

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• *References:*

- ◆ ***Mathematical ASL?***
 ◇ *From:* David C. Ullrich
 - ◆ ***Re: Mathematical ASL?***
 ◇ *From:* William Elliot
 - ◆ ***Re: Mathematical ASL?***
 ◇ *From:* David C. Ullrich
 - ◆ ***Re: Mathematical ASL?***
 ◇ *From:* Stephen J. Herschkorn
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