The `starfont` package for LaTeX, version 1.2

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1 Introduction

This package is designed to provide two fonts named StarFont Sans and StarFont Serif in LaTeX. These fonts contain a wide variety of glyphs suitable for typesetting astrological documents. Astrological support in previous LaTeX packages is inadequate for a number of reasons that include incomplete coverage of the popular glyph set, inconsistent style between glyphs that need to work well when used together, simply ugly glyphs, wide variation in widths of glyphs (which makes trouble in tables), no availability in outline form to make well-behaved PDFs, and so on. These glyphs aren't perfect either, but they are certainly the best ones I've found for typesetting astrological material in LaTeX.

Given the typical use of LaTeX in the scientific community and the relationship between the scientific community and astrology, it amuses me to have LaTeX used for astrology. It's also convenient because I write both astrological and scientific documents and want to use the same tools for both.

This is version 1.2 of the package, adding support for StarFont Serif and changing the commentary on copying restrictions now that it's confirmed the fonts are public domain. Version 1.1 dated from 29 June 2006; version 1.0 was never widely distributed but first existed around 2003 or 2004.

The fonts were designed, and distributed in TrueType form, by Anthony I.P. Owen. The packaging for TeX and LaTeX was done by Matthew Skala. Both these authors have released their contributions to the public domain. As such, the contents of this package are provided "as is," with no warranties. See the file `COPYING` for more information.

2 Using `starfont`

Install the fonts. Installing fonts is a black art; I have included, in the `README` file, hints on where to put the files involved, but I do not really understand how LaTeX (and TeX, and `dvips`, and so on) finds font files and I cannot give meaningful instruction to others on it.

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The fonts should end up installed with the names "`fstr8x`" for StarFont Sans, and '`fsts8x`" for StarFont Serif. The `starfont` package defines NFSS families named "`stf`" and '`sts`". The general approach used imitates the way the `marvosym` package works, and this package is to some degree compatible with `marvosym`.

StarFont Sans is the default and recommended choice; I believe it mixes better with other fonts typically used in LaTeX documents. However, the StarFont Serif version is also available via the `starfontserif` package option. A corresponding `starfontsans` option will be accepted for clarity but has no actual effect because the Sans version is default anyway. These options have verbose names to make it easier for them to inherit from a higher-level package like my `horoscop` package. You can also switch between the two styles inside a document using the `\starfontsans` and `\starfontserif` macros; each of these will change the mode for any subsequent uses of the character macros below. Both are shown in the sample tables below.

2.1 Luminaries and traditional planets

Here are the basics:

`\Sun`	☉	☉	Sun	`\Jupiter`	♃	♃	Jupiter
`\Moon`	☽	☽	Moon	`\Saturn`	♄	♄	Saturn
`\Mercury`	☿	☿	Mercury	`\Uranus`	♅	♅	Uranus
`\Venus`	♀	♀	Venus	`\Neptune`	♆	♆	Neptune
`\Terra`	⊕	⊕	Earth (planet)	`\Pluto`	♇	♇	Pluto
`\Mars`	♂	♂	Mars				

The planet Earth is referred to as "Terra" in the command name to prevent a collision with the glyph for the element Earth. Since the element is much more commonly referred to in astrology than the planet, it takes precedence for the more straightforward name. There are also variants of some of these glyphs:

`\varMoon`	☾	☾	Moon	`\varUranus`	⛢	⛢	Uranus
`\varTerra`	♁	♁	Earth (planet)	`\varPluto`	♇	♇	Pluto

2.2 Signs of the zodiac

`\Aries`	♈	♈	Aries	`\Libra`	♎	♎	Libra
`\Taurus`	♉	♉	Taurus	`\Scorpio`	♏	♏	Scorpio
`\Gemini`	♊	♊	Gemini	`\Sagittarius`	♐	♐	Sagittarius
`\Cancer`	♋	♋	Cancer	`\Capricorn`	♑	♑	Capricorn
`\Leo`	♌	♌	Leo	`\Aquarius`	♒	♒	Aquarius
`\Virgo`	♍	♍	Virgo	`\Pisces`	♓	♓	Pisces

The command `\varCapricorn` produces "♑" or "♑," a variant symbol for Capricorn. This package also provides a `\Zodiac` command similar to the one in `marvosym`: `\Zodiac{1}`...`\Zodiac{12}` produce ♈...♓ or ♈...♓.

2.3 Asteroids

\Ceres	⚳	⚳	Ceres	\Amor	⚰	⚰	Amor
\Pallas	⚴	⚴	Pallas	\Eros	⚯	⚯	Eros
\Juno	⚵	⚵	Juno	\Hidalgo	⯓	⯓	Hidalgo
\Vesta	⚶	⚶	Vesta	\Hygiea	⚕	⚕	Hygiea
\Chiron	⚷	⚷	Chiron	\Psyche	⚸	⚸	Psyche
				\Sappho	⚲	⚲	Sappho

2.4 Uranian hypothetical planets

\Cupido	♳	♳	Cupido	\Apollon	♷	♷	Apollon
\Hades	♴	♴	Hades	\Admetos	♶	♶	Admetos
\Zeus	♵	♵	Zeus	\Vulkanus	♸	♸	Vulkanus
\Kronos	♆	♆	Kronos	\Poseidon	♹	♹	Poseidon

2.5 Derived points

\NorthNode	☊	☊	North Node	\SouthNode	☋	☋	Sout Node
\Lilith	⚸	⚸	Lilith	\Fortune	⊗	⊗	Fortune

2.6 Aspects

\Conjunction	☌	☌	Conjunction	\Quincunx	⚻	⚻	Quincunx
\Opposition	☍	☍	Opposition	\Semisextile	⚺	⚺	Semisextile
\Trine	△	△	Trine	\Semisquare	∠	∠	Semisquare
\Square	□	□	Square	\Sesquiquadrate	⚼	⚼	Sesquiquadrate
\Sextile	⚹	⚹	Sextile				

2.7 Angles

\ASC	AS	AS	Ascendant	\DSC	DS	DS	Descendant
\MC	MC	MC	Midheaven (Medium Cœli)	\IC	IC	IC	Nadir (Imum Cœli)
\Vertex	VX	VX	Vertex	\EastPoint	EP	EP	East Point

2.8 Directions

\Retrograde	℞	℞	Retrograde	\Station	S!	S!	Station
\Direct	D!	D!	Direct				

2.9 Elements

\Fire	🜂	🜂	Fire	\Earth	🜃	🜃	Earth (element)
\Air	🜁	🜁	Air	\Water	🜄	🜄	Water

2.10 Other symbols

`\Natal`	N	N	Natal	`\Radix`	R	R	Radix
`\Pentagram`	✡	✡					

There are many other symbols in the font which I don't recognize, including a bunch that are probably from Cosmobiology. It should be possible to add them easily enough by following the examples in `starfont.sty`. There is an encoding table (made by `testfont.tex`) provided in the file `table.pdf`. I would appreciate hearing from readers who know of good names for the unknown symbols.