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Subject: Re: BETTER FONTS

Posted by [Liam E. Gumley](#) on Sun, 18 Mar 2001 22:49:44 GMT

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"Mark Chan" <chanm@cadvision.com> wrote in message  
news:991fa6\$4kk\$1@news3.cadvision.com...

> plot,x,y,title='Some Text Here'

>

> IDL will use a default font for plotting.

>

> The fonts on the plot looks ok (not the best) on the computer screen. But

> when the plot (e.g. saved in some format suitable for display) is

projected

> using a LCD on to a wall sized screen (e.g. 5' by 7'), the fonts doesn't

> look too satisfying. The display from programs like PowerPoint, Words or

> Excel looks much better with LCD projection.

>

> Any suggestion on how to make IDL fonts comparable to those from

PowerPoint

> when using a LCD? Which font will produce better result than the default?

If you are running IDL 5.4 on a Windows platform, you can use the METAFILE  
device to create graphical output which looks great in Microsoft  
applications (such as Word or Powerpoint). For example:

```
entry_device = !d.name
set_plot, 'METAFILE'
device, filename='test.emf'
device, set_font='Helvetica*32'
x = findgen(200) * 0.1
y = sin(x)
plot, x, y, title='Test Plot', xtitle='X-Axis', ytitle='Y-Axis', font=0
device, /close_file
set_plot, entry_device
```

To import the resulting Windows Enhanced Metafile (test.emf) into Word, use  
'Insert/Picture/From File'.

Alas, the METAFILE device appears to be available in IDL 5.4 for Windows  
only.

Cheers,

Liam.

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