Hi,

I found a way to get the sun symbol using the Marvosym True Type font.

1) Install the Marvosym font. You can get the zip file at:
http://www.marvosym.de/marvosym.e.html
Unzip the file an copy the marvosym.ttf file in your IDL TT font
resource directory: $IDL_DIR/resource/fonts/tt

2) Next you have to edit the TT font table named ttfont.map that you
find in the same directory. I decided to replace the Courier font (later
accessible via !11) by the marvosym font:
"Courier"   marvosym.ttf 0.675014 1.0

* DON'T FORGET TO MAKE A BACKUP COPY OF YOUR ttfont.map FILE to be able
to go back to IDL default settings if you need to *

On my Linux machine I did not have write access to the idl directory.
So, I made a full copy of it in my home directory and changed the
IDL_DIR environment variable to point to my copy of it.

3) Restart IDL. You can have a look at the Marvosym font with the command:

IDL> showfont,'Courier','Marvosym',/TT

The sun symbol is string(192b) in this font. You can use it in a plot
title like this:

IDL> plot, findgen(100), xtitle='Mass
[M!i!11'+string(192b)+'!X!n]',chars=2, font=1

This is device independent. Works exactly the same in PS, WIN and X.

The nice thing about the marvosym fon is that it has a few other
astronomical symbols.

This is just a shame that there is no option for a 'user font' with True
Type that would be accessible with !20 like (it should do) in
postscript. That forces me to replace the default Courier font by the
Marvosym one to later be able to access it easily.

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