Subject: DejaVuSans Font and the Sun Symbol
Posted by David Fanning on Fri, 21 Dec 2012 23:15:03 GMT
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Folks,

One of the things I like about IDL 8.2 (see, I'm already
practicing New Year resolutions!) is the new DejaVuSans
font that was included in the IDL distribution. I *really*
like the way it looks in PostScript output and I have
been using it in place of Helvetica for awhile now. I'm
thinking seriously of making this the default PostScript
font for all Coyote Graphics output.

To make this easier to use, I have added a new DejuVuSans
keyword to PS_Start to allow me to quickly choose this
True-Type font for PostScript output. This is ONLY available
in IDL 8.2 and higher.

One of the things I think astronomers are going to like
about the DejaVuSans font is its ability to render a
Sun symbol. (And you thought Santa Claus didn't exist!)
Small modifications to cgSymbol have made it possible
to automatically return the proper Unicode values for
the Sun symbol, if you are set up to use this font.
For Coyote Graphics routines, it is as simple as this:

```
PS_Start, 'sunsymboltest.ps', /DejaVuSans
cgPlot, cgDemoData(1), Title = 'Sun Symbol($\sun$)'
PS_End, /PNG
```

You can see what the output looks like at the bottom of
this article:

  http://www.idlcoyote.com/misc_tips/sun_symbol.html

Currently this feature is unavailable from the resizeable
cgWindow, but I expect it will be soon enough.

You will need to update your Coyote Library to take
advantage of this functionality.

   http://www.idlcoyote.com/programs/zip_files/coyoteprograms.z ip

Happy Holidays!

Cheers,

David
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Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: http://www.idlcoyote.com/
Sepore ma de ni thue. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")