
Subject: BETTER FONTS

Posted by [Mark Chan](#) on Sun, 18 Mar 2001 04:01:27 GMT

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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?

Thanks,

Mark

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.

>

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> when the plot (e.g. saved in some format suitable for display) is
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> 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.
<http://cimss.ssec.wisc.edu/~gumley>

Subject: Re: BETTER FONTS
Posted by [davidf](#) on Sun, 18 Mar 2001 23:54:57 GMT
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Liam Gumley (Liam.Gumley@ssec.wisc.edu) writes:

```
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> 'Insert/Picture/From File'.
```

Humm. Using exactly this code, I find the Y axis label is not rotated when I import this into Microsoft Word. Do you see something else, Liam? I'm running on Microsoft products, naturally. :-(

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting

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Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>

Toll-Free IDL Book Orders: 1-888-461-0155

Subject: Re: BETTER FONTS

Posted by [Liam E. Gumley](#) on Mon, 19 Mar 2001 15:08:28 GMT

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David Fanning wrote:

>

> Liam Gumley (Liam.Gumley@ssec.wisc.edu) writes:

>

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>> 'Insert/Picture/From File'.

>

> Humm. Using exactly this code, I find the Y axis

> label is not rotated when I import this into

> Microsoft Word. Do you see something else, Liam?

> I'm running on Microsoft products, naturally. :-(

That will teach me a lesson. The example I actually *ran* didn't have a y-axis label. Note to self: don't post code without testing it.

However if one can live without a y-axis label, the fonts really are quite nice in METAFILE output.

Cheers,
Liam.
<http://cimss.ssec.wisc.edu/~gumley>
