
Subject: Re: FONT setting

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Tue, 19 Nov 2002 13:18:15 GMT

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tom (tom2959@21cn.com) writes:

> Hi, Generally, I plot a figure in window(set_plot,'win'), if it is good then
> I change the setting to set_plot,'ps'. But two figures are not different for
> the font(!p.font=3 or other). Are there any method to set font on order the
> two figures are the same?

Most people find they prefer Hershey vector fonts in their display windows, but that these are too thin for PostScript output. The typical solution is to select hardware fonts (!P.Font=0) when creating PostScript files. According to font substitution rules built into IDL, the Simplex Roman Hershey font is then replaced by a PostScript Helvetica font. Not "the same", but not much of a bother, either.

If you really want "the same", I recommend you use True-Type fonts (!P.Font=1). IDL comes with four true-type fonts families (Times, Helvetica, Courier, and Symbol), but you can use any you can find on your computer. My experience is that these look pretty lame at small font sizes on the display, but they print wonderfully well.

For everything but the most demanding journal output, I usually go with the good ol' Helvetica hardware fonts. :-)

Cheers,

David

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David W. Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.

Phone: 970-221-0438, E-mail: david@dfanning.com

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

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Subject: Re: FONT setting

Posted by [K. Bowman](#) on Tue, 19 Nov 2002 18:00:55 GMT

In article <MPG.1843e803f72c4fa3989a31@news.frii.com>, David Fanning <david@dfanning.com> wrote:

- > If you really want "the same", I recommend you use
- > True-Type fonts (!P.Font=1). IDL comes with four
- > true-type fonts families (Times, Helvetica, Courier,
- > and Symbol), but you can use any you can find on your
- > computer. My experience is that these look pretty lame
- > at small font sizes on the display, but they print
- > wonderfully well.

Beware if you plan to 'tweak' Postscript plots containing Truetype fonts using something like Adobe Illustrator. Truetype fonts are drawn in Postscript output as polygons, not 'hardware' fonts. You cannot edit them using the usual text editing tools.

My rule of thumb is: Hershey fonts for the screen; Postscripts fonts for hardcopy, except for 3-D plots, when you have to use Truetype fonts to get the 3-D rotation right.

Ken Bowman

Subject: Re: FONT setting

Posted by [tom](#) on Wed, 20 Nov 2002 01:38:36 GMT

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Thanks David.

- > If you really want "the same", I recommend you use
- > True-Type fonts (!P.Font=1). IDL comes with four
- > true-type fonts families (Times, Helvetica, Courier,
- > and Symbol), but you can use any you can find on your
- > computer.

How to use other type of TTF? I have many TTF on my computer which can be used in MS WORD. Would you please insert code in the following if I want to use TTF named ABC.ttf?

```
Pro test
set_plot,'ps'
set_plot,'win'
!p.font=1
plot,x,y,xtitle='TEST TTF'
end
```


