

---

Subject: Re: Mac OS x IDL font handling

Posted by [James Kuyper](#) on Wed, 08 Aug 2007 22:23:04 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

clivecoo...@gmail.com wrote:

> HI,

>

> I am still pretty new with running IDL within the Mac operating system  
> and am having some problems with understanding the way in which fonts  
> work. I only have a basic understanding on UNIX, so i think that this  
> is my problem. So my question would be how do i plot a graph using for  
> example a Times new roman font. In windows idl i set font =0 and then  
> device,set\_font="times new roman\*bold\*20" for example and it is easy  
> to adjust the font size or whether or not its bold, italic or normal.  
> Now on the Mac i am completely confused. the device fonts available to  
> idl all have long seemingly complicated names eg ...-adobe-helvetica-  
> bold-o-normal--18-180-75-80-p-103-iso8859-1

That looks like the same font naming conventions used on conventional unix platforms. Is there an xfontsel utility available on the Mac? I found playing around with that utility was very useful on Linux and Irix machines for helping me understand what those conventions mean.

---

---

Subject: Re: Mac OS x IDL font handling

Posted by [JD Smith](#) on Thu, 09 Aug 2007 17:05:56 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

On Wed, 08 Aug 2007 17:25:41 +0000, clivecook59 wrote:

> HI,

>

> I am still pretty new with running IDL within the Mac operating system  
> and am having some problems with understanding the way in which fonts  
> work. I only have a basic understanding on UNIX, so i think that this  
> is my problem. So my question would be how do i plot a graph using for  
> example a Times new roman font. In windows idl i set font =0 and then  
> device,set\_font="times new roman\*bold\*20" for example and it is easy  
> to adjust the font size or whether or not its bold, italic or normal.  
> Now on the Mac i am completely confused. the device fonts available to  
> idl all have long seemingly complicated names eg ...-adobe-helvetica-  
> bold-o-normal--18-180-75-80-p-103-iso8859-1

>

> Any help would be greatly appreciated.

You can use '\*' as a wildcard, and then ask DEVICE for all matching fonts. Here I select the first (optionally) bold, italic, courier font of the requested point size:

```
if keyword_set(b) then b='bold' else b='medium'  
if keyword_set(i) then i='i' else i='r'  
if ~keyword_set(sz) then sz=12  
device,get_fontnames=df,font='*cour*'+b+'-'+i+'-normal*--'+ $  
    strtrim(sz,2)+'*'   
dispfont=df[0]
```

Seeing all the fonts:

```
device,get_fontnames=df,font='*'
```

is instructive as well. Your specific request would probably read:

```
device,get_fontnames=times,font='*times*bold-r-normal*--20*'
```

JD

---