
Subject: Sun symbol (again!)

Posted by [Michael Williams](#) on Sun, 21 Dec 2008 23:32:40 GMT

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Has anyone made any progress with getting a circular, typographically correct sun symbol using IDL? This is the last post on the issue, and I agree with its authors that the solutions from 2004 and 1997 are not satisfactory.

On 11 Apr, 04:49, "jsch...@gmail.com" <jsch...@gmail.com> wrote:

- > I'd like to make a plot with a nice sun symbol.
- >
- > It's been a few years since we had this discussion, and I was hoping
- > perhaps someone has some new insight.
- >
- > I've read the newsgroup discussions from '04 and '97 and wasn't
- > particularly thrilled with any of the solutions.
- >
- > Here are the things that won't / don't work for me.
- >
- > 1) TeXtoIDL doesn't know \odot.
- >
- > 2) sunsymbol.pro gives something unsatisfactory
- >
- > <http://web.mit.edu/jschwab/Public/sunsym.png>
- >
- > 3) The solution that initially seemed most inline with what I want was
- > modifying my ttfont.map and using the marvosym font. I don't find this
- > satisfactory because it's not a permanent solution since I don't want
- > to modify my ttfont.map each time and because I don't even approve of
- > the way it looks. (It's not symmetric!)
- >
- > <http://web.mit.edu/jschwab/Public/marvosym.png>
- >
- > What I'm left with is manually positioning the vector font symbol '!9!
- > Z(6E)!X'. It will work and gives me something that's not bad looking.
- > Unsurprisingly though, I find it rather unsatisfying.
- >
- > If anyone has a better / more flexible solution, I'd love to hear it.

Subject: Re: Sun symbol (again!)

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Wed, 24 Dec 2008 02:53:53 GMT

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Michael Williams writes:

- > At the risk of wandering off-topic, as someone new to IDL, its

- > typographic capabilities seem to me to be extremely eccentric, cruffy
- > and archaic compared to other graphing toolkits.

I'm afraid typography doesn't fall into the category of
geegaw that is fashionable in IDL updates at the moment.
Maybe in a couple of years when the widgets that write
themselves are finished. ;-)

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.
Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>
Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

Subject: Re: Sun symbol (again!)
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Wed, 24 Dec 2008 03:15:53 GMT
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Michael Williams writes:

- > For the benefit of future Googlers, the sun symbol in marvosym, while
- > better than many other solutions, is not a circle but a backwards
- > "o" (note the thickness and angle of the stroke on the right and left-
- > hand sides). An astronomical sun symbol is a perfect circle with a
- > point at its centre: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sun_symbol. Users of
- > OS X have access to (and licenses for!) a number of TrueType fonts
- > which contain this symbol and presumably following your procedure to
- > get a True Type symbol with these fonts would also work. These fonts
- > include Apple Symbols and Arial Unicode MS. Presumably the same is
- > true on Windows and Linux.

Indeed, I found the Arial Unicode MS font already installed on
my computer. I've updated the article with this additional
information. Thanks for the update.

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.
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Subject: Re: Sun symbol (again!)

Posted by [Michael Williams](#) on Sun, 28 Dec 2008 17:19:43 GMT

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On 24 Dec, 00:41, Michael Williams <mjwilli...@gmail.com> wrote:

> I don't mind Hershey fonts for this one character! Is there any way to
> mix them up with real Postscript fonts in the same output? This would
> be ideal!

I think I embedded this question in the middle of a longer post. I'd just like to bump it. In Postscript output, is there a way to mix Hershey and Postscript fonts in the same string? Failing that, can you mix them in the same figure?

Subject: Re: Sun symbol (again!)

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Sun, 28 Dec 2008 21:53:25 GMT

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Michael Williams writes:

> I think I embedded this question in the middle of a longer post. I'd
> just like to bump it. In Postscript output, is there a way to mix
> Hershey and Postscript fonts in the same string? Failing that, can you
> mix them in the same figure?

It is not possible to mix PostScript output and Hershey output in the same string. You can, of course, write PostScript output in one string, and Hershey output in another string, and put both into the same PostScript file. So one could, in theory, put a Hershey sun symbol inside a plot title, for example, if you constructed it correctly. In practice, it is so onerous to get the spacing and location correct, that I don't think anyone has bothered to try it.

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

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Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

Subject: Re: Sun symbol (again!)

Posted by jschwab@gmail.com on Mon, 29 Dec 2008 21:51:09 GMT

```
>> What I'm left with is manually positioning the vector font symbol '!9!  
>> Z(6E)!X'. It will work and gives me something that's not bad looking.  
>> Unsurprisingly though, I find it rather unsatisfying.  
>  
>> If anyone has a better / more flexible solution, I'd love to hear it.
```

I never found a more satisfactory solution than the following snippet.

```
plot, [0, 0], [0, 0], /nodata, $  
  xrange = [8, 16], xtitle = "Radius [km]", $  
  ytitle = "Mass [MJ]", yrange = [0, 3.5], $  
  position = [0.10, 0.15, 0.53, 0.95], $  
  xtickname = ['8', '10', '12', '14', ' ']  
  
xyouts, 6.80, 1.96, /data, "!9!Z(6E)!X", font = -1, charthick = 3, $  
  charsize = 1.5
```

which gave me something that looked like this.

http://web.mit.edu/jschwab/Public/final_sunsym.png

Fortunately, I only had a few different plots to make.

Josiah

Subject: Re: Sun symbol (again!)
Posted by [pgrigis](#) on Mon, 05 Jan 2009 14:47:40 GMT
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Hi everybody,

I just wanted to mention that there is a way to
put LaTeX labels instead on postscript plots
generated in IDL.

This however requires to use an external program
after the plot is run in IDL. While it does require
quite a bit of effort, it may be useful if you want
to embed equations or esoteric symbols (such
as the Sun symbol) in your plots.

This was discussed in this group a while ago
and some smart googling should find the thread...

Ciao,
Paolo

jschwab@gmail.com wrote:

```
>>> What I'm left with is manually positioning the vector font symbol '!9!
>>> Z(6E)!X'. It will work and gives me something that's not bad looking.
>>> Unsurprisingly though, I find it rather unsatisfying.
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>   position = [0.10, 0.15, 0.53, 0.95], $
>   xtickname = ['8', '10', '12', '14', ' ' ]
>
>
> xyouts, 6.80, 1.96, /data, "!9!Z(6E)!X", font = -1, charthick = 3, $
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> which gave me something that looked like this.
>
> http://web.mit.edu/jschwab/Public/final\_sunsym.png
>
> Fortunately, I only had a few different plots to make.
>
> Josiah
```
