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# Tikz Device

 $psi T_E X Graphics for R$ 



## The ${f tikz Device}$ Package

http://r-forge.r-project.org/projects/tikzdevice

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#### **Caveat Utilitor**

This is a friendly reminder that the **tikzDevice** package is currently considered by it's designers to be a **beta work**. This package has been released in the hopes that it will help users produce exceptional graphics, leading to an increase in the quality of reports and other materials using those graphics.

However, the package has not been tested in an extensive variety of situations beyond those that have been dreamed up by the designers. Therefore, it is very likely that this package will help produce exceptional crashes, leading to an increase in the quantity of swearing by R and users affected by those crashes.

We hope this package will improve with time and attain a level of usability and trustability at which point it may be labeled "stable". Until then the package, including this documentation, may undergo significant changes in form and function. During the beta period the actual implementation of the package may differ significantly from what is described in this documentation.

In fact, the documentation may differ significantly from what is described in the documentation.

Thanks for giving it a try!
-The tikzDevice Team

#### 1 Introduction

The **tikzDevice** package allows for R graphics output in a native LATEX format. That is, the output of the tikz() function is plain-text files that can be interpreted using TikZ, a package for LATEX. These files can be directly included in LATEX documents by way of the \input{} statement. Allowing LATEX to handle both typesetting and figure composition bestows the resulting document with a clean, unified look as there are no discontinuities in the size and selection of fonts used in the output.

This document is divided into three parts. The first part describes the functions that the package makes available to the R user and provides examples of their capabilities. Besides the R environment, use of the TikZ device device requires the user to have a working  $L^AT_EX$  compiler along with an installed version of the TikZ package. The second part of this documentation offers suggestions on how to get these tools working properly.

The third part of the documentation is intended for those who are curious as to the details of how this package has been implemented. It attempts to explain how the TikZ package does the things that it does and why it chooses to do them that way. The authors have attempted to write this part of the documentation in a way that is accessible to users as well as developers. This has been done in the hope that this project may serve as a case study in creating an R graphics device. This part of the documentation may also help those considering undertaking the transition from casual package-building to full-on hacking of the R internals.

#### Part I

## Usage and Examples

### 2 Loading the Package

The functions in the **tikzDevice** package are made accessible in the R environment by using either the library() or require() functions like so:

```
require(tikzDevice)
```

Upon loading, the package will search for a usable LATEX compiler. Access to LATEX is essential for the device to produce correct output as the compiler is queried for font metrics several times during device output. For more information on why communication between the device and LATEX is necessary, see Part III. If the search for a compiler is successful the package startup message should look similar to the following:

```
filehash: Simple key-value database (2.0-1 2008-12-19)
tikzDevice: A Device for R Graphics Output in PGF/TikZ Format (v0.3.5)
Checking for a LaTeX compiler...

pdfTeX 3.1415926-1.40.9-2.2 (Web2C 7.5.7)
kpathsea version 3.5.7
...

A working LaTeX compiler was found in:
    The R environment variable R_LATEXCMD

Global option tikzLatex set to:
    /usr/texbin/latex
```

If a working IATeX compiler cannot be found, the **tikzDevice** package will fail to load and a warning message will be displayed:

```
An appropriate LaTeX compiler could not be found.

Access to LaTeX is currently required in order for the

TikZ device to produce output.

The following places were tested for a valid LaTeX compiler:

A pre-existing value of the global option tikzLatex

The R environment variable R_LATEXCMD

The R environment variable R_PDFLATEXCMD

The global option latexcmd

The PATH using the command latex

The PATH using the command pdflatex

...

Error: .onLoad failed in 'loadNamespace' for 'tikzDevice'

Error: package/namespace load failed for 'tikzDevice'
```

In this case, **tikzDevice** has done it's very best to locate a working compiler and came up empty. If you have a working LATEX compiler, the next section describes how to inform the **tikzDevice** package of its location. For suggestions on how to obtain a LATEX compiler, see Part II.

#### 2.1 R Options That Affect Package Behavior

The **tikzDevice** package is currently influenced by a number of global options that may be set your R scripts, in the R console or in your in a .Rprofile file. All of the options can be set by using options (<option> = <value>). These options allow for the use of custom documentclass declarations, LATEX packages, and typesetting engines (e.g. XeLaTeX). The defaults, if are any for a given option, are shown below the description. The global options are:

- tikzLatex Specifies the location of the LATEX compiler to be used by tikzDevice. Setting this option may help the package locate a missing compiler. The default is searched for when the package is loaded, otherwise it can be set manually. This option may be set as follows: options (tikzLatex = '/path/to/latex/compiler).
- that R appears to "lag" or "hang" when commands such as plot() are executed. This is because the device must query the LATEX compiler for string widths and font metrics. For a normal plot, this may happen dozens or hundreds of times- hence R becomes unresponsive for a while. The good news is that the tikz() code is designed to cache the results of these computations so they need only be performed once for each string or character. By default, these values are stored in a temporary cache file which is deleted when R is shut down. A location for a permanent cache file may be specified by setting the value of tikzMetricsDictionary in .Rprofile with options(tikzMetricsDictionary = '/path/to/dictionary/location').
- tikzDocumentDeclaration A string. The documentclass declaration when standAlone == TRUE as wel as when font metrics are calculated

```
Default

options( tikzDocumentDeclaration = "\\documentclass{article}" )
```

tikzFooter A character vector. The footer to be used only when standAlone==TRUE

```
Default

options( tikzFooter = c( "\\end{document}" ) )
```

tikzLatexPackages A character vector. These are the packages which are included when using the standAlone option as well as when font metric are calculated.

```
Default

options( tikzLatexPackages = c(
   "\\usepackage{tikz}",
   "\\usepackage[active,tightpage]{preview}",
   "\\PreviewEnvironment{pgfpicture}",
   "\\setlength\\PreviewBorder{0pt}") )
```

**tikzMetricPackages** A character vector. These are the extra packages which are additionally loaded when doing font metric calculations. As you see below, the font encoding is set to Type 1. This is very important so that character codes of LATEX and R match up.

```
Default

options( tikzMetricPackages = c(
   "\\usepackage[utf8]{inputenc}",
   "\\usepackage[T1]{fontenc}",
   "\\usetikzlibrary{calc}"))
```

For convenience the function setTikzDefaults() is provided which sets all the global options back to their original values.

The proper placement of a .Rprofile file is explained in ?Startup. For the details of why calling the LATEX compiler is necessary, see Part III.

#### A Word of Caution About Setting Options.

A lot of power is given to you through these global options, and with great power comes great responsibility. For example, if you do not include the TikZ package in the tikzLatexPackages option then all of the string metric calculations will fail. There are innumerable ways for packages to clash in LATEX so just be aware.

#### 3 The tikz() Function

#### 3.1 Description

The tikz() function provides most of the functionality of the **tikzDevice** package. This function is responsible for creating new R graphics devices that translate the output of graphics functions to the TikZ format. The device supports many levels of output that range from stand-alone IATEX documents that may be compiled directly to code chunks that must be incorporated into existing IATEX documents using the \include{} function.

#### 3.2 Usage

The tikz() function opens a new graphics device and may be called with the following arguments:

```
tikz(file = "Rplots.tex", width = 7, height = 7,
    bg="white", fg="black", standAlone = FALSE, bareBones = FALSE)
```

**file** A character string indicating the desired path to the output file. It is recommended, but not required, that the filename end in .tex.

width The width of the output figure, in inches.

height The height of the output figure, in inches.

**bg** The starting background color for the plot.

**fg** The starting foreground color for the plot.

**standAlone** A logical value indicating whether the resulting file should be suitable for direct processing by LATEX.

**bareBones** A logical value indicating whether the resulting TikZcode produced without being placed within a IATEX tikzpicture environment.

The first five options should be familiar to anyone who has used the default graphics devices shipped with R. The options file, width, height, bg and fg represent the standard graphics parameters currently implemented by **tikzDevice**. The last two options, standAlone and bareBones, are specific to the tikz() graphics device and affect the structure the output file. Using these options tikz() supports three modes of output:

- Graphics production as complete LATEX files suitable for compilation.
- Graphics production as complete figures suitable for inclusion in LATEX files.
- Graphics production as raw figure code suitable for inclusion in an enclosing tikzpicture environment in a IATFX file.

The next section provides examples of how to use each type of output.

#### 3.3 Examples

#### 3.3.1 Default Mode

The most common use of the tikz() function is to produce a plot that will be included in another LATEX document, such as a report. Running the following example in R will produce a very simple graphic using the plot() function.

```
require(tikzDevice)
tikz("simpleEx.tex", width = 3.5, height = 3.5)
plot(1, main = "Hello World!")
dev.off()
```

A simple LATEX document is then required to display the output of the basic tikz() command. This document must include the TikZ as one of the packages that it loads. The TikZ package provides several optional libraries that provide additional functionality, however none of these libraries are currently required to use the output of tikz(). Inside the LATEX document, the contents of the file simpleEx.tex are imported using the \include{} command.

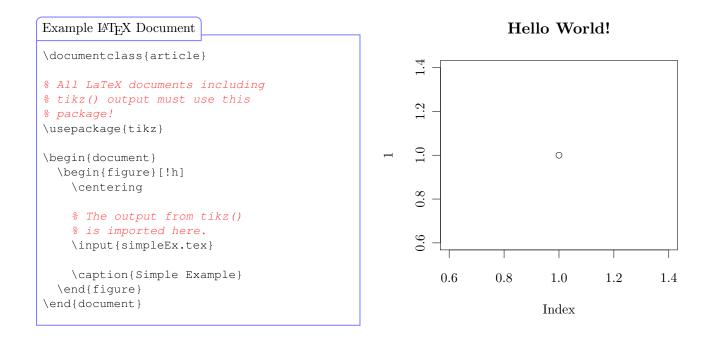
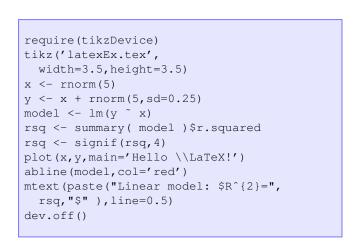


Figure 1: Example of simple tikz() usage.

One of the most exciting aspects of the tikz() function is that it allows the inclusion of arbitrary LATEX code in plotting commands. An important issue to note is that many LATEX commands pare prefixed by the backaslash, \, character. This character has a special meaning as an escape character in many computing applications, including R. Therefore, it is necessary to place two backslashes, \\, in the input to R commands in order to cause one to appear in the output. The next example demonstrates how to use LATEX commands in plot annotation.

#### Hello LATEX!

Х



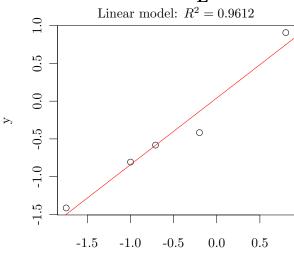


Figure 2: A more complicated example of tikz () usage incorporating natively rendered IATEX commands.

#### 3.3.2 bareBones Mode

ThebarBones is designed to facilitate inclusion of tikz() output as part of a larger graphic. Normally tikz() packages the commands it produces as a self-contained figure. This is done by placing the \begin{tikzpicture} and \end{tikzpicture} commands at the beginning and end of the output file. When bareBones is invoked, the tikzpicture environment is omitted which allows the output to be embedded inside a tikzpicture of the users own construction.

```
require(tikzDevice)
tikz('bareBonesExample.tex',width=4,height=4,bareBones=T)
x <- c(0,cumsum(rnorm(25)))
y <- c(0,cumsum(rnorm(25)))
plot(x, y, type="l" )
title("A Brownian Motion")
dev.off()</pre>
```

The resulting code may then be used inside a tikzpicture environment using the  $\include{}$  command. The included code must be wrapped in a scope environment that contains the options x=1pt and y=1pt. This informs TikZ of the units being used in the coordinates of the plot output. The options xshift and yshift may also be applied to the scope in order to position the plot. The following code demonstrates how to embed bareBones output in a tikzpicture

#### Example of a TikZ environment with included bareBones output

```
\begin{tikzpicture}
 \draw[clip] (-0.25, -0.25) rectangle (4.25in, 4.25in);
 \begin{scope} [x=1pt, y=1pt, yshift=0.25in]
   \input{figs/bareBonesExample}
  \end{scope}
 \noinde[anchor=south west, draw, rounded corners] (start) at <math>(0,0)
   {TikZ can draw Brownian Motions as Well!};
 \coordinate (current point) at (start.east);
  \coordinate (old velocity) at (0,-5);
  \coordinate (new velocity) at (rand, rand);
  \foreach \i in \{25, 26, ..., 50\} {
    \draw[blue!\i,ultra thick,line cap=round,x=1cm,y=1cm]
      (current point) .. controls ++([scale=-1]old velocity)
       and ++(new velocity) ..
      ++ (rand, rand) coordinate (current point);
    \coordinate(old velocity) at (new velocity);
    \coordinate(new velocity) at (rand, rand);
\end{tikzpicture}
```

this is the footer.

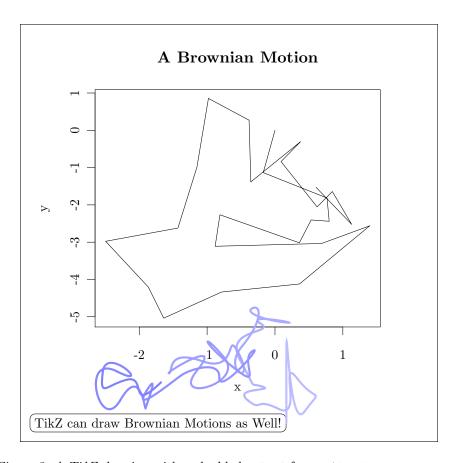


Figure 3: A TikZ drawing with embedded output from tikz (bareBones=T).

#### 3.3.3 standAlone Mode

When the standAlone option is passed to tikz(), the resulting .tex file will be a complete LATEX document designed to be compiled on it's own. This means that in addition to \begin{tikzpicture} and \end{tikzpicture} the file will also contain \begin{document}, \end{document} and a LATEX preamble. The preview package is also used in files produced by standAlone and is used to crop the pages in the resulting document to the bounding boxes of the figures that it contains. Stand-alone output may be produced in the following manner:

```
require(tikzDevice)
tikz('standAloneExample.tex', standAlone=T)
plot(sin,-pi,2*pi,main="A Stand Alone TikZ Plot")
dev.off()
```

Note that files produced using the standAlone option should not be included in LATEX documents using the \input { } command! Use \includegraphics { } or load the pdfpages package and use \includepdf { }.

#### 3.3.4 An XeLATEX example

It is also possible to use XeIATEX with tikzDevice that introduces some interesting possibilities. The following example was taken inspired by Dario Taraborelli and his article  $The\ Beauty\ of\ LaTeX$ .

#### XelaTeX Example

```
options(tikzLatex = 'xelatex')
options(tikzDocumentDeclaration = '\\documentclass{article}')
options( tikzLatexPackages = c(
    "\\usepackage{fontspec}"
    ,"\\usepackage{tikz}"
    ,"\\usepackage{color}"
    ,"\\definecolor{Gray}{rgb}{.7,.7,.7}"
    ,"\\definecolor{lightblue}{rgb}{.2,.5,1}"
    ,"\\definecolor{myred} {rgb} {1,0,0}"
    ,"\\newcommand{\\red}[1]{\\color{myred} #1}"
    ,"\\newcommand{\\reda}[1]{\\color{myred}\\fontspec[Variant=2]{Zapfino}#1}"
    ,"\\newcommand{\\redb}[1]{\\color{myred}\\fontspec[Variant=3]{Zapfino}#1}"
    ,"\\newcommand{\\redc}[1]{\\color{myred}\\fontspec[Variant=4]{Zapfino}#1}"
    ,"\\newcommand{\\redd}[1]{\\color{myred}\\fontspec[Variant=5]{Zapfino}#1}"
    ,"\\newcommand{\\rede}[1]{\\color{myred}\\fontspec[Variant=6]{Zapfino}#1}"
    ,"\\newcommand{\\redf}[1]{\\color{myred}\\fontspec[Variant=7]{Zapfino}#1}"
    ,"\\newcommand{\\redg}[1]{\\color{myred}\\fontspec[Variant=8]{Zapfino}#1}"
    ,"\\newcommand{\\lbl}[1]{\\color{lightblue} #1}"
    ,"\\newcommand{\\lbla}[1]{\\color{lightblue}\\fontspec[Variant=2]{Zapfino}\#1}"
    ,"\\newcommand{\\lblb}[1]{\\color{lightblue}\\fontspec[Variant=3]{Zapfino}#1}"
    ,"\\newcommand{\\lblc}[1]{\\color{lightblue}\\fontspec[Variant=4]{Zapfino}\#1}"
    ,"\newcommand{\\lbld}[1]{\\color{lightblue}\\fontspec[Variant=5]{Zapfino}#1}"
    ,"\\newcommand{\\lble}[1]{\\color{lightblue}\\fontspec[Variant=6]{Zapfino}#1}"
    ,"\\newcommand{\\lblf}[1]{\\color{lightblue}\\fontspec[Variant=7]{Zapfino}#1}"
    ,"\\newcommand{\\lblg}[1]{\\color{lightblue}\\fontspec[Variant=8]{Zapfino}#1}"
    ,"\\newcommand{\\old}[1]{"
    ,"\\fontspec[Ligatures={Common, Rare},%"
    , "Variant=1, Swashes={LineInitial, LineFinal}] {Zapfino}"
    ,"\\fontsize{25pt}{30pt}\\selectfont #1}%"
    ,"\\newcommand{\\smallprint}[1]{\\fontspec{Hoefler Text}%"
    ,"\\fontsize\{10pt\}\{13pt\}\\\color\{Gray\}\\
))
label <- c(
    "\\noindent{\\red d}roo{\\lbl g}"
    ,"\\noindent{\\reda d}roo{\\lbla g}"
    ,"\\noindent{\\redb d}roo{\\lblb g}"
    ,"\\noindent{\\redf d}roo{\\lblf g}\\\[.3cm]"
    ,"\\noindent{\\redc d}roo{\\lblc g}"
    ,"\\noindent{\\redd d}roo{\\lbld g}"
    ,"\\noindent{\\rede d}roo{\\lble g}"
    ,"\\noindent{\\redg d}roo{\\lblg g}\\\[.2cm]"
title <- c(
    "\\smallprint{D. Taraborelli (2008), \\href{http://nitens.org/taraborelli/latex}%"
    ,"{The Beauty of \\LaTeX}}"
    ,"\\smallprint{\\\\\emph{Some rights reserved}.%
    ,"\\href{http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/}{\\textsc{cc-by-sa}}}"
lim <- 0:(length(label)+1)</pre>
tikz('xelatexEx.tex', standAlone=T, width=5, height=5)
plot(lim, lim, cex=0, pch='.', xlab = 'Xe\\LaTeX{} Test',
    ylab='', main = title[1], sub = title[2])
for(i in 1:length(label))
   text(i,i,label[i])
dev.off()
```

Compiling the resulting file xelatexEx.tex with XeLATEX will produce the output below!

#### D. Taraborelli (2008), The Beauty of LATEX

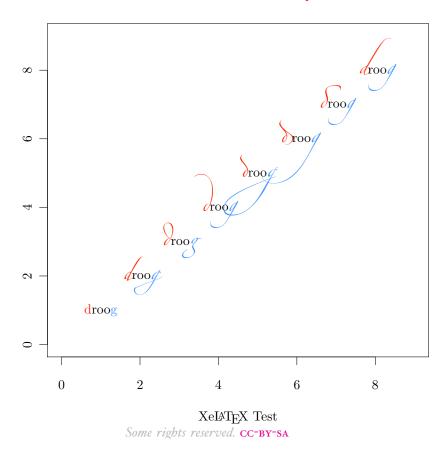


Figure 4: Result of XeLATEX example

## 4 The getLatexCharMetrics() and getLatexStrWidth() Functions

#### 4.1 Description

These two functions may be used to retrieve font metrics through the interface provided by the **tikzDevice** package. Cached values of the metrics are returned if they have been calculated by the **tikzDevice** before. If no cached values exist, the LATEX compiler will be invoked to generate them.

#### 4.2 Usage

The font metric functions are called as follows:

```
getLatexStrWidth( texString, cex = 1, face= 1)
getLatexCharMetrics( charCode, cex = 1, face = 1 )
```

texString A string for which to compute the width. LATEX commands may be used in the string, however all backslashes will need to be doubled.

**charCode** An integer between 32 and 126 which indicates a printable character in the ASCII symbol table using the T1 font encoding.

**cex** The character expansion factor to be used when determining metrics.

**face** An integer specifying the R font face to use during metric calculations. The accepted values are as follows:

- 1: Text should be set in normal font face.
- 2: Text should be set in **bold font face**.
- **3:** Text should be set in *italic font face*.
- 4: Text should be set in **bold italic font face**.
- 5: Text should be interpreted as plotmath symbol characters. Requests for font face 5 are currently ignored.

#### 4.3 Examples

The getLatexStrWidth() function may be used to calculate the width of strings containing fairly arbitrary LATEX commands. For example, consider the following calculations:

```
getLatexStrWidth("The symbol: alpha")
[1] 82.5354

getLatexStrWidth("The symbol: $\\alpha$")
[1] 65.08636
```

For the first calculation, the word "alpha" was interpreted as just a word and the widths of the characters 'a', 'l', 'p', 'h' and 'a' were included in the string width. For the second string, \alpha was interpreted as a mathematical symbol and only the width of the symbol ' $\alpha$ ' was included in the string width.

The getLatexCharWidth() function must be passed an integer corresponding to an ASCII character code and returns three values:

- The ascent of the character- the distance between the baseline and the highest point of the character's glyph.
- The descent of the character- the distance between the baseline and the lowest point of the character's glyph.
- The width of the character.

The character 'y' has an ASCII symbol code of 121 and possesses a tail that descends below the text line. Therefore a non-zero value will be returned for the descent of 'y'. The character 'x', ASCII code 120, has no descenders, so its descent will be returned as zero.

```
# Get metrics for 'y'
getLatexCharMetrics(121)
[1] 4.30450 1.94397 5.27649

# Get metrics for 'x' - the second value is the descent
# and should be zero or very close to zero.
getLatexCharMetrics(120)
[1] 4.30450 0.00000 5.27649
```

Note that characters, along with numbers outside the range of [32-126], may not be passed to the getLatexCharMetrics() function. If for some reason a floating point number is passed, it will be floored through conversion by as.integer().

```
getLatexCharMetrics('y')
NULL

getLatexCharMetrics(20)
NULL

# Will return metrics for 'y'
getLatexCharMetrics(121.99)
[1] 4.30450 1.94397 5.27649
```

## Part II

## Installation Guide

- 5 Installing LATEX
- 6 Installing TikZ

#### Part III

## Package Internals

### 7 Background

About TikZ, the PicT<sub>F</sub>X device and the story of two fortran programmers with a dream.

- 8 System Requirements
- 9 Character Metrics and String Width
- 9.1 Dictionaries
- 9.2 What the Heck are Acent, Decent and Width
- 10 On the Importance of Font and Style Consistancy in Reports
- 11 The pgfSweave Package and Automatic Report Generation