Choosing a Graphics Format

Because of the wide variety of types of graphics, destination programs, printer capabilities, operating system behaviors and user-priorities, it is not possible to give definitive guidance on choosing an export format. But here is an approach that will work in most situations.

If the destination program accepts PDF or SVG, then they are probably your best choice because of their high-quality vector graphics and platform-independence.

Encapsulated PostScript (EPS) is also a very high quality format which works well if the destination program supports it but it does not support transparency.

If SVG, PDF and EPS are not appropriate, your next choice would be a high-resolution bitmap. The PNG format is preferred because it is platform-independent and is compressed.

Exporting Graphics Via the Clipboard

To export a graphic from the active window via the clipboard, choose Edit→Export Graphics. This displays the Export Graphics dialog.

When you click the OK button, Igor copies the graphics for the active window to the clipboard. You can then switch to another program and do a paste.

When a graph, page layout, or Gizmo plot is active and in operate mode, choosing Edit→Copy copies to the clipboard whatever format was last used in the Export Graphics dialog. For a table, Edit→Copy copies the selected numbers to the clipboard and does not copy graphics.

When a page layout has an object selected or when the marquee is active, choosing Edit→Copy copies an Igor object in a format used internally by Igor along with a PDF and does not use the format from the Export Graphics dialog

Although Igor can export a number of different formats, not all programs can recognize them on the clipboard. You may need to export via a file.

Igor can export PNG images to the clipboard and can then paste them back in. On the Macintosh, the clipboard type is `'PNGf'` but because there is no standard for PNG on the clipboard it is therefore unlikely that other programs can import them except as files.

Exporting Graphics Via a File

To export a graphic from the active window via a file, choose File→Save Graphics. This displays the Save Graphics File dialog.

The controls in the Format area of the dialog change to reflect options appropriate to each export format.

When you click the Do It button, Igor writes the graphic to a file. You can then switch to another program and import the file.

If you select _Use Dialog_ from the Path pop-up menu, Igor presents a Save File dialog in which you can specify the name and location of the saved file.

Exporting a Graphic File for Transfer to a Windows Computer

The best method for transferring Igor graphics to a Windows computer is to transfer the entire Igor experiment file, open it in Igor for Windows, and export the graphic via one of the Windows-compatible methods available in Igor for Windows.

Prior to Igor Pro 9, PDF pictures were not displayed by Igor on Windows. They are nowrendered as high-resolution bitmaps.