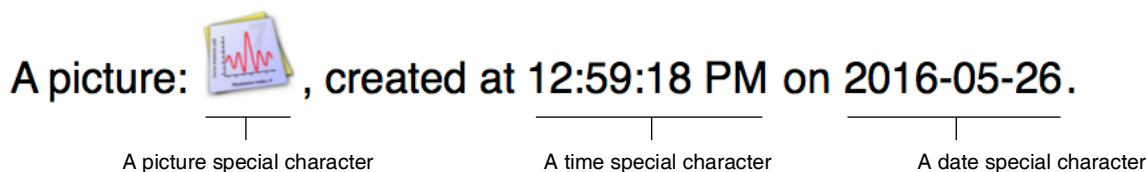# Special Characters

Aside from regular text characters, there are some special things that you can put into a paragraph in a formatted notebook. This table lists of all of the types of special characters and where they can be used.

Special Character Type	Where It Can Be Used
Picture	Main body text, headers and footers.
Igor-object picture (from graph, table, layout)	Main body text, headers and footers.
The date	Main body text, headers and footers.
The time	Main body text, headers and footers.
The name of the experiment file	Main body text, headers and footers.
Notebook window title	Headers and footers only.
Current page number	Headers and footers only.
Total number of pages	Headers and footers only.
Actions	Main body text only.

The main way in which a special character differs from a normal character is that it is not simply a text character. Another significant difference is that some special characters are dynamic, meaning that Igor can update them automatically. Other special characters, while not dynamic, are linked to Igor graphs, tables or page layouts (see **Using Igor-Object Pictures** on page III-18).

This example shows three kinds of special characters:

A picture: , created at 12:59:18 PM on 2016-05-26.

A picture special character   A time special character   A date special character

The time and date look like normal text but they are not. If you click any part of them, the entire time or date is selected. They act like a single character.

An action is a special character which, when clicked, runs Igor commands. See **Notebook Action Special Characters** on page III-14 for details.

Except for pictures, which are pasted, special characters are inserted using the Special submenu in the Notebook menu or using the Insert pop-up menu in the ruler area of a formatted notebook.

Inserting Pictures

You can insert pictures, including Igor-object pictures, by merely doing a paste. You can also insert pictures using Edit→Insert File or using the Notebook insertPicture operation.

When you insert a picture, the contents of the picture file are copied into the notebook. No link to the picture file is created.

If you use a platform-independent picture format, such as PNG (recommended), JPEG, TIFF, PDF, or SVG, then the picture is displayed correctly on all platforms. If you use a platform-specific picture format, such as Enhanced Metafile on Windows, the picture is displayed as a gray box if viewed on the other platform. On Windows, PDF is displayed correctly in Igor Pro 9.00 or later; older versions displayed PDF as a gray box.