Overview

This chapter discusses exporting graphics from Igor graphs, page layouts, tables, and Gizmo plots to another program on Macintosh. You can export graphics through the clipboard by choosing Edit→Export Graphics, or through a file, by choosing File→Save Graphics.

Igor Pro supports a number of different graphics export formats. You can usually obtain very good results by choosing the appropriate format, which depends on the nature of your graphics and the characteristics of the program to which you are exporting.

Unfortunately, experimentation is sometimes required to find the best export format for your particular circumstances. This section provides the information you need to make an informed choice.

This table shows the available graphic export formats on Macintosh:

Export Format	Export Method	Notes
Quartz PDF	Clipboard, file	Platform-independent and high quality, generated via the operating system.
LowRes PDF	Clipboard, file	Obsolete. Use Quartz PDF or Igor PDF instead.
Igor PDF	Clipboard, file	Platform-independent and high quality. Igor PDF with CMYK color does not support transparency.
EPS (Encapsulated Postscript)	File only	Platform-independent. Supports high resolution. EPS does not support transparency. Useful only when exporting to PostScript-savvy program (e.g., Adobe Illustrator, Tex).
PNG (Portable Network Graphics)	Clipboard, file	Platform-independent bitmap format. Uses lossless compression. Supports high resolution.
JPEG	Clipboard, file	Platform-independent bitmap format. Uses lossy compression. Supports high resolution. PNG is a better choice for scientific graphics.
TIFF	Clipboard, file	Platform-independent bitmap format. Supports high resolution but not compression.
SVG	Clipboard, file	Platform-independent vector graphics format. As of this writing, few Macintosh programs support SVG.

PDF Format

PDF (Portable Document Format) is Adobe's platform-independent vector graphics format that has been adopted by Apple as the standard graphics format for OS X. This is the best format as long as your destination program supports it.

The Quartz PDF format is generated by the operating system while the Igor PDF format uses the Qt application framework. For most graphics they produce similar output, but if you have an issue, it is worth trying both formats to see which is better. If you request CMYK color with the Igor PDF format, older Igor code that does not support transparency is used.

Blurry Images in PDF

When Igor exports an image plot, it exports the image as a single image object when possible. However, some PDF viewers, most notably Apple's, take it upon themselves to blur the pixels. To get around this, you