Using T_EX Fonts in the Gnuplot Postscript Terminal

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The Postscript terminal can embed Postscript Type 1 fonts (with extensions .pfa and .pfb) and TrueType fonts (extension .ttf)¹ using the command

set terminal postscript fontfile '<filename>'

The fontfile option can be used multiple times. See the sections set terminal postscript and set fontpath in the Gnuplot documentation for further description.

The embedded font can be used by

set terminal postscript '<fontname>' <size>

or in postscript enhanced terminal as following example:

set xlabel '{/CMMI10 x}'

Among other things, the font embedding is useful for generating plots to be included in LATEX documents. For normal text, the *cm-super* Postscript Type 1 fonts are a good choice. They are available from CTAN servers, e.g.

ftp://ftp.dante.de/tex-archive/fonts/ps-type1/cm-super/

The normal upright font with serifes is defined in sfrm1000.pfb, and the font name is SFRM1000² (The 1000 means that this font is designed for 10 pt). Replace the rm by it, bx or other combinations in both the file name and the font name (here, in uppercase letters) in order to get other font shapes. The encoding of these fonts is ordinary and thus is not described here. Table 1 shows some examples of fonts contained in the cm-super font bundle.

For mathematics the Type1 versions of the Computer Modern fonts are useful. They should be installed in most TEX implementations and are also available from CTAN servers, e.g.

ftp://ftp.dante.de/tex-archive/fonts/cm/ps-type1/bluesky/pfb/

Here, the font name is the base of the file name in uppercase letters, e.g. the file cmmi10.pfb contains the font CMMI10. Since the encoding of these fonts is strange, a table containing all characters for some fonts follows. The font CMEX10 contains large symbols for mathematics. They overlap sometimes in the table. Since the baseline of the CMEX10 font is at the top of the signs, Gnuplot defines a font CMEX10-Baseline with a different baseline if CMEX10 is embedded (normally by using fontfile 'cmex10.pfb'. In contrast to the other fonts, CMEX10 is only available in the design size 10 pt.

You can access all characters of the fonts by typing their octal code. To get a \heartsuit symbol, you may type:

set label '{/CMSY10 \176}' at graph 0.5,0.5

¹If .pfb and .ttf fonts really can be embedded depends on your gnuplot installation: It needs to be able to handle pipes.

²If you have an old version of the cm-super font, prior 2001-10-14, the font name is in lowercase letters: sfrm1000. You should update to a new version.

Table 1: Some fonts in the cm-super font bundle (for a designsize of 10 pt)

File name	Full font name (all preceded by Computer Modern)	Example
sfrm1000.pfb	Roman	Example
sfbx1000.pfb	Bold Extended	Example
sfti1000.pfb	Italic	Example
sfbi1000.pfb	Bold Extended Italic	Example
sfsl1000.pfb	Slanted	Example
sfbl1000.pfb	Bold Extended Slanted	Example
sfcc1000.pfb	Caps and Small Caps	EXAMPLE
sfss1000.pfb	Sans Serif	Example
sfsi1000.pfb	Sans Serif Slanted	Example
sfsx1000.pfb	Sans Serif Bold Extended	Example
sfso1000.pfb	Sans Serif Bold Extended Slanted	Example
sftt1000.pfb	Typewriter	Example
sfit1000.pfb	Typewriter Italic	${\it Example}$
sfst1000.pfb	Typewriter Slanted	Example
sftc1000.pfb	Typewriter Caps and Small Caps	Example

Since characters with an octal number below \040 can't be displayed by some postscript interpreters, these characters are repeated in the Computer Modern Fonts with a larger code. Thus, you should use the larger number, where two octal numbers are given (e.g. \000, \241). For example, you better use

```
set xlabel '{/CMR10 \242}' than set xlabel '{/CMR10 \001}' to get an upright uppercase Delta \Delta.
```

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