Legal Eye-candy fonts for LaTeX?

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1 Introduction

The default LaTeX font is Computer Modern, designed by prof. Donald Knuth himself. I like it, but I've always been fond of two fonts from the Adobe font foundry – Minion and Myriad. Both typefaces were designed by Robert Slimbach and are available in numerous optical sizes and variations. Unfortunately, as you might have guessed, not for free.

Recently, I've found out that Adobe added four standard (roman, oblique, bold and bold oblique) Myriad and Minion font faces to a piece of freely available software – Adobe Acrobat Reader, version 7.0. This is my log of actions to find out if this is really true and how to use these fonts with LaTeX.

2 Getting the fonts

- I downloaded Adobe Acrobat Reader from Adobe and installed it on my system. Looking at the installation folder reveals that, indeed, OpenType versions of Minion and Myriad are in:

  c:\Program Files\Adobe\Acrobat 7.0\Resource

- In the first step, I'll just copy OpenType fonts to my Windows fonts folder, permitting me to use Minion in OpenOffice. It works on display (and looks really ugly, as if not font smoothing have been applied), plus I couldn't embed the fonts in an exported `pdf`. A workaround is to use a postscript printer and convert the `ps` file to `pdf` manually – results in Figure 1.

3 Making the fonts available to LaTeX

So far I've been working on a Windows box, so I'll go on with font installation on MikTeX and we'll see if they work properly. We'll need packages `minionpro` and `mnsymbol` from CTAN. The first one is at:

`http://www.tug.org/tex-archive/help/Catalogue/entries/minionpro.html`

Now, the procedure to install fonts goes like this, supposedly:

- Install `mnsymbol` using MikTEX or manually.
- Unzip `minionpro` and follow instructions in the `README` file. LCDF Typetools project is at `http://www.lcdf.org/type/`, you'll need to install it first and add the `bin` folder to `PATH`. I followed the installation instructions almost exactly. The difference was that MikTEX requires a local `updmap.cfg` file (create it in: `localtexmf/miktex/config/updmap.cfg` and refresh the database with `initexmf -mkmaps`).
- Surprisingly, everything worked just as expected (see Figure 2).

4 Whining

Now it's time to whine a bit. I managed to get Minion working, but Myriad was beyond my current time limits – it'd require fiddling with *fontools* and I've never done it before.

Another thing is the support for glyphs such as Caps, which are emulated if you only have the four basic fonts. Not a perfect solution.

Minion Pro font (OpenOffice). Roman.
Minion Pro font (OpenOffice). Oblique.
Minion Pro font (OpenOffice). Bold roman.
Minion Pro font (OpenOffice). Bold oblique.

Minion also has ligatures, such as ffi and fi, but these
seem not to be supported in OpenOffice? At least not automatically, because you can still
paste a ligature as a symbol: ffi, ffl, fi.

Myriad font (OpenOffice). Roman.
Myriad font (OpenOffice). Oblique.
Myriad font (OpenOffice). Bold roman.
Myriad font (OpenOffice). Bold oblique.

MOST OF ALL, THOUGH – NEITHER MINION, NOR MYRIAD SEEM TO ALLOW EMBEDDING INTO PDFs CREATED IN OPENOFFICE... OF COURSE, YOU CAN ALWAYS PRINT YOUR DOCUMENT TO A POSTSCRIPT PRINTER AND THEN CONVERT THE PS FILE TO PDF USING GHOSTSCRIPT/GHOSTVIEW.

Figure 1: Myriad and Minion in OpenOffice. Support for ligatures sucks.

This is Minion. ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ. abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz. 0123456789. Support for ligatures: ffi fi fl
This is Minion Bold. ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ. abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz. 0123456789. Support for ligatures: ffi fi fl
This is Minion Slanted. ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ. abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz. 0123456789. Support for ligatures: ffi fi fl
This is Minion Oblique. ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ. abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz. 0123456789. Support for ligatures: ffi fi fl
This is Minion Bold Oblique. ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ. abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz. 0123456789. Support for ligatures: ffi fi fl
Math mode:

$$w(i,j) = 123 + 4 + \mathrm{mi}_{ij} \times \frac{\mathrm{tf}_{ij}}{\mathrm{tf}_{ij}+1} \times \frac{\min\left(\sum_k \mathrm{tf}_{kj}, \sum_k \mathrm{tf}_{ik}\right)}{\min\left(\sum_k \mathrm{tf}_{kj}, \sum_k \mathrm{tf}_{ik}\right)+1} \tag{1}$$

And a few ornaments: ❧ ❧ ❧

Figure 2: Minion in LaTeX. Support for ligatures and text figures works as expected.