

Tip Sheet: Saving graphs from Igor Pro for insertion in your lab reports.

In order to insert figures from your experiments in your lab reports, you will need to create graphics files of your figures that can be imported into your word processor program.

We will assume that you are using some version of Microsoft word, either on a Windows computer or an Apple machine.

Exporting graphics for Windows:

Our experience is that the best file format for inclusion in Word for Windows is the *.PNG format – this is an old format but the one that seems to work best in our situation. To export your file from IGOR Pro, click on the graph that you want to export. Then go to the File menu and select “Save Graphics”. In the dialog box that appears select the format “PNG” (near the bottom of the list) and then set the resolution to “4x Screen”. This will import a high resolution graphic that will appear nicely in your lab report. Finally, provide a useful filename and select the location where you want the file saved, then click “Do It”. You can then move the file to your computer by saving it to your Blackboard group, emailing it to yourself, copying it to a USB key, etc. etc.

NOTE: Do not save the file as a “PNG File” – there is a bug in IGOR that saves bad file identifiers with this format, and trying to open a file saved in this format will lock up your computer with the dreaded Macintosh “pinwheel of death.”

Exporting graphics for Apple/Mac

Our experience is that the best file format for inclusion in Word for Mac is the *.PICT format. To export your file from IGOR Pro, click on the graph that you want to export. Then go to the File menu and select “Save Graphics”. In the dialog box that appears select the format “PICT” (near the top of the list) and then set the resolution to “4x Screen”. This will export a high resolution graphic that will appear nicely in your lab report. Finally, provide a useful filename and select the location where you want the file saved, then click “Do It”. You can then move the file to your computer by saving it to your Blackboard group, emailing it to yourself, copying it to a USB key, etc. etc.