Subject: Re: OK, I'm stumped
Posted by davidf on Sat, 20 Jun 1998 07:00:00 GMT
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William H Dorin IV (bill4@lanl.gov) writes:

> I'm rather new to IDL, and have been having trouble with what is
> probably a trivial question (I have, however, read the faq, help files,
> and class manual). The problem is as follows:
>
> I have a proceedure which reads in a 180*360 array of data and creates a
> nice color contour plot, then plots a few points and some text (with
> underwritten white test for visibility), then plots it to a XWindows
> screen, and saves it to a gif file. My problem is that I cannot seem to
> figure out how to save this file to a postscript format.
>
>   I've been using XV to port each gif to ps, so I can print these
> plots on the color postscript printer we have, but this is becoming an
> unsatisfactory method.
>   So, I modified my code as follows:
>
> Set_plot, 'PS'
> Device, /color, file='my_plot.ps'
>
> map_set
> contour, my data
> xyouts, 'text' (several of these)
> plots, some points
>
> set_plot, 'X'
>
> This generates an unreadable file.

Not unreadable. Just one that doesn't print. Primarily
because you forgot to close the file, which it what puts
the PostScript showpage command into the file. This is the
command that ejects the page from the printer. Your file
likely processes, just never shows up in the output tray. :-)

You are also going to be 16 colors with this code and my
guess is you expect at least 256 colors. The correct sequence
of commands would look something like this:

    thisDevice = !D.Name
    Set_Plot, 'PS'
    Device, Color=1, Bits_Per_Pixel=8, File='my_plot.ps'

    Map_Set

```
Contour, my_data
XYOuts, 'text' ...  (You use NORMAL coordinates, right?)
PLOTS, ....

Device, /CLOSE_FILE
Set_Plot, thisDevice
```

> Furthermore, the online help
> is pretty bad in regard to this sort of thing.

Have a look at the series of articles on my web page,
which collectively are entitled "How to Get Perfect
PostScript Output in IDL".

Cheers,

David

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