Subject: Easy way to make hard copies at full printer resolution Posted by Kristian Kjaer on Wed, 02 Sep 1998 07:00:00 GMT

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One thing that makes IDL somewhat inconvenient for _interactive_ data display

and reduction is the lack of a command (equivalent to - dare I say it - alt(File)...Print... in Windows programs) to produce a hard copy of the current plot with the resolution offered by the printer.

There seem to be only the possibilities of

- * dumping the screen (resolution limited by screen) or
- * set_plot,'ps' & ; repeat all the previous plot-commands

In the (now sadly deceased) DOS-program GENPLOT printer-resolution hardcopy

was offered very simply and effectively by the program storing all the vector

strokes since the last screen erase. Then, something like GENPLOT> hc dev postscript would produce a *.ps file and optionally spool it.

Now, why doesn't IDL offer something similar, I wonder.

I thought about journalling everything and parsing the journal file to extract

a redraw.pro so that

IDL> @redraw.pro

would redraw the last plot on the currently selected device but this would

work poorly in case of, e.g.,

- * drawing to more than one window, or
- * plot, <very complicated, time-consuming expression> ,or
- * plot,y & y=some_function(y) & oplot,y

Then there is IDL5's 'Object Graphics'. I leafed through the manual and, from

what little I could understand, this rather takes the _interactive_ out of

IDL.

Ideally I'd like to sit and type into the IDL command prompt, using native IDL

commands and my own (wrapper, mainly) routines and, when a useful plot has

resulted on the screen, make a hard copy of it without any extra trouble.

Does anyone have some ideas or some useful code?

- Thanks, Kristian