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Subject: Re: Z-Buffer

Posted by [davidf](#) on Wed, 27 Oct 1999 07:00:00 GMT

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Haje Korth (hkorth@lanl.gov) writes:

> Is it possible to use the Z-Buffer device and still get decent output  
> quality for characters when an image of the buffer (tvrdr) is dumped to  
> the Postscript device. Basically I want to use the Z-Buffer image with  
> axes rendered in Postscript. Is this possible, or do I ask for too much  
> here?

All things are "possible" in IDL, and sometimes they  
are even "likely", if you know what you are doing. :-)

I've certainly done what you are attempting many times.  
But I should warn you about one little peculiarity in  
IDL that will absolutely drive you crazy! The character  
size in the Z-graphics buffer is just \*slightly\* different  
from the character size on your display. So aligning  
axes with data can be an exercise in total frustration  
if you are as anal-retentive about how things look as  
I am.

I've learned that \*anytime\* I try to combine  
Z-buffer graphics with regular graphics what it is  
absolutely critical to set the Charsize=1.0 keyword  
for \*ALL\* graphics commands carried out in the Z-buffer.

Cheers,

David

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David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting

Phone: 970-221-0438 E-Mail: [davidf@dfanning.com](mailto:davidf@dfanning.com)

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