Subject: Re: Recovery from PostScript file
Posted by roy.hansen on Fri, 14 Jan 2000 08:00:00 GMT

In article <85ib48$h5n$1@jura.cc.ic.ac.uk>, "Chris Roberts" <c.roberts1@ic.ac.uk> wrote:
> I have a user who generated a PostScript file of his IDL data as a graph,
> and has now lost his data file. Is there anything sensible I can do to help
> him recover some of the data from the PostScript file?

Yes, provided that you have the appropriate software.

Rule of thumb:
1) If your PostScript file contains bitmaps then use a scanner (as described in earlier replies).
2) If your PostScript file contains curves, do the following:
  - Open the PostScript file in a program that has a PostScript Interpreter.
    CorelDraw 9 is such a program.
  - Then select the curve (data) you are after, copy and paste into a new document.
  - Save the new document in Adobe Illustrator format (.ai) without preview and fonts.
  - Open the .ai file in IDL 5.3 with the ascii-read button. Here you can easily cut away
    the file header and specify which columns you want.
  - Voila! You now have the geometrical positions of the data points in your PostScript
    plot in a struct with the same name as the filename.

Of course, you do have to scale and offset both the x and y data....
But, then again, you must pay something for loosing the data file :-)

This method is for the novice user. If you consider yourself a hairy user, then fire up
your favorite editor, write a simple perl-script that extracts the curve-data directly from the
postscript file. Shouldn't be that difficult.

--RoyH