
Subject: Re: Color Printer limitations - Postscript resolution

Posted by [8015](#) on Thu, 12 May 1994 17:11:24 GMT

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In article <2qtlak\$im1@spool.cs.wisc.edu>,
Francois Pomport <frp@ssec.wisc.edu> wrote:

>
> Hi,
>
> I am trying to print some filled contour graphics on a color
> printer, but the printer seems to ignore them. Each time IDL warns
...
> Do you
> have any other references for new color printers with an estimated
> price?
>

About a year ago our first effort with IDL and color printers using
postscript was pretty dismal. We blamed it on the printer (Sharp JX-7000
24-bit dye-sub), also. The problem was the time required to print because
the imaging of the postscript was being done with Sun's NeWSPrint software
rather than in the printer's hardware (non-PS printer). Anyway, the solution
was to have IDL output a Sun Raster File using the write_srf procedure in
IDL. The file was then sent to the printer. Processing time was cut from at
least an hour to less than a minute. Printing time was about five minutes.

If this sounds like a reasonable solution, here is some more info:

Vendor: APUNIX 800/827-8649 (Susan and Vince have been very helpful)

Printer: Sharp JX-7000 24-bit dye-sub printer connected via SCSI

Cost: \$8,000

Cost per copy: ~\$2 for paper, ribbons, etc.

Output time: 5 minutes once file is created by IDL and spooled to
printer (which takes whatever time is required for your computer to
create and spool a 5 MByte file across the SCSI bus). In our case,
using a Sun IPX, it was about 30 seconds to create the file and a
few seconds to spool the file.

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