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Subject: Re: using make to create plots?

Posted by [nmw](#) on Fri, 01 Jun 2001 14:53:30 GMT

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In article <Pine.OSF.3.96.1010601114509.32606B-100000@zuaxp0.star.ucl.ac.uk>, Stuart Colley <src@star.ucl.ac.uk> writes:

```
> hi,
>
> I'm using make to create a LaTeX document that contains .eps files created
> by IDL. What I'd like to do is have a suffix rule that checks to see if
> the .sav file (which contains the plot I created with IDL) is newer than
> the .eps that will be included in the document. If the .sav file is newer
> than the .eps file then I'd like to create a new .eps from the .sav file
> using a routine I wrote:
>
> sav2ps, 'filename.sav', /eps
>
> The question is, can IDL be used to execute just one command, such as the
> one above is a suffix rule, e.g the one below:
>
> ..SUFFIXES : .eps .sav
> ..sav.eps :
>   idl sav2ps, 'filename.sav', /eps
>
> Or would I have to create a .pro file with the relevant commands? And
> could the make's $< macro be used to pass the filename - I have a feeling
> it couldn't.
>
> cheers,
> S
>
```

I think you would need at least a shell script as I can't see any way to get make to do what you want. IDL will read commands from the standard input and in a script it can be made to read from a here-document within the script, but I don't think you can have a make rule with a here-document.

So, e.g. create a file called 'script' with the contents:

```
idl << EOF
sav2ps,$1',/eps
EOF
```

Then make your rule run the script:

```
.sav.eps :
./script $<
```

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Nigel Wade, System Administrator, Space Plasma Physics Group,  
University of Leicester, Leicester, LE1 7RH, UK

E-mail : nmw@ion.le.ac.uk

Phone : +44 (0)116 2523568, Fax : +44 (0)116 2523555

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