Subject: ppi plot command
Posted by knight on Mon, 15 Jun 1992 20:48:50 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

I want to make a ppi (plan position indicator) plot, named for the early CRT displays that presented radar data in polar coordinates. An example is

```
rcs = 10.+randomu(seed,360) ; DUMMY DATA
range = [1,2]   ; 2 RANGE BINS
azimuth = findgen(360)  ; 1-degree AZIMUTH BINS
ppi,rcs,range,azimuth,rangebin=1,azimuthbin=1
```

where the ppi routine produces a polar plot with a sector at each data point filled with a color proportional to the rcs value.

THe problem is that my first solution produces gigantic PostScript files. The reason is that my use of polyfill makes a PostScript file filled with vectors. The alternative of usersym uses the PostScript fill command, but the changes in color between data points require many calls, and the unit in usersym is a character, not the data coordinates. My third solution is to write directly to the open PostScript file, using convert_coord to get the proper device coordinates and then using the PostScript commands in the idlprolog.ps. However, I need a way to get the logical unit of the open PostSCript file, the one reported in help,/files

In summary, I have questions like:
Does anybody have an efficient ppi plotter for IDL?
Does anybody know how to get the output from help into a variable?

I'd appreciate any comments or answers. Thanks.

--
=Fred Knight (knight@ll.mit.edu) (617) 981-2027
C-483\\MIT Lincoln Laboratory\\244 Wood Street\\Lexington, MA 02173