Subject: Re: IDL generates PS file that prints slow
Posted by ryba on Mon, 19 Dec 1994 16:51:43 GMT
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In article <1994Dec18.175308.15356@Princeton.EDU>, xu@bessel.Princeton.EDU (Guohong Xu) writes:
|> I am frustrated with IDL because it generates PostScript files that
|> prints out very slow. Are there anybody having the same experience?
|> x = randomu(s, 20000)
|> y = randomu(s, 20000)
|> PLOT, x, y, PSYM=1
|> This script will generate a PS file of about 200KB, but it will take
|> more than 30 minutes to print it out in a Sparc Printer. Normally,
|> the Sparc printer will take only 2 minutes to print out a file of 200 KB.
|>
|> Can any one tell me what could be the problem? Could it be that IDL
|> generates low effeciency PostScript files?

Actually, I'd say IDL generates fairly HIGH efficiency PS code...you just plotted 20,000 little plusses. By high efficiency, I mean I've seen plotting software PS drivers that would generate a 1MB file for a similar plot. Either way, such a plot will take a while to print, since vector graphics are a lot more complicated than simple text files. Now, there is maybe one efficiency that could be done...all these routines generate plot symbols by collections of lines (if you look at the IDL driver code, you'll see what I mean). It is conceivable to have PSYM first generate a PostScript symbol and then place it in multiple locations. There's no guarantee that it will be any faster on your typical PS printer (and especially no guarantee for NEWSprint). I guess if you defined some kind of font and downloaded it you could get it to work, but coding the driver software would be non-trivial.

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Dr. Marty Ryba | Generation X:
MIT Lincoln Laboratory | Too young to be cynical,
ryba@ll.mit.edu | too old to be optimistic.