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Subject: Re: Postscript line thickness

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Mon, 19 May 2003 13:34:07 GMT

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Haje Korth (haje.korth@jhuapl.edu) writes:

- > Does anyone know how the value of the line thickness keyword translates to
- > points in the Postscript device. I am getting so tired of having to change
- > all my graphics by hand for publication. Your help out of my misery is
- > greatly appreciated!

I don't know anything about how thickness keywords translate into points, but I do know that doing things by hand is a bit passe in the computer world. :-)

A little bit of foresight goes a long way when writing IDL programs. For example, if you know you have a graphics display program that you are going to want to make a PostScript file of (and aren't \*all\* of them this way?), then something like this works well:

PRO NicePlot, data

```
IF !D.Name EQ 'PS' OR !D.Name EQ 'PRINTER' THEN BEGIN
```

```
  psthick = 3
```

```
  thick = !P.Thick
```

```
  xthick = !X.Thick
```

```
  ythick = !Y.Thick
```

```
  zthick = !Z.Thick
```

```
  font = !P.Font
```

```
  !P.Thick = psthick
```

```
  !X.Thick = psthick
```

```
  !Y.Thick = psthick
```

```
  !Z.Thick = psthick
```

```
  !P.Font = 0 ; or 1, your choice
```

```
ENDIF
```

; Your normal graphics here. For example,  
Plot, data

```
IF !D.Name EQ 'PS' OR !D.Name EQ 'PRINTER' THEN BEGIN
```

```
  !P.Thick = thick
```

```
  !X.Thick = xthick
```

```
  !Y.Thick = ythick
```

```
  !Z.Thick = zthick
```

```
  !P.Font = font
```

```
ENDIF
```

```
END
```

If 3 is not the right value, then--at worst--you only have to make a single change in your file. And you could even put the value in as a keyword! :-)

Cheers,

David

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Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>

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