
Subject: Re: Importing IDL plots to Powerpoint on Mac
Posted by [K. Bowman](#) on Fri, 18 Feb 2005 14:55:45 GMT
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In article <1108736592.609120.299650@g14g2000cwa.googlegroups.com>, "wcramer" <wcramer@fit.edu> wrote:

> What's the best way to transfer IDL plots to Powerpoint so that they
> look nice? All of the ways that I've tried so far don't look very
> presentable.

I don't have a solution for Powerpoint. I have always attributed graphics issues to Powerpoint doing dumb things with PS and PDF files. (Intentionally or not, who can say?)

Keynote imports PDF files very easily. Just drag them onto the slide and re-size as needed. Keynote does smooth bitmaps embedded in PDF files (see thread from a week or two ago). This is usually undetectable, unless the bitmaps are very low resolution. You can export your Keynote presentation to PDF (or even Powerpoint).

Another option is TeX. If you know TeX, you can make your presentation directly to PDF and present it with Adobe Reader. The learning curve for Tex is steep at first, but once you figure out how to use it, it's great. I no longer fight with MS Word. Even better, it's free. I recommend TeXShop

<http://www.uoregon.edu/~koch/texshop/texshop.html>,

which is a slick TeX front-end for OS X, but there are others.

A nifty little program for adding math to presentations is the Latex Equation Editor. Enter the Tex commands in the window, hit the button to typeset the equation, drag it into the Keynote window.

<http://evolve.lse.ac.uk/software/EquationEditor/>

Ken Bowman
