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Subject: basic question about graphic devices

Posted by [Sverre Solberg](#) on Tue, 10 Apr 2007 13:11:23 GMT

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I have never understood why it's always been so complicated making very simple plots in idl, while at the same time there's the possibilities of making very complicated GUIs at a fairly small amount of programming, and I wonder if I can ask a very basic question:

Whats the best/easiest way of producing simple line plots (by the plot command in direct graphics) that is scalable, shows up well as a preview in e.g. Word documents and that are suited for printing in a offset-press environment?

I have got into a practice of using cgm for this, followed by a "brush-up" of the cgm file by some sort of graphics program afterwards. But this is time-consuming and the cgm is fairly limited. For example, if I want to plot a curve in dotted linestyle, and the number of datapoints are large, its doesnt show up as a dotted line at all as the dots seem to be merged together. Using PS device (with encaps and preview) is a possibility. However, the preview in Word is so extremely poor that its of little use. I vaguely recall that rsi blamed this on Microsoft (?)/Word. Whatever the reason is, it's really frustrating that one may spend lots of time for such things that should be very simple.

Any hints for a using plot/device in a more clever way?

Sverre S.

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