
Subject: Re: EPS printouts from IDL 4.0.1
Posted by [hahn](#) on Thu, 11 Jan 1996 08:00:00 GMT
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Hi,

There are two different flavours of PostScript in use, both of them are needed and are supported by IDL / Wave. The PostScript driver makes a compatible PostScript so it can be easily changed from EPS to PS by a normal text editor. But you need to know what to do.

The basic differences between EPS and PS are:

PS is intended for direct printing. It may contain any number of pages and it has all information imbedded for the printer as to position the page, the size of the page etc.

EPS on the contrary is ment for postprocessing by a program which will add statements to make it printable. *EPS must be converted to PS to become printable!* A PostScript printer may wait forever and will not print after having received and digested a EPS file. (This is due to a missing showpage command). With an IDL generated EPS file you may simply append the showpage command and get the page printed. It may happen as well that a EPS file will produce a blank page on a printer when you simply add a showpage command and don't care for the bounding box because the contents of the page may be completely off the paper. In this case the bounding box comment will show 4 negative numbers.

One EPS file must not contain more than one page. The EPS file must contain a Bounding Box statement showing the size of the page. The IDL driver usually uses positive values in the bounding box.

If IDL output is generated for later annotation it is best to request an EPS file, do one plot, and close the file. Use a new file for each plot! Depending on what program is used for annotation it should convert the EPS to PS which can be directly printed. If that program does not make an PS file you can simply add a showpage command and print it. However, the annotation must be on the given page as neither showpage nor the printers is allowed to make a PS file fit on the page. This must be done by the postprocessing program.

Norbert Hahn
