
Subject: Re: 2 questions

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Tue, 11 Dec 2007 20:00:14 GMT

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R.G. Stockwell writes:

- > I have never been clear on what makes a ps file be an 'eps' file,
- > but I just use the idl ps output (and rename the file *.eps).
- > IDL includes the bounding box statement, which seems to be
- > what the request for eps is really asking for.
- > I use the IDL ps files in latex, and they are accepted by
- > journals as photo-ready figures.

I think IDL includes the bounding box so that whatever application you intend to include your EPS file in can at least save the space for the graphic, even if it can't render the PostScript itself. That is why, for example, if you included your "renamed" file in a Word document it would show up as a big rectangle with an X through it and "IDL graphic" or some such written at the top.

Most EPS files, though, also contain, in addition to the PostScript part of the file, another part that allows the graphic to be "previewed" in applications. So, if you had created your PostScript file in IDL with the ENCAPSULATED and PREVIEW keywords set appropriately, and you include THAT file in your Word document, you might see more than a big rectangle with an X in it. If you had been living a pious life, you might even see something that looked like the graphic you intend to print.

However, when you send that Word file to a PS printer, the graphic will use the PostScript part to render it, not the low-level preview part.

Of course, IDL preview images suck, but I--like you--have never been too bothered by that. They print correctly, that's the main thing. :-)

Cheers,

David

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

Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")
