
Subject: Using Postscript & Colours in IDL

Posted by [chloesharrocks](#) on Mon, 28 Jan 2008 09:47:48 GMT

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Hi

I'm new to IDL and the concept of postscript, so this is probably a really naive question, but I'm having difficulties with getting my postscript plots to be in colour. An extract of my code is below:

```
=====
```

```
device, decomposed=0 ;specify I'm using Indexed Colors
loadcolors ;loads graphics colors
```

```
;If we also want to consider a specific period of time
;Here we will look at scatter plot for first 5years only
j = 0 ;Here we specify which measurement in time, eg. the first one
```

```
entry_device = !d.name
set_plot, 'PS'
device, /color, /landscape, font_size=12, filename='FullScatterPlot' +
STRTRIM(N, 1) + 'runs.ps'
!P.Multi=0
plot, temp_change, precip_change, xrange=[-2,8], yrange=[-3E-6, 5E-6],
xstyle=1, ystyle=1, $
  title='A Scatter Plot of Precipitation Against Temperature for Years
0-5 for ' + STRTRIM(N, 1) + ' Runs', $
  ;subtitle='Green Diamonds=0-5years, Red Triangles=5-10years & Blue
Squares=10-15years', $
  xtitle='Global Mean Surface Air Temperature Change (Kelvin)', $
  ytitle='Global Mean Precipitation Change (Kg/[m^2*s])', /nodata,
background=7, color=0
  oplot, temp_change[j:j+19,run_no:run_no+(N-1)], precip_change[j:
+19,run_no:run_no+(N-1)], psym=4, color=4
  oplot, temp_change[j+20:j+39,run_no:run_no+(N-1)], precip_change[j
+20:j+39,run_no:run_no+(N-1)], psym=5, color=5
  oplot, temp_change[j+40:j+59,run_no:run_no+(N-1)], precip_change[j
+40:j+59,run_no:run_no+(N-1)], psym=6, color=6
device, /close_file
set_plot, entry_device
=====
```

Most of the time this works fine, but occasionally when I run the program it comes up with an error on the "device, decomposed=0" line. However, if I shut down IDL and restart it it will work fine again. Also, although "color=4" looks lime green on my computer, when I print it, the colour is more of a bluey-turquoise colour and similarly the "color=5" which is red looks magenta when printed (is this likely to

be to do with the printer?). If someone, could explain to me how to incorporate colour into postscript files in a way that doesn't cause this error every time I'd be most grateful. This is my first time using IDL and my first ever encounter with postscript files (I'm an undergraduate at Uni).

Thanks
Chloé
