Subject: Re: A whine about default device settings
Posted by David Fanning on Sun, 10 Feb 2008 19:43:03 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

Kenneth P. Bowman writes:

> Unfortunately, some of the default device settings are different between
> the Z-buffer device and the X-Windows device. (I haven't checked the
> WIN device because I don't have a Windows machine).
>
> IDL> window, xsize=1024, ysize=768
> IDL> help, !d, /str
> ** Structure !DEVICE, 17 tags, length=84, data length=84:
>   NAME   STRING   'X'
>   X_CH_SIZE   LONG   6
>   Y_CH_SIZE   LONG   10
> IDL> set_plot, 'z'
> IDL> device, set_resolution = [1024, 768], set_pixel_depth = 24
> IDL> help, !d, /str
> ** Structure !DEVICE, 17 tags, length=84, data length=84:
>   NAME   STRING   'Z'
>   X_CH_SIZE   LONG   8
>   Y_CH_SIZE   LONG   12
>
> Because IDL scales margins and plot sizes based on the character size,
> switching devices means that the resulting graphs are not identical,
> despite identical window/device sizes.
>
> This can be rectified by setting the character size of the Z-buffer
> device with
>
> DEVICE, SET_CHARACTER_SIZE = [6, 10]
>
> or doing the reverse for the X-Windows device, but this seems to me to
> be a pointless and unnecessary device dependence.
>
> I am annoyed enough to post about this because I just spend longer than
> I should have figuring out why the graphics output from the two devices
> was not identical.

Yes, this is a LONG standing problem. I think I first ran into this
problem nearly 20 years ago. :-(

Cheers,

David

--
David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming (www.dfanning.com)
Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")