
Subject: Re: Why plots shown on screen and postscript are different?

Posted by [liamgumley](#) on Wed, 11 Feb 2009 14:44:08 GMT

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On Feb 11, 12:07 am, xqinshan <xqins...@tom.com> wrote:

> Generally, I do my work using 'set_plot,'win' first, showing the
> plots on screen. Then after everything is good, I simply change it to
> 'set_plot,'ps', sometimes the plots in postscript is good as what I
> saw on screen, but sometimes so bad for I have to change settings
> again and again. May I ask how to do this? In fact, I need plots in
> postscript only for publication or presentation. Are there any method
> to save the plots on screen for that? I mean, sometimes I need high
> quality plots, but saveJpeg donot save good enough plots.

To create a PostScript plot which matches your onscreen plot, try this.

1. Download the sample programs from "Practical IDL Programming"
http://gumley.com/PIP/Sample_Programs/PIP_programs.zip

2. Create your plot onscreen in a direct graphics window, e.g.

```
IDL> window, /free
```

```
IDL> plot, sin(!pi * 0.1 * findgen(100)), title='My First Plot'
```

3. Recreate the plot with output directed to PostScript using PSON and PSOFF, e.g.,

```
IDL> pson, file='test.ps'
```

```
IDL> plot, sin(!pi * 0.1 * findgen(100)), title='My First Plot'
```

```
IDL> psoff
```

You will find that test.ps contains an exact replica of your onscreen plot. You can also try variations like this:

```
IDL> pson, file='test.ps', paper='A4', /landscape
```

```
IDL> device, /helvetica
```

```
IDL> plot, sin(!pi * 0.1 * findgen(100)), title='My First Plot',  
font=0
```

```
IDL> psoff
```

This will recreate the plot in landscape orientation on A4 size paper using the PostScript Helvetica font.

Cheers,

Liam.

Practical IDL Programming

<http://www.gumley.com/>
