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Subject: Multiple Plots in PostScript

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Mon, 06 Jul 2009 21:11:53 GMT

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Folks,

Here is a tip about plotting multiple plots in PostScript that cost me a couple of hours this morning. I am plotting six plots to a page (three columns and two rows), and I have anywhere from 2-3 pages of PostScript output, all in PostScript landscape mode. I was trying to save a little room at the top of my PostScript page for a plot title, so I was using `!Y.OMargin = [2,6]` to set that up.

Initially, I was setting up `!P.Multi` and `!Y.OMargin` before I changed to the PostScript device.

```
!P.Multi=[0,3,2]
!Y.OMargin = [2, 6]
PS_Start, ...
... plots...
PS_End
```

My plots were now running off the *\*left\** side of the page. Weird. I tried `!X.OMargin` instead. Still running off the left side of the page. Too weird!

Finally, I moved the `!P.Multi` and `!Y.OMargin` commands to *\*after\** I entered the PostScript device.

```
PS_Start, ...
!P.Multi=[0,3,2]
!Y.OMargin = [2, 6]
... plots...
PS_End
```

Better. At least the *\*first\** page of PostScript output was correct, but subsequent pages were NOT correct, in that they had no Y margins at all.

Eventually, I discovered that I had to set `!Y.OMargin` before *\*every page\** of PostScript output, or it would not take effect.

I have *\*no\** idea why this would be the case. I'm only reporting what I have observed this morning. :-)

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.")

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