Subject: IDL PostScript Landscape Mode (Not!) Fixed

Posted by David Fanning on Thu, 06 Aug 2009 22:37:04 GMT

Folks,

Tired of having IDL PostScript landscape mode output
appear upside down? Tired of arguing with ITTVIS about
what "landscape" and "seascape" really mean?

Well, me, too. :-)

Thanks to Scott Lewis, a colleague who finally found
a relevant web page, I have been able to write an IDL
program, named FixPS, that appears to fix IDL PostScript
Landscape mode output and rearrange it so it is
right-side up, finally!

I'll have an article written soon that will provide
all of the details. But for the moment, you might want
to test this program with your landscape files. I
imagine it won't be as simple as we all hope it will be,
and the program will have to be tweaked a little. You
can find the file here:

   http://www.dfanning.com/programs/fixps.pro

You can give it both an input and output filename:

   IDL> fixps, 'test.ps', 'test_fixed.ps'

Or, if you don't give it an output filename, it will
append a "_fixed" to the input filename. (As shown
in the example above.)

If you have written your PostScript to an A4 page size,
you will have to set the A4 keyword to get the proper fix:

   IDL> fixps, 'test.ps', /A4

The file is fairly simple. I'll probably beef it up over
the next couple of days as I work with it, and it isn't
foolproof yet. But I was so excited about it, I thought I
would share it anyway.

A new file *does* have to be written out, because it is
necessary to add a line to the file.

Suggestions and comments are welcome. I'll let you know
when I have the article written.

Cheers,

David

--
David Fanning, Ph.D.
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming (www.dfanning.com)
Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")