
Subject: IDL8.0 plot() function : how to plot to PS file like with DG "Set_Plot"?

Posted by [Paul Van Delst\[1\]](#) on Wed, 15 Sep 2010 17:26:09 GMT

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Hello,

O.k., I finally got IDLv8.0 installed. I plotted the example in the docs:

```
IDL> t=SIN(2.0*FINDGEN(200)*!PI/25.0)*EXP(-0.02*FINDGEN(200))
IDL> p=plot(t,title="blah",xtitle='x',ytitle='y',color='red')
% Loaded DLM: XML.
```

O.k., great.

Now I want to plot it directly to a file (like I do with direct graphics after using SET_PLOT,'PS'). I guess the PRINT method is the go... but how does one specify an output filename? Searching the documentation.... ah, o.k. the SAVE method is what I need. Cool. I want to save a regular old, non-encapsulated, PostScript file

```
IDL> p.save,'test.ps'
```

Running that through ghostview tells me it's an encapsulated file. How to create a regular PS file? Is there no regular PS support? The 800 pound gorilla in the iTools room was the lousy support for PS output... that silverback is still hanging around I see. Argh.

On the plus side, finally I can easily add and modify legends. yay!

But, overall, for programmatic output into ps files, direct graphics still wins IMO.

cheers,

paulv

p.s. BTW, what's with the shorthand formatting e.g. "-r2+"? Is ITTVIS trying to make IDL look like matlab?!? :o)