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Subject: Re: IDL8.0 plot() function : how to plot to PS file like with DG "Set\_Plot"?  
Posted by [Paul Van Delst\[1\]](#) on Mon, 20 Sep 2010 16:25:10 GMT  
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David Fanning wrote:

> Chris Torrence writes:

>

>> Our assumption with the new graphics output was that people would use

>> EPS files for importing into other programs - LaTeX documents, MS

>> Word, Powerpoint, etc. And they would use PDF output for stand-alone

>> files, where you want just the graphics on a piece of paper.

>>

>> If there is a specific need for regular PS files, we would love to

>> hear about it, so we can consider adding support for this.

>

> To some extent, whether you need old technology depends upon

> whether the new technology works as well as or better than

> the old. If it doesn't work as well, people might be slow

> to adopt it.

And don't underestimate the time cost to switching. If it's easy to switch (e.g. change a paraticular call or keyword)

no worries. If it's not, then a lot of folks won't...until they absolutely have to. I use IDL to free up time so I can

worry about the minutiae of problems that actually interest me (you know, like, science-y stuff).

> Just this morning I was exploring PDF output, for example.

> I created a 3D plot (plot3d) with a legend (legend). All

> looks as it should on my display. But when I saved the

> file to a PDF file and opened that with Acrobat, the

> names in the legend extend outside the legend box.

> Pretty ugly.

Urg. That doesn't bode well. Sounds like there is a complete new set of fudge factors to learn to make plots appear wysiwyg.

> I presume this can be fixed (although I haven't

> yet discovered how), but it does make you wish for

> the old days when it happens to you first thing on

> a Monday morning. :-)

Ha ha! Maybe the lesson here is to never do any IDL graphics programming until Tuesday? :o)

After introspection over the weekend (riding over hills near the Catoctin mtns on a single speed tends to make one think

about anything other than the hurt factor) I'm convinced the NG approach is a good one - a much better one than straight

OG/iTools. ITTVIS still has some work to do to iron out some issues, but with the new NG

interface the majority of the  
work -- from a user perspective at least -- seems to be done.

cheers,

paulv

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