
Subject: Re: PostScript and TrueColor images
Posted by [natha](#) on Fri, 22 Oct 2010 18:59:00 GMT
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The maximum value for BITS is 8

`BITS_PER_PIXEL`

(PS)

IDL is capable of producing PostScript images with 1, 2, 4, or 8 bits per pixel. Using more bits per pixel gives higher resolution at the cost of generating larger files. `BITS_PER_PIXEL` is used to specify the number of bits to use. If you do not specify a value for `BITS_PER_PIXEL`, a default value of 4 is used.

It should be noted that many laser printers, including the original Apple Laserwriter are capable of only 32 different shades of gray (which can be represented by 5 bits). Thus, specifying 8 bits per pixel does not give 256 apparent shades of grey as might be expected, only 32, at a cost of sending twice the number of bits to the printer. Often, 4 bits (16 levels of gray) will give acceptable results with a large savings in file size.
