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Subject: Re: PostScript and TrueColor images  
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Fri, 22 Oct 2010 18:36:51 GMT  
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David Fanning writes:

> Well, you're not the only one. I'll reserve a copy of my  
> next book for you. All of this is explained in tiresome  
> detail there. :-)

Speaking of which, I ran into an interesting PostScript problem yesterday that I had forgotten I knew anything about! :-)

I test the code in my book by pasting it to the IDL command line. When it works the way it is suppose to I call PS\_Start, paste the code, call PS\_End with the PNG keyword set, and bam! I have a perfect PNG file to import into the book file. Extremely easy and I make sure the book is free of code typos, too.

So, I was working on the Surface Plot chapter yesterday, and all was going normally (you know, SLOWLY), when I decided that one of the surface plots I came up with was so nice that I should make it a candidate for the cover of the book. So I wanted to make it a larger size.

Rather than use PS\_Start, I just thought I would configure the PostScript device myself with PSConfig. So I did and ran my programs and the surface labels weren't rotated. :( I made sure !P.FONT=0 and ran it again. Still not rotated. :( :-)

Eventually, I had to look at PS\_Start to see what the heck it was doing! Setting !P.Font to 1, of course, because only Hershey and True-Type fonts can be rotated in PostScript in this 3D way. Wow. I've been using PS\_Start for so long I forgot all about that.

No wonder people who don't use my software run around with confused looks all the time. :-)

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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