Subject: Re: IDL 8, EPS vs. PS graphics
Posted by Marc Buie on Fri, 07 Jan 2011 17:31:57 GMT

Chris -

Well, to me, when I see "ps" and "eps" listed in the documentation for the possible output formats, that means it is supposed to be supported. I definitely don't expect it to produce identical output. For reference, the direct graphics output is definitely different with and without the /ENCAPSULATE flag.

Sounds like this was just a quickie thing stated in the documentation that isn't really covered by what's implemented. For the record, though, if a postscript file contains "showpage" it is non-encapsulated. At least that's my reading of the postscript language manual. This means that the new plot functions do not support encapsulated and that seems to be the opposite of the conclusion you have drawn.

I applaud your consideration for getting this fixed. It is, after all, a very important capability.

One final note, this particular figure involves plotting more than 200,000 points (I'm using a "dot" with no lines). In the new plot function, this is noticeably slower than with direct graphics in creating the plot. Not, too bad, perhaps it takes 1 second to plot while direct graphics appears to be instantaeous. However, the big surprise comes when saving the graphic as a postscript file. Doing this in direct graphics is just as fast but with plot.save,"file.eps" it takes a couple of minutes to generate the file.

--Marc