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Subject: Re: transparent symbols

Posted by [Mariolncandenza](#) on Thu, 10 Feb 2011 16:55:34 GMT

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On Feb 8, 8:10 am, bing999 <thibaultga...@gmail.com> wrote:

> On Feb 8, 4:48 pm, bing999 <thibaultga...@gmail.com> wrote:

>

>> Hi,

>

>> I want to overplot symbols (filled circles) on a previously drawn

>> figure. To make it easier to read, I would like to make the symbols

>> transparent.

>> Is there a way to do that?

>

>> Thanks a lot!

>

>> cheers

>

> And please note that I would like to save the plot in PostScript... :)

Yes, I should add this is actually a limitation in PostScript itself, it just can't do (semi-)transparency of vector objects. It can do transparency of rasters, in a limited way, but that's the same as you making the plot in PNG with an alpha channel and then converting to PS.

I see a lot of new graphics packages advertise writing directly in PDF, and PDF is apparently capable of handling semi-transparent objects. I see that IDL 8.0 can output to PDF as well, now they just need to provide support for semi-transparent objects.

Useful and/or interesting information here:

[https://secure.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/en/wiki/Transparency\\_%28graphic%29](https://secure.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/en/wiki/Transparency_%28graphic%29)

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