Subject: PDF output from function graphics
Posted by Matt[3] on Mon, 24 Jun 2013 20:15:38 GMT
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Hi,

I'm not sure that this is definitely a problem with IDL, but I've only ever encountered this when using IDL! When I output a figure to PDF using function graphics, the "success" of the output I get seems highly dependent on the PDF viewer I use. For example, I recently prepared a few figures for a paper using IDL on the Mac and Linux. They looked fine in Preview (on the Mac) and Evince (Linux). However, I recently tried to look at the (already published!) figures on an iPhone and iPad and found that these same plots were now transformed into a bunch of psychedelic-colored stripy polygons.

Perhaps this is Apple's problem? However, in general, I seem to get mixed results with IDL on my two machines... POLYGON() output looks great on the Mac, but looks pretty 'stripy' on my Linux box. However, at least in 8.2.3, lines seem to look fine in Linux, but they all appear to have different thicknesses on my Mac (including printed plots), as if they'd been generated from a low-quality bitmap.

At the moment, I'm not taking any chances with figures for publication, and I'm saving my IDL output and then plotting in Python/Matplotlib, which generates great looking PDFs on both machines (and my iPhone!). This step is a little galling when I consider the cost difference between IDL and Python!

Has anyone else come up against similar issues? If so, do you have any suggestions on how I can get robust, high-quality PDF output from function graphics?

Thanks,

Matt