
Subject: IDL 8.2.2 direct graphics output to PDF?

Posted by [Andy Sayer](#) on Wed, 26 Jun 2013 16:00:36 GMT

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Hi all,

In the past I wrote my IDL graphical output to eps files and converted to pdf using the epstopdf software. It mangles the output somewhat but there was some magic combination of keywords (dependent on which version of epstopdf was installed) which made things look nice.

For various reasons, today I am working on a different computer without epstopdf (and I can't get the same version installed), and using IDL 8.2.2. I have to get some plots as .pdf output without this mangling.

This brochure suggests that I can get direct PDF output in IDL 8:

http://www.exelisvis.com/portals/0/pdfs/idl/Slick_IDL_Overview.pdf

However, I'm not sure how to actually *do* it. I am using 'old' (direct) graphics, and again, it's inherited custom plotting/mapping routines that I can't easily make use 'new' (function) graphics (or change to use Coyote Graphics, for that matter). I couldn't find much in the IDL online help. Trying `set_plot,'pdf'` (as before I would use `set_plot,'ps'`) did not help, throwing an error message saying that device was unsupported.

So... can anyone tell me how to write to PDF directly in IDL 8? Or is it only available via 'new graphics'?

Thanks,

Andy
