Subject: Font size appearance in function graphics PNG and EPS output
Posted by Paul Van Delst[1] on Thu, 05 Dec 2013 19:49:24 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

Hello,

I use function graphics to generate both PNG and EPS output of various plots. When I create a PNG output like so:

IDL> p.Save, 'myplot.png', HEIGHT=500

the resulting image looks just like the onscreen plot. However, when I create an EPS file, if I simply do something like

IDL> p.Save, 'myplot.eps'

the size of the fonts (in relation to the rest of the plot) appears to decrease. As such, to make the text readable in EPS form I find myself doing silly things like the following:

```
IDL> font_size = p.font_size
IDL> p.font_size = p.font_size * 2.0
IDL> p.Save, 'myplot.eps'
IDL> p.font_size = font_size
```

That is, I temporarily increase the size of the font so that they are a useful size in the final EPS file.

The above example is an annoyance, but in some more complicated plots I have code like the following:

```
  ; ...Output an EPS file
  ; ......Increase the font size for EPS files
  font_size = HASH()
  FOR band = 1, n_bands DO BEGIN
    osrf[0].Get_Property, band, pRef=p, Debug=debug
    font_size[band] = p.font_size
    p.font_size = p.font_size * 2.0
  ENDFOR
  ; ......Create the EPS file
  w.Save, fileroot+'.eps'
  ; ......Restore the onscreen font sizes
  FOR band = 1, n_bands DO BEGIN
    osrf[0].Get_Property, band, pRef=p, Debug=debug
    p.font_size = font_size[band]
  ENDFOR
```

I've reached the straw/camel point and am asking this newsgroup if they

know what I'm doing wrong to get this weird font-sizing action in the first place? Or is the IDL Postscript output just plain busted?

I created two files like so:

```
IDL> p.save,'test.png',height=500
IDL> p.save,'test.eps'
```

and have placed them here:
http://ftp.emc.ncep.noaa.gov/jcsda/CRTM/.plots

If you size the EPS file the same as the PNG image you will see the fonts are proportionally much smaller.

Thanks for any insights.

cheers,

paulv

p.s. In case you were wondering, the EPS files are for documents to allow people to view the plots in an e-document and retain the ability to zoom in and view detail (which you don't get with images like PNG).
