Subject: status of PNG and EPS output from Plot Save method in IDL v8.4?
Posted by Paul Van Delst[1] on Wed, 23 Jul 2014 21:00:06 GMT

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Hello,

This question is directed to any IDL folks lurking out there (ChrisT?)

I've recently realised that a great majority of my time spent
programming IDL is making the EPS output of my function graphics plots
look similar to their onscreen version.

I've posted some test plots:

1) This is a screen capture of a plot as it appears onscreen:
   p = plot(....)
 http://ftp.emc.ncep.noaa.gov/jcsda/CRTM/.plots/atms_npp-12.o nscreen.png

2) This is the plot as it appears after using the Save method:
   p.Save, 'atms_npp-12.png', height=600
 http://ftp.emc.ncep.noaa.gov/jcsda/CRTM/.plots/atms_npp-12.p ng

3) This is a screen capture of the EPS file display:
   p.Save, 'atms_npp-12.eps'
 http://ftp.emc.ncep.noaa.gov/jcsda/CRTM/.plots/atms_npp-12.o nscreen-eps.png

4) For completeness, this is the actual EPS file:
 http://ftp.emc.ncep.noaa.gov/jcsda/CRTM/.plots/atms_npp-12.e ps

The difference between (1) and (2) has been raised before in this
newsgroup, i.e. the Save-method generated PNG file has jagged lines
compared to onscreen. I trust that'll be fixed in v8.4 (gol durn it!)

But my real beef is the difference in font sizes and appearance between
either (1) or (2) and the EPS output seen in (3).

Is THAT going to be fixed in v8.4?

I waste a lot of time mucking about with EPS output (what actually gets
put into technical documents and articles, not the PNGs), futzing with
font sizes and legend positions, so that they look similar. I'm
obviously anal about it but, dammit, for the price of IDL I shouldn't
have to muck about.

Please someone from Exelis tell me EPS output will be done correctly so
as to match the onscreen look in v8.4.

cheers,

paulv