
Subject: A line command for printing graphs.

Posted by [Andry William Ratsima](#) on Thu, 29 Jul 1999 07:00:00 GMT

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Dear IDL users,

I have written a pretty simple IDL procedure which had helped me in printing graphs on a PS file. The idea is that with this program I can easily define sizes. This procedure lets print almost any plot from a main program or a procedure without the need to change the program and include a "set_plot, 'ps'" command.

I have put the program on my web server because I think it can be usefull for anybody, especially for beginners.

(http://www.ccbp.ulpgc.es/fisica/usuarios/andry/IDL/pr_print.pro)

Also, I would appreciate if anybody can improve it and send me back any suggestion or any improvement he has.

For example one thing I would to have is creating a simple widget interface which can be used to run the procedure. I am not very good in widget so that why I would need somebody.

Thanks for your input and looking forward to hearing your comments

Regards,

NOTE: Please find below the "help" I wrote for the program.

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```
=====
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http://www.ccbp.ulpgc.es/fisica/usuarios/andry/
=====
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```
=====BEGIN HELP=====
;+
; NAME:
;   PR_PRINT
;
; PURPOSE:
;   By running this procedure to call another specified procedure
(the
```

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; real program to run), you will be able to choose after seen the
; plotting graphics whether you want to print it or not.
;
; CATEGORY:
;   program handling, output.
;
; CALLING SEQUENCE:
;   pr_print
;
; OPTIONAL INPUT PARAMETERS:
;   prnt:  The size scale. It is defined as:
;           x-size
;           prnt=  -----
;           y-size
;           Sometimes, this parameter is computed within the main
;           program (especially for a map plot).
;           If not set manually nor within the main program, a value
;           of
;           PRNT=0.75
;           is used.
;           The value introduced at the execution of this PR_PRINT
;           program will override any computed value.
;
;   sz:    A 2-element vector which specifies the X- and Y-size of
;           the hardcopy graphic (!!!! in PS mode !!!)
;
;   fichero:  A short cut by specifying at execution time the
name of
;           the file of the program to plot.
;
; KEYWORD:
;   landscape:  If set and not equal to 0, generates a graphic
in
;           a landscape mode.
;
;   w_device:  The output device used to show the plot. If not
;           specified, the plot will be first shown on the screen.
;
;   xxx_comp:  set this keyword to 1 if you know that it is not
;           the 1st time you use this 'pr_print' program during the
;           session.
;   no_plot:   Set this to 1 if you do not want to plot the
graphs before
;           printing it. This is useful when your program needs a
lot of time
;           to run, you are already sure of your result, and you
want to plot
;           it right away.

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; compile: Set this to 1 if you do need to compile the
procedure.
; The compilation should be done whenever you change to a
new
; procedure (or have made a change to the procedure) and
you have
; already used "pr_print" during your session.
; out_flnm: Set this to the name of the output filename. If
not set the
; default is the name of the program to be run with the
specific
; extension. ; *****THALASSA
; color: Set this to 1 to save color postscript file. ;;COLOR
; xoffset: Set this to the offset distance in X (in Cm). If not
set the
; default is drawing the graph in the center of the paper.
; yoffset: Set this to the offset distance in Y (in Cm). If not
set the
; default is drawing the graph in the center of the paper.
;
;
; RESTRICTIONS:
; Main programs (not carrying the leading line:
; pro fichero
; can be run. Another copy of the program is made converted into
; procedure. The later is run and deleted after execution.
; You should have some free memory on your drive for the temporary
; copy to be run.
;
; The program to run should have the following first executable
; line:
; pro fichero,prnt=prnt
; If not, the optional keyword ",prnt=prnt" is added to the
; "pro fichero"-line.
;
; Main programs which contain Procedure(s) and/or Fuction(s) at
the
; begining of the main file are not supported.
;
;
; << WARNING !!!>>
; << WARNING !!!>> IF YOU WANT TO SPECIFY THE SIZE OF YOUR GRAPH,
; << WARNING !!!>> DON'T FORGET TO DEFINE prnt IN YOUR MAIN
; << WARNING !!!>> PROGRAM.
; << WARNING !!!>>
;
; RESULT:
; The program will plot the graphic on the current device.
;
; MODIFICATION:

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; 990520, allow user to specify xoffset/yoffset.
; 981008, corrected the change of background color.
; 980520, by WAR, Add "color" keyword.
; 980505, add "out_flnm" keyword.
; Feb. 16th, 1998, rename "landscp" keyword => "landscape".
; Jan. 9th, 1998, add "compile" keyword for IDL V 5.0
; Dec. 20th, 1997, Add "no_plot" keyword.
; Oct. 30th, 1997, Correct bug about "PRO..." filename.
; Sept. 23rd, 1995, created by WAR.
; Oct. 15th, !version.os introduced
; Jan 1st, 1996, w_device, landscp, prnt, and sz keywords
introduced.
; Jan 7th, 1996, Main plotting prog (which does not carry a
; leading line "pro fichero") can be run.
; Feb 29th, 1996, add 'xxx_comp' keyword so that one can
re-compile
; the new-to-plot program.
;
;
;-----,-----,-----,-----,-----,-----,-----
;
; THIS PROGRAM WORKS PRETTY FINE BUT NEEDS ANYBODY'S INPUT FOR
; IMPROVEMENT AND FOR EXAMPLE, FOR MAKING A widget INTERFACE FOR
; END USERS.
; IT STILL NEEDS SOME IMPROVEMENT SUCH AS ACCPETING ALL THE
GRAPHIC
; KEYWORD FOR device AND call_procedure.
;
;
;-

```
