
Subject: Easy way to make hard copies at full printer resolution

Posted by [Kristian Kjaer](#) on Fri, 06 Aug 1999 07:00:00 GMT

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My apologies if this is turning into a FAQ:

One thing that makes IDL somewhat inconvenient for `_interactive_` data display

and reduction is the lack of a command (equivalent to `- dare` I say it -

`alt(File)...Print...` in MS-Windows programs) to produce a hard copy of the

current plot with the resolution offered by the printer.

Ideally I'd like to sit and type into the IDL command prompt, using native IDL

commands and my own (wrapper, mainly) routines and, when a useful plot resulted on the screen, make a hard copy of it without any extra trouble.

I just did a quick surf and found some great stuff:

<http://cow.physics.wisc.edu/~craigm/idl/xwindow.pro>

seems to do nearly what I want. (Thanks, Craig B. Markwardt and David Fanning!)

One drawback (from my point of view) is that apparently one can only issue one plotting command for each plot - no `oplot`, `xyouts`, etc. can

be added afterwards. Also, one cannot get several plots on the page with `!p.multi`.

ftp://airs2.ssec.wisc.edu/pub/paulv/idl/Graphics/direct_graphics/wplot.pro
and

ftp://airs2.ssec.wisc.edu/pub/paulv/idl/Graphics/direct_graphics/woplot.pro

(thanks, Paul van Delst!) allow to add an `oplot` to the plot, but then we'd also need `wxyouts`, `wcontour`, etc.

Does anyone know about any other user-routines along these lines?

And, why is it that IDL cannot get round to offering this kind of functionality built-in?

Thanks for any help,
Kristian
