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Subject: Re: Page Size of HP-GL Device  
Posted by [davidf](#) on Mon, 20 Dec 1999 08:00:00 GMT  
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Michael Lefsky (lefsky@fsl.orst.edu) writes:

> I think so- I set them to 0 to check and it didn't change the result.

I don't have any experience at all with the HPGL device, but you have to be just a bit careful with offsets. In PostScript, if you select Landscape mode and set the Offsets to 0 your graphic would be off the PostScript page and you would be staring at quite a few blank sheets of paper coming off your printer before you figured it out, probably. :-)

Try entering IDL fresh and then find out how IDL normally does things:

```
IDL> Set_Plot, 'HP'  
IDL> Help, /Device  
IDL> Device, /Landscape  
IDL> Help, /Device
```

This will give you some insight into how things work. For example, in PostScript you would find that the YOFFSET points in the negative X direction and the XOFFSET points in the positive Y direction. \*That's\* worth knowing!

Anyway, armed with some information you can start fooling around a bit. I wouldn't make offsets 0, usually, since I don't think devices can write right to the edge of the page. Who knows what they might do if you tried?

Sorry I can't offer more specific help.

Best Regards,

David

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David Fanning, Ph.D.  
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Phone: 970-221-0438 E-Mail: [davidf@dfanning.com](mailto:davidf@dfanning.com)  
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>

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Michael Lefsky (lefsky@fsl.orst.edu) writes:

> I am trying to plot IDL generated graphs on our 36" wide HP plotter. I set the  
> X\_size to 91 cm (36") but when the plots come out, the left hand side of the  
> graphs start at the middle of the page, and continue off the right hand side  
> of the page. Has anyone come across this problem, and hopefully, solved it?

I presume you are setting the offsets appropriately?

Cheers,

David

--

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David Fanning wrote:

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Subject: Re: Page Size of HP-GL Device

Posted by [Michael Asten](#) on Tue, 21 Dec 1999 08:00:00 GMT

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You dont say whether you are printing via a windows driver or direct in HPGL. There is a trap for the unwary (ie undocumented feature) if plotting via a windows driver, in IDL5.2 or above. I have encountered a similar problem plotting to A4,A3 printers and to a HP650 plotter (36 inch wide) in idl5.2, via Win95 and windows driver.

A note posted a month ago refers.

Before posting this, I have justed sighted DWFs comment. Seems to tickle a memory cell that the HP650 plotter measures offsets from (0,0) at page centre, so a default (0,0) offset would give the problem you mention. By contrast, A4 and A3 plotter measure offsets from bottom left.

Regards,  
Michael Asten

Michael Lefsky wrote:

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> of the page. Has anyone come across this problem, and hopefully, solved it?  
>  
> Michael Lefsky

Copied from 19 Nov 99

Osamu Sasaki wrote:

> Hi,  
>

```

> This is a simple printing program.
>
> PRO TEST
>     save = !D.NAME
>     SET_PLOT, 'PRINTER'
>
>     ret = DIALOG_PRINTERSETUP()
>
>     HELP, /DEVICE
>     PLOT, INDGEN(10)
>     DEVICE, /CLOSE_DOCUMENT
>
>     SET_PLOT, save
> END
>
> Run this program on IDL 5.2 (Windows).
> Select PostScript printer(output device),
> A3(media), landscape(orientation) and press OK.

```

> The output is like this.

```

> +-----+
> |       |
> |       |
> | ##### |
> | ##### |
> +-----+

```

> (# is plotted area)

> It should be like this.

```

> +-----+
> |#####|
> |#####|
> |#####|
> |#####|
> +-----+

```

> And it works correctly with other printers (LIPS, ESC/Page, PCL, etc.).

```

> Why only PostScript printers ?
> Is there any way to solve this problem ?
>

```

Im not a postscript user, but I had a similar offset problem on direct printing to windows printers when upgrading from idl5.1 (gave correct positioning) to idl5.2 (did not give correct positioning).

It turns out that idl 5.2 introduced a default clip area on the page. I recall a comment from RSI that the change also related to postscript plots, so it is possible your problem is similar to mine.

In order to use the full A3 page on my printer (an HP1000C) I have to use the following:

```
set_plot, "printer",/copy  
r=dialog_printersetup()
```

; Get the page size (dependent upon page type selected from the dialog).

DEVICE, GET\_PAGE\_SIZE=pageSize ; this is a secret command, not in documentation !!

; Set the drawing area based on that page size.

```
DEVICE, XOFFSET=0, YOFFSET=0, XSIZE=pageSize[0],  
YSIZE=pageSize[1],/DEVICE
```

; Note that the DEVICE keyword is required for that last call (since

; pageSize is measured in pixels).

;Note also that you may want to use only a portion of the overall page size. In this case, you can apply a proportional scale to the queried page

; size (and adjust the xoffset and yoffset as you wish).

Does this help?

Regards,  
Michael Asten

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