
Subject: Re: Generating color postscript in IDL
Posted by [Liam E. Gumley](#) on Tue, 21 Nov 2000 08:00:00 GMT
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Randall Skelton wrote:

- > I am looking to generate 24 bit color postscript from IDL 5.3. Does
- > anyone know if there is a way to do this? Perhaps I am being overly
- > ambitious with asking for 24 bit... however, I have written all of my
- > color plotting using 24 bit addresses for colors so if I cannot plot
- > directly in 24 bit postscript, how do I go about converting my plots
- > (which look very nice on my display) into a color postscript file.

One way is to use the PRINTER graphics device, with a color PostScript printer (such as HP Color Laserjet PS) selected for output to a file, e.g.

```
entry_device = !d.name
set_plot, 'PRINTER'
result = dialog_printersetup() ; Select HP Color Laserjet PS to file
device, /true_color
plot, indgen(10), color='FF0000'XL
device, /close_document
set_plot, entry_device
```

This creates a bright blue plot in IDL 5.3 for NT4. The printer dialog takes a bit more patience on UNIX platforms, but it does work.

Cheers,
Liam.
<http://cimss.ssec.wisc.edu/~gumley>

Subject: Re: Generating color postscript in IDL
Posted by [davidf](#) on Tue, 21 Nov 2000 08:00:00 GMT
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Randall Skelton (rhskelto@atm.ox.ac.uk) writes:

- > I am looking to generate 24 bit color postscript from IDL 5.3. Does
- > anyone know if there is a way to do this? Perhaps I am being overly
- > ambitious with asking for 24 bit... however, I have written all of my
- > color plotting using 24 bit addresses for colors so if I cannot plot
- > directly in 24 bit postscript, how do I go about converting my plots
- > (which look very nice on my display) into a color postscript file.

Oh, oh. Should have used some of those ideas and programs in that new book by ol' whatisname. PostScript doesn't do 24-bit color. :-(

That sample chapter he offers for free might help:

http://www.dfanning.com/documents/chapter9_2nd.pdf

Cheers,

David

P.S. Let's just say that one of **my** big things is writing device-independent and color-depth independent code. But, I have to admit, there are days, nay weeks, when I think I'm the only one who cares about it. :-(

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Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>

Toll-Free IDL Book Orders: 1-888-461-0155
