
Subject: Re: beginner's question

Posted by [William Daffer](#) on Tue, 26 Dec 2000 17:10:18 GMT

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You can save plots to a postscript file, (set_plot,'ps' then call device,keywords = values to configure the postscript device with keywords xsize, ysize, xoffset, yoffset, bits_per_pixel, filename, color, inches, encapsulated and landscape: I think that's all of them) but if you are representing your data as an image of some sort, i.e. you're doing a TV or TVSCL to put the data into your plot, it won't save you all that much, particularly in the size of the file. If you're using plot,oplot or plots to get the data onto the plot, you'll benefit from using the Postscript device.

See David Fanning's tutorial on making postscript plots.

<http://www.dfanning.com/documents/tips.html#PostScript>

He has a very nice program called PS_FORM.pro (although he recently seemed to want to disavow any knowledge of it, I think it's quite good) that you can use to configure your Postscript device by presenting a widget in which all the pertinent keywords are configurable, although it may not work in IDL 5.2, you'll just have to give it a try and see.

"David" <dgallego@eucmos.sim.ucm.es> writes:

> Hi all.
>
> I'm working with IDL 5.2 (PC) plotting maps of geographical variables
> (pressure, etc.). I would like to know if it is possible to save the
> graphical output to a vectorial file (such as EPS, Illustrator, WMF).
> Currently I can save the work in TIFF or JPG.
>
> Thanks in advance.
>
> David
> Universidad Complutense de Madrid (Spain)
>
>

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Outside of a dog a book is man's best friend.

Inside of a dog it's too dark to read

Groucho Marx

Subject: Re: beginner's question
Posted by [davidf](#) on Tue, 26 Dec 2000 19:26:23 GMT
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David (dgallego@eucmos.sim.ucm.es) writes:

- > I'm working with IDL 5.2 (PC) plotting maps of geographical variables
- > (pressure, etc.). I would like to know if it is possible to save the
- > graphical output to a vectorial file (such as EPS, Illustrator, WMF).
- > Currently I can save the work in TIFF or JPG.

You can certainly create encapsulated PostScript output.
There is no Illustrator output, but in IDL 5.4 you can
now create WMF format files. (At least on Windows machines,
I don't know if this is available in UNIX. Anyone?)

I like to use the PSConfig program you can find on
my web page to get the PostScript "page" set up
appropriately. For example, if I want to draw
an encapsulated plot on A4 paper, I would do something
like this:

```
keywords = PSConfig(/European, /Encapsulated, Cancel=cancelled)
IF NOT cancelled THEN BEGIN
  thisDevice = !D.Name
  Set_Plot, 'PS'
  Device, _Extra=keywords
  Plot, mydata
  Device, /Close_File
  Set_Plot, thisDevice
ENDIF
```

Cheers,

David

--

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Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>
Toll-Free IDL Book Orders: 1-888-461-0155

Subject: Re: beginner's question
Posted by [Kristian Kjaer](#) on Wed, 27 Dec 2000 09:52:46 GMT
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- > There is no Illustrator output,

Isn't Illustrator format (*.ai) just postscript (*.ps) by another name?
It works to rename a *.ai file to *.ps and then feed it to ghostview or
to a postscript printer.

David Fanning wrote:

- > but in IDL 5.4 you can
- > now create WMF format files. (At least on Windows machines,
- > I don't know if this is available in UNIX. Anyone?)

Strangely, IDL5.4 on linux will NOT create a WMF file.

Kristian Kjær
Risø Natl. Laboratory

Subject: Re: beginner's question

Posted by [Pavel A. Romashkin](#) on Wed, 27 Dec 2000 16:46:54 GMT

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Doesn't WMF stand for *windows* meta file (which is the MS way of saving
contents of clipboard to disk in vector form)? I guess, Unix 5.4 should
then make UMF files :-)

Cheers,
Pavel

David Fanning wrote:

- >
 - > You can certainly create encapsulated PostScript output.
 - > There is no Illustrator output, but in IDL 5.4 you can
 - > now create WMF format files. (At least on Windows machines,
 - > I don't know if this is available in UNIX. Anyone?)
-