Subject: ps export/import
Posted by Martin Schultz on Thu, 04 Jan 2001 21:51:26 GMT
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Hi all,

after struggling with this for ages and a whole day, I finally figured out a way to import ps files generated with IDL into word processing software such as StarOffice or Word. The trouble came because
(a) I usually don't generate postscript with /ENCAPSULATE in IDL, so my files are missing the EPSF-3.0 label in the first line
(b) I generate a lot of landscape plots which come out rotated in IDL ps.

as a brave guy (but only after browsing through newsgroup archives ;-), I decided it should be possible to delete the rotate statement in the ps file without destroying the file. Turns out one has to delete a few more things as well: all bounding boxes, the page orientation and a translate statement. If, thereafter, the honored user sends the crippled file through ps2epsi (viva Unix ;-) she will have a perfect encapsulated file including a preview image.

Attached is a small shell script which automates this process:

psfix filename [outfilename]

If outfilename is not given it will be the basefilename of filename + '.eps'

Good night,

Martin

--
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```
#!/bin/sh
#
# shell script to fix postscript files that were generated in IDL
# with landscape orientation to create epsi files that can be
# imported into StarOffice
#
```

```
# Author: Martin Schultz, MPI, 04 Jan 2001
# The output file will be <filename>.eps unless otherwise specified


# check arguments

if [ .$1. == .. ] ; then
   echo Usage: psfix inputfile [outputfile]
   exit
else
   infile=$1
fi
echo Converting $infile

if [ ! -s $infile ] ; then
   echo Input file $infile not found!
   exit
fi

if [ .$2. == .. ] ; then
   outfile=`basename $infile .ps`.eps
else
   outfile=$2
fi
echo generating EPS file $outfile


# remove bounding box and orientation statements
sed 's/%%BoundingBox:.*//' $infile > tmp___001.ps
sed 's/%%PageOrientation: Landscape//' tmp___001.ps > tmp___002.ps
rm -f tmp___001.ps
sed 's/%%PageBoundingBox:.*//' tmp___002.ps > tmp___003.ps
rm -f tmp___002.ps

# remove rotate and translate statements
sed 's/[0-9 ]*translate//' tmp___003.ps > tmp___004.ps
rm -f tmp___003.ps
sed 's/[0-9 ]*rotate//' tmp___004.ps > tmp___005.ps
rm -f tmp___004.ps

# convert to epsi
ps2epsi tmp___005.ps
rm -f tmp___005.ps

# rename
mv tmp___005.epsi $outfile
rm -f tmp___005.epsi
```

File Attachments
1) psfix, downloaded 136 times

Subject: Re: ps export/import
Posted by Wim Bouwman on Thu, 11 Jan 2001 06:07:47 GMT
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Another easy way in an windows environment is to read the IDL produced post-script files in Correl-draw and after correcting your graph's (making the lines thicker, annotating the graph and putting the numbers on the axis at the correct positions) it can be exported in WMF-format.

Martin Schultz wrote:

> Hi all,
>
> after struggling with this for ages and a whole day, I finally
> figured out a way to import ps files generated with IDL into word
> processing software such as StarOffice or Word.

--

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Subject: Re: ps export/import
Posted by R.Bauer on Thu, 11 Jan 2001 12:30:26 GMT
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"Wim G. Bouwman" wrote:
>
> Another easy way in an windows environment is to read the IDL produced
> post-script files in Correl-draw and after correcting your graph's (making the
> lines thicker, annotating the graph and putting the numbers on the axis at the
> correct positions) it can be exported in WMF-format.
>

That's not easier that's horrible.

The best is to use latex!

regards
Reimar

> Martin Schultz wrote:
>
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>>
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>> figured out a way to import ps files generated with IDL into word
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Subject: Re: ps export/import
Posted by Liam E. Gumley on Thu, 11 Jan 2001 15:44:49 GMT
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"Wim G. Bouwman" wrote:
> Another easy way in an windows environment is to read the IDL produced
> post-script files in Correl-draw and after correcting your graph's (making the
> lines thicker, annotating the graph and putting the numbers on the axis at the
> correct positions) it can be exported in WMF-format.

Since you mention WMF, I thought I'd mention that IDL 5.4 supports a Windows Metafile graphics device (set_plot, 'METAFILE'). It might be just the thing for producing graphics files which can be insrted into presentation applications such as Powerpoint. The advantage of WMF files is that they can be resized without loss of resolution, and they are recognized by Powerpoint on both Windows and MacOS platforms (and presumably by StarOffice as well).

However for insertion into documents (e.g. Word) I still create Postscript files in IDL, and then convert them to EPS with TIFF preview in GSView. David has written a nice article which describes the method I use:

http://www.dfanning.com/tips/postscript_preview.html

Cheers,

Liam.
http://cimss.ssec.wisc.edu/~gumley

Subject: Re: ps export/import
Posted by Craig Markwardt on Thu, 11 Jan 2001 17:43:40 GMT
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"Wim G. Bouwman" <w.g.bouwman@iri.tudelft.nl> writes:
> Another easy way in an windows environment is to read the IDL produced
> post-script files in Correl-draw and after correcting your graph's (making the
> lines thicker, annotating the graph and putting the numbers on the axis at the
> correct positions) it can be exported in WMF-format.

I may have mentioned this before, but I have found, experimentally of course, that the thickness of the lines should be increased bya factor of 3, when going from the screen to the printed output.

When I make plotting scripts, I check for the output device and do the multiplication if it's to the PS device.

Craig

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---------- ----------
Craig B. Markwardt, Ph.D. EMAIL: craigmnet@cow.physics.wisc.edu
Astrophysics, IDL, Finance, Derivatives | Remove "net" for better response
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Subject: Re: ps export/import
Posted by Richard French on Fri, 12 Jan 2001 03:07:30 GMT
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"Liam E. Gumley" wrote:

> Since you mention WMF, I thought I'd mention that IDL 5.4 supports a
> Windows Metafile graphics device (set_plot, 'METAFILE'). It might be
> just the thing for producing graphics files which can be insrted into
> presentation applications such as Powerpoint. The advantage of WMF files
> is that they can be resized without loss of resolution, and they are
> recognized by Powerpoint on both Windows and MacOS platforms (and
> presumably by StarOffice as well).
>

Just tried this out and it works like a champ. Only problem is that

METAFILE is not supported in the UNIX version of IDL, so if you are using UNIX, you are out of luck. Seems a pity. I was able to insert them in PowerPoint and MSWord just fine. Nice to know about - thanks, Liam.

Dick

Subject: Re: ps export/import
Posted by hahn on Mon, 15 Jan 2001 13:46:56 GMT
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"Richard G. French" <rfrench@wellesley.edu> wrote:

> Just tried this out and it works like a champ. Only problem is that
> METAFILE is not supported in the UNIX version of IDL, so if you are
> using UNIX, you are out of luck.

There is an old ISO standard for a graphics metafile called CGM, computer graphics metafile. It can contain both vector and raster graphics. The IDL interface is set_plot, "cgm" and you should follow it by calling device with those keywords you need for that application.

At least vector gaphics - that's what I use - are supported by Word and many other programs. I'm not so familiar with the Unix world so it depends on the programs you use there.

Norbert
