
Subject: thumbnails

Posted by [nobody](#) on Thu, 01 Mar 2001 18:20:09 GMT

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Does anyone know how to produce *.eps files with thumbnails (in IDL 5.x)?

--

Steve S.

yubdub

steve@CLOTHESmailaps.org

remove CLOTHES before replying

Subject: Re: thumbnails

Posted by [nobody](#) on Tue, 06 Mar 2001 01:20:44 GMT

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On Thu, 01 Mar 2001 18:20:09 -0000, steve <nobody@nowhere.com> wrote:

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>

> --

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Thanks for all the replies :^D !! I'm running IDL 5.2 on a Linux box, I haven't updated to newer versions (have the CD's + maintenance contract) because it looks like there are no major improvements and several concessions, like GIF support. So I can't use the thumbnail option of 5.4, however good or bad, er I'm not that desperate. I looked at Liam's response about epstool, my version of Linux came with ghostscript 5.1, ghostview 3.5.8, no epstool, though. There is a tool called ps2epsi, which supposedly adds a TIFF thumbnail, but I didn't get it to work. I went to the link in Liam's post and grabbed the tarball for the compiled Linux binary, unpacked it and tried it (without installing), and it does work. My goal was the following: since I write all my papers in TeX, and submit figures in Postscript, why should I do all the double work of re-creating all those figures for presentations? So I grabbed the epstool and starting experimenting:

```
[hostname dir]$ ./epstool -w -zppmraw -ot15.eps fig7d.ps
```

took my idl.ps files and made them into previewable *.eps files that do show up in powerpoint. The preview is not too bad, though my graphics are a mix of bitmap images and lineart, like graphs. I'm pretty sure the line art would look a lot better if it was vectorized in the preview image, which I don't

think it is, it's looks like it's just bitmapped.

So, Liam, David, ... , is this the best I can do? Would the IDL routines do a vectorized version of the lineart, or just bitmaps? Thanks again for the tips so far ...

--

Steve S.

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Subject: Re: thumbnails

Posted by [davidf](#) on Tue, 06 Mar 2001 02:14:52 GMT

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steve (nobody@nowhere.com) writes:

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I think bitmap is the best we can hope for in the present incarnation. :-(

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting

Phone: 970-221-0438 E-Mail: davidf@dfanning.com

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

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

Subject: Re: thumbnails

Posted by [nobody](#) on Tue, 06 Mar 2001 17:17:34 GMT

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On Mon, 5 Mar 2001 19:14:52 -0700, David Fanning <davidf@dfanning.com> wrote:

> steve (nobody@nowhere.com) writes:

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As I suspected, thanks for confirming that. As long as I'm talking to a guru: is there an image format I can use that will display nice in say, powerpoint, and also produce nice postscript output? I write all my routines to display to my X display (in Linux) and then I switch to the PS device and send everything to a .ps file, making some minor adjustments for special cases (like bitmapped images mixed with line-art). This makes very nice postscript output, but now I'm trying to fix what should not need to be fixed: I'm taking a scalable format (postscript) and producing a non-scalable thumbnail (bitmap) for display. I don't want to just dump my X display to a bitmap format like tiff, gif, jpeg. Since I'm using a *nix-like system, is there something else I should be doing? I'm a little afraid of things like Windows Meta File, since Win-xx usually makes postscript a real chore, and actually, I don't see it in my IDL help. Any suggestions?

--
Steve S.

yubdub
steve@CLOTHESmailaps.org
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Subject: Re: thumbnails
Posted by [davidf](#) on Tue, 06 Mar 2001 17:44:54 GMT
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You might try something like CGM output. Some software is able to read and display those files nicely. I've never used it myself.

I tend to use JPEG files for nearly everything. Sometimes if I need great looking viewgraphs I'll do the "scale everything by 4" trick that I have talked about previously in this newsgroup. I use the Z-buffer at 4x resolution, use true-type fonts, set all thickness, character sizes, etc to 4x. Take a snapshot, reduce the image by 4x, and make a JPEG file out of that. It produces some lovely viewgraphs...sometimes. :-)

I'm not sure you are going to have your cake and eat it too with IDL. (Or with your computer, for that matter. The only computer I know of that was fabulous at showing great looking preview images was the Next computer using Display PostScript as it's rendering language.)

Cheers,

David

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Subject: Re: thumbnails

Posted by [mchinand](#) on Tue, 06 Mar 2001 17:50:59 GMT

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In article <MPG.150ed0047c674e33989d7f@news.frii.com>,
David Fanning <davidf@dfanning.com> wrote:
> steve (nobody@nowhere.com) writes:
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What I have used to do this is convert the eps file with pstoeit to the
.fig format and then edit this file (change linethickness, fontsize, add a
background, etc) with xfig. After doing that you can save (and scale) it
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>
> --Mike Chinander
> --
> --
> Michael Chinander University of Chicago
> m-chinander@uchicago.edu (773)834-5101 (Voice) (773)702-0371 (Fax)

that was helpful, Mike, thanks. I looked at xfig and pstoeedit, it will be useful in the future for me. However, as I used vector-drawn fonts in most of the figures (too lazy to use psfonts, usually they change the drawing area) importing into xfig the vector fonts are innumerable line-segments that seems a waste of time to go and delete-edit on a character by character basis. If I had used ps-fonts, this might have been easier. I was hoping to script the whole job, which looks like it could be done, but the forementioned weakness makes me think I'll just bag it. I find converting to pdf format and using acrobat might be the best solution, unlike MS-powerpoint (or even Sun-Star Office), it renders the pdf-from-ps pretty well. I'm going to use the ps2psf command line on my linux system. pstoeedit web-page says that one weakness of pstoeedit is that it bit-maps all but a select set of standard postscript fonts. If I had a nickel for every font problem I've encountered over the years !!!!.....

--
Steve S.

yubdub
steve@CLOTHESmailaps.org
remove CLOTHES before replying

Subject: Re: thumbnails

Posted by [jeyadev](#) on Tue, 06 Mar 2001 23:10:10 GMT

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In article <MPG.150ed0047c674e33989d7f@news.frii.com>,
David Fanning <davidf@dfanning.com> wrote:

> steve (nobody@nowhere.com) writes:

>

> You might try something like CGM output. Some

> software is able to read and display those

> files nicely. I've never used it myself.

I use this a lot to include stuff in (yuck!) Word documents.

But, beware of WYSINWYG (trade mark of a large corporateion).

The font is messed up and legends in the PS run outside the
plot window, etc. I used to use HPGL to embed, but there is
the fear of it not being supported. Worked like a charm,
though.

--

Surendar Jeyadev

jeyadev@wrc.xerox.com

Subject: Re: thumbnails

Posted by [nobody](#) on Tue, 06 Mar 2001 23:44:21 GMT

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On Tue, 06 Mar 2001 17:50:59 GMT, Mike Chinander <mchinand@midway.uchicago.edu>
wrote:

>

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> .fig format and then edit this file (change linethickness, fontsize, add a

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>

> --Mike Chinander

> --

> --

> Michael Chinander University of Chicago

> m-chinander@uchicago.edu (773)834-5101 (Voice) (773)702-0371 (Fax)

Thanks Mike, for the posts and emails. I've managed to patch a few of the
figures using the pstoeit-->[.fig file]-->xfig-->[change linewidths,fonts]
-->[export to new image file format], it is an interesting program. I'll

have to weigh the pro's and cons before I decide what to do next, but I appreciate all the help from you and others on this ng, thanks. In the windows-IDL world, I'm wondering, are things this bad? Is there a good vector graphics file format that IDL can readily export to? I can always add routines to spit out a bitmap whenever I generate a postscript figure, but naturally, I would be even worse off than I am now (at least the ps IS scalable).

--

Steve S.

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Subject: Re: thumbnails
Posted by [Paul Krummel](#) on Wed, 07 Mar 2001 02:20:31 GMT
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Hi Steve,

Well, I pretty much work exclusively in the "Windows" world now. Like David F., my saviour is the PC version of gsvieview! The latest version of this (V3.6) is great! I usually produce my plot in postscript (with ps fonts) then use gsvieview to convert it to a PNG file (portable network graphics -> GIF replacement, but better). I can even spawn gsvieview from IDL to do the conversion using the command line options of gsvieview. If the plot I want is to be included in powerpoint or word then I convert the postscript file to a 300 DPI PNG image (usually with 256 colours). Once this is imported into powerpoint and displayed on the screen it looks great! Even when imported into word and printed on a postscript printer, the resolution is also quite impressive. I have also written a quick and dirty IDL routine to crop the images to remove excess white space if needed. I prefer PNG to JPEG as JPEG is a "lossy" format. The size of the 300 DPI PNG file is typically only ~40Kb for a simple xy plot with a line on it. Looking at the image on screen at full resolution it is quite large, but this scales nicely when imported into word etc.

If I wanted to produce publication quality plots, then as has been mentioned, I use gsvieview to convert my PS file to EPS and then add a preview to the EPS file and import this into word. The preview may look a bit crappy, but I only need it to see how the placement looks etc and of course, when printed, it prints the PS file itself.

The current pc version of gsvieview can also convert PS files to a whole swag of vector formats aswell! Which for some applications is also

very useful.

Hope, this helps or gives you some insight.
Cheers, Paul

"steve" <nobody@nowhere.com> wrote in message
news:<slrn9aatll.6kf.nobody@pooh.nrel.gov>...
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Subject: Re: thumbnails
Posted by [Richard French](#) on Fri, 09 Mar 2001 00:23:46 GMT
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Paul Krummel wrote:

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> Hi Steve,
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> Well, I pretty much work exclusively in the "Windows" world now.
> Like David F., my saviour is the PC version of ghostview! The latest
> version of this (V3.6) is great!

Could you tell us where to find this latest version, Paul? You've convinced me!

Thanks,
Dick French

Subject: Re: thumbnails
Posted by [Paul Krummel](#) on Fri, 09 Mar 2001 09:07:25 GMT

Sure! You can find ghostview V3.6 and ghostscript V6.5 (AFPL) from here:
<http://www.cs.wisc.edu/~ghost/>

You have to install ghostscript first then ghostview, it's pretty straightforward.

Cheers, Paul

"Richard G. French" <rfrench@wellesley.edu> wrote in message
news:3AA82292.3B8FFF5C@wellesley.edu...

>

>

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