
Subject: Re: Postscript in IDL ..

Posted by [davidf](#) on Fri, 01 Jun 2001 13:30:17 GMT

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R.Aspey (raspey@liv.ac.uk) writes:

- > I am looking at using IDL to publish some pictures in a
- > TeX document. Lets say I have data sets in either
- > CSV or tab delimited.
- >
- > Can I produce postscript or EPS files directly and
- > if so does anyone have a script they could send me
- > with most of the stuff in to save me having to read manuals..
- >
- > What is the default data file format used for ascii import using IDL?
- >
- > A few things but I dont really want to spend my life
- > learning things I may only use once every now and then
- >
- > Any comments would be very much appreciated.

I think you need to pay a competent professional to handle this for you. But it wouldn't be easy. The documentation is awful, and they would have to plow through it, too. Still, I can't imagine tab delimited data taking more than 2-3 minutes. The PostScript output is probably another 30 seconds. You might have to pay as much as \$5-\$10 to get this handled. :-(

How about something like this:

```
data = FltArr(ofWhateverSize)
OpenR, lun, 'mydatafile.txt', /Get_Lun
ReadF, lun, data
Free_Lun, lun
thisDevice = !P.Name
Set_Plot, "PS"
Device, /Encapsulated
Plot, data
Device, /Close
Set_Plot, thisDevice
```

It can be fancier than that. But that's about it.

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: Postscript in IDL ..
Posted by [R.Bauer](#) on Fri, 01 Jun 2001 13:49:24 GMT
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Dear R.A.

"R.Aspey" wrote:

>
> I am looking at using IDL to publish some pictures in a
> TeX document. Lets say I have data sets in either
> CSV or tab delimited.

You may use our read_data_file,

http://www.fz-juelich.de/icg/icg1/idl_icglib/idl_source/idl_html/dbase/download/read_data_file.tar.gz

This routine reads directly a whole datafile into a structure.
You have only to select the filename.

Restriction:
data is a tabular without text

For licensing please have a look at

http://www.fz-juelich.de/icg/icg1/idl_icglib/idl_lib_intro.html

>
> Can I produce postscript or EPS files directly and
> if so does anyone have a script they could send me
> with most of the stuff in to save me having to read manuals..

Yes!

To get a very good output as EPS or PS or on Screen we have
developed a plot environment
I have written a publication with lots of examples to explain this in
more detail.

<http://www.fz-juelich.de/zb/text/publikation/juel3786.html>

PRO example

```
D=read_data_file('file.txt')

x=(d.data[0,*])[*]
y1=(d.data[1,*])[*]

plotprepare,plot

plot.stamp=0
plot.psflag=2
plot.psfile='example'

plotinit,plot
plotxy,plot,x=x,y=y1
plotend,plot
END
```

With the plot.psflag you can switch between different output devices

for example
0 is output on screen
1 is PS
2 is EPS
and some others

the plotxy handles the thickness of lines, charsize and symbols,
page layout and positions for all different outputs.

So you get on each device a very good result.

The package includes XY, error bars, probability, 2D, XY_2D, Maps and 3D
at the moment.

>
> What is the default data file format used for ascii import using IDL?

there is no default, but it's always good not mixing text and numbers
in a table.

>
> A few things but I don't really want to spend my life
> learning things I may only use once every now and then

How old are you ?

>
> Any comments would be very much appreciated.
>
> regards
> R.A.
> raspey@liv.ac.uk

cia
Reimar

--
Reimar Bauer

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<http://www.fz-juelich.de/icg/icg1/>

=====

a IDL library at Forschungszentrum Jülich
http://www.fz-juelich.de/icg/icg1/idl_icglib/idl_lib_intro.html

<http://www.fz-juelich.de/zb/text/publikation/juel3786.html>

Subject: Re: Postscript in IDL ..
Posted by [Martin Schultz](#) on Fri, 01 Jun 2001 18:30:29 GMT
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"R.Aspey" <raspey@liv.ac.uk> writes:

> I am looking at using IDL to publish some pictures in a
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>
> regards
> R.A.
> raspey@liv.ac.uk

>

On my browsable library catalogue <http://www.mpimet.mpg.de/~schultz.martin/idl> you will find several tools for reading ASCII files and also some for postscript output. Producing postscript in IDL is very easy, but can also become quite tricky. It's easy as long as you don't care too much about landscape vs. portrait and where your bounding box sits. But if you want to control these things, it might take a good part of your life ;-(I'd recommend David's fsc_psconfig program -- I still can't understand that he is so shy in advertising it. .. OK, there have been a few bugs in the past, but I am convinced they are fixed now.

Cheers,

Martin

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```

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```
