
Subject: Multiple PS-files?

Posted by [condor](#) on Fri, 07 Jun 2002 22:14:07 GMT

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Imagine you're working on some big, honking GB-sized file with some equally big, honking IDL-process. You want to produce four PS-files in the end, each will contain about a hundred pages worth of stuff.

As you're sifting through the data, you perform lots of computations on the individual data-items one-by-one (so the problem is nicely serialized) and after each item you perform certain tests that tell you what PS-file you'd like to append this particular plot to.

Currently, I simply run my process four times: In the beginning I "set_plot" and "device,/filename='...'" and such and then plot into this PS-file only if the given item should go into it. Then on the second pass I choose a different filename and plot the second type of results. And so on.

However, each run takes about six hours and my data-chunks keep getting bigger and bigger and I'd really like to do all the plotting in a single pass -- there's absolutely no reason to process all the data four times other than that I cannot think of a way to output into/append to four different PS-files in a single process.

I.e. is there something that is morally equivalent to

```
device,/number-one
plot,such-n-such
device,/number-two
plot,something-else
devive,/number-one ; first one again
plot,another-such-n-such
```

??

Anybody got any ideas? It seems like a fabulously obvious question/problem to me ...
