
Subject: Re: how to input idl figure to MS office
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Fri, 26 Jul 2002 16:40:27 GMT
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tom (tom2959@21cn.com) writes:

> The best figure form generated from IDL is PS, but it is not easy to
> use PS in MS office. How to do that?
>
> (I use coreldraw to open PS, then paste figure to office, but the line
> is too thin in coreldraw, although it is quick good in PS_ghostview)

You might be interested in this article on my web page:

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

Cheers,

David

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David W. Fanning, Ph.D.
Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.
Phone: 970-221-0438, E-mail: david@dfanning.com
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>
Toll-Free IDL Book Orders: 1-888-461-0155

Subject: Re: how to input idl figure to MS office
Posted by [Randall Skelton](#) on Mon, 29 Jul 2002 09:44:03 GMT
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If it is a direct graphics plot you are trying to use, I would first save it as a ps/eps file using `set_plot`, 'ps' and then convert the ps/eps file using CorelDraw or Adobe Illustrator. If you are running windows, you should save the file in the windows metafile format (.wmf) while if you are using a macintosh then a pict file (.pct) format is ideal. Both of these formats are 'metafiles' which means they can hold EITHER vector-drawn or image-drawn data. Good graphics programs like CorelDraw and Illustrator can import IDL generated postscript and export a correctly drawn, vector-based metafile. Most other programs will simply mangle your ps/eps plots into images and generate rasterized metafile images. If you find the lines too thin when you follow the above, you can try setting the line thickness in IDL (rather tedious IMHO) or you can simply adjust the plot in CorelDraw to suite your taste. I agree that wmf files tend to have lines which are too thin (especailly for powerpoint).

Cheers,
Randall

On Sat, 27 Jul 2002, tom wrote:

> The best figure form generated from IDL is PS, but it is not easy to
> use PS in MS office. How to do that?
>
> (I use CorelDraw to open PS, then paste figure to office, but the line
> is too thin in CorelDraw, although it is quick good in PS_ghostview)
>

Subject: Re: how to input idl figure to MS office

Posted by [MKatz843](#) on Mon, 29 Jul 2002 22:31:32 GMT

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I hope the following comments may help for the Postscript route. This advice applied to all Mac versions of Word, and perhaps PC versions as well... I do this routine daily.

I've found that it helps to import an EPS file into Word using

"Insert > Picture > From File"

Then make sure you select Encapsulated Postscript (EPS) from the file type menu before selecting the picture in the menu. This avoids having Word mangle (I mean interpret) the image into its own format. You can choose the insert a "link" to the image. That will keep the size of the word file way down (if your graphic is large) but you have to be sure not to misplace the EPS file.

Once imported, don't expect to see a beautiful representation of the graphic on screen. You'll see a low-res preview if you've created one from IDL. Otherwise you may see a blank frame or nearly blank frame where the image should be. DO NOT double-click an EPS graphic in Word--it will try to let you edit it.

If you print to a Postscript printer, the results should be perfect. If you want to output to PDF, you **must** output to a postscript file first, then "distill" with Adobe Distiller. The quick PDF output options in Mac OS X will not render the EPS properly (it places the low-res preview instead.)

If you'll be printing to a non-Postscript printer, I suggest creating a PDF from Word, then print from the PDF to be able to use an EPS file.

Hope this helps,

