Subject: Re: Importing IDL plots to Powerpoint on Mac
Posted by K. Bowman on Fri, 18 Feb 2005 14:55:45 GMT

In article <1108736592.609120.299650@g14g2000cwa.googlegroups.com>,
 "wcramer" <wcramer@fit.edu> wrote:

> What's the best way to transfer IDL plots to Powerpoint so that they
> look nice? All of the ways that I've tried so far don't look very
> presentable.

I don't have a solution for Powerpoint. I have always attributed
graphics issues to Powerpoint doing dumb things with PS and PDF files.
(Intentionally or not, who can say?)

Keynote imports PDF files very easily. Just drag them onto the slide
and re-size as needed. Keynote does smooth bitmaps embedded in PDF
files (see thread from a week or two ago). This is usually
undetectable, unless the bitmaps are very low resolution. You can
export your Keynote presentation to PDF (or even Powerpoint).

Another option is TeX. If you know TeX, you can make your presentation
directly to PDF and present it with Adobe Reader. The learning curve
for Tex is steep at first, but once you figure out how to use it, it's
great. I no longer fight with MS Word. Even better, it's free. I
recommend TeXShop

   http://www.uoregon.edu/~koch/texshop/texshop.html,

which is a slick TeX front-end for OS X, but there are others.

A nifty little program for adding math to presentations is the Latex
Equation Editor. Enter the Tex commands in the window, hit the button
to typeset the equation, drag it into the Keynote window.

http://evolve.lse.ac.uk/software/EquationEditor/

Ken Bowman

Subject: Re: Importing IDL plots to Powerpoint on Mac
Posted by Paul Van Delst[1] on Fri, 18 Feb 2005 15:34:10 GMT

wcramer wrote:
> What's the best way to transfer IDL plots to Powerpoint so that they
> look nice? All of the ways that I've tried so far don't look very
> presentable.

I create PS output - that seems to produce the nicest output in IDL. I then use the ImageMagick utility "convert" to create a gif/png file from the PS file. These image files I then import into ppt. Or stick them on a webpage. Works well - and you can do it all in your IDL code via the SPAWN command.

The onscreen fonts in IDL are too primitive to do a straight screen capture (e.g. via IDL's tvread or ImageMagick's import) to an image file (although I don't think that's necessarily an IDL problem).

paulv

--
Paul van Delst
CIMSS @ NOAA/NCEP/EMC

Subject: Re: Importing IDL plots to Powerpoint on Mac
Posted by kashyap on Fri, 18 Feb 2005 23:29:26 GMT
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In article <1108736592.609120.299650@g14g2000cwa.googlegroups.com>,
wcramer <wcramer@fit.edu> wrote:
> What's the best way to transfer IDL plots to Powerpoint so that they
> look nice? All of the ways that I've tried so far don't look very
> presentable.
>
> Thanks

One way that seems to work reasonably well is to plot on a
large X window, plot with thick lines and large characters,
grab with tvrd and write to jpeg, and then shrink to fit in
powerpoint. e.g.,
 window,xsize=640*2,ysize=480*2
 !p.thick=2 & !p.charsize=1.5
 plot,...,thick=!p.thick*2,charsize=!p.charsize*2
 write_jpeg,jpegfilename,tvrd(/true),/true

If you use the Z device, you can make the window even larger
and the lines thicker.

Vinay
--

 _____
 _____
kashyap@head.cfa.harvard.edu   617 495 7173 [CfA/P-145] 617 496 7173 [F]

Subject: Re: Importing IDL plots to Powerpoint on Mac
Posted by R.Bauer on Sat, 19 Feb 2005 12:16:34 GMT
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wcramer wrote:

> What's the best way to transfer IDL plots to Powerpoint so that they
> look nice? All of the ways that I've tried so far don't look very
> presentable.
>
> Thanks

We are using

pstoimg -type png -aaliastext -flip r90 -density 150 file1.ps file2.ps ...

-crop is another useful parameter

man pstoimg

NAME
    pstoimg - Convert a PostScript file to a bitmap image
    using Ghostscript and the Netpbm utilities

DESCRIPTION
    pstoimg iterates over the given input files and runs them
    through Ghostscipt. The resulting pnm (portable anymap
    files) are processed with different Netpbm tools (crop-
    ping, color mapping, aligning, ...) and finally converted
    into (currently) either GIF or PNG format. The bitmaps can
    now be included e.g. in WWW pages.

    The PostScript file is converted as is. If a valid bound-
    ing box is found (EPS format), then only this area is con-
    verted. The image is not cropped by default.

....

cheers
Reimar

--
Forschungszentrum Juelich
email: R.Bauer@fz-juelich.de
http://www.fz-juelich.de/icg/icg-i/
 == ======
a IDL library at ForschungsZentrum Juelich
 http://www.fz-juelich.de/icg/icg-i/idl_icglib/idl_lib_intro. html

Subject: Re: Importing IDL plots to Powerpoint on Mac
Posted by wcramer on Mon, 21 Feb 2005 14:27:23 GMT

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Thanks for all of your suggestions. I've been itching to try them, but can't seem to be able to install the necessary Ghostscript utility. I'm on a Mac OS X machine with no C compiler to compile the source. Is there a way to get the binaries that I need?

Thanks