
Subject: Re: ps file with text

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Mon, 02 Oct 2006 18:11:44 GMT

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adisn123@yahoo.com writes:

- > Using "set_plot = ps" I created a ps file.
- > I'm trying to resize the ps image and add some text (such as Figure1.
- > ~~~) in my word text of lab paper.
- > How do I take the ps file and add text into it?

The short answer is, you don't. :-)

You might try making your PostScript file an encapsulated PostScript file:

```
Set_Plot, 'PS'  
Device, /Encapsulated
```

That will allow you to resize it in the software you are using to write your paper. But you want to write the Figure caption in your Word (or Framemaker or whatever) software, NOT in the PS file you create in IDL.

Cheers,

David

P.S. I don't usually try to resize PostScript files in Framemaker (what I write my papers and book in). I usually make the file the correct size to begin with, then add the figure captions as part of a "graphics table" that I have created in Framemaker.

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.

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

Seppure ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

Subject: Re: ps file with text

Posted by [Benjamin Hornberger](#) on Mon, 02 Oct 2006 18:22:58 GMT

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> Thanks.
>

Hi,

to add text into the PS file while creating in IDL you would use the XYOUTS command. Note that on the PS device you probably don't want to use device coordinates to position the text, but rather data or normal coordinates. To change the size, you can use the command "device, xsize=..., ysize=..." after "set_plot, 'ps'", even though you can usually scale the figure later when inserting it into the document.

Another option would be to use iTools instead of direct graphics to visualize the data and then export to PS. In iTools you can easily add simple annotations. You can save the iTool and edit it later, which I find very useful.

To edit a PS file after it has been created, many people use Adobe Illustrator (which is quite expensive). I believe free programs to edit PS files are, for example, Xfig or Inkscape, but I don't have any experience with them.

As a side note, text like "Figure 1" often appears in the figure *caption* instead of the the figure itself, in which case you would use the text processing software (Word, LaTeX, ...) to do that (which can also take care of automatic numbering etc.).

Good luck,
Benjamin

Subject: Re: ps file with text
Posted by [adisn123](#) on Tue, 03 Oct 2006 16:55:59 GMT
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Thanks for the help.
Both ways work great!

Benjamin Hornberger wrote:

> adisn123@yahoo.com wrote:
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> Good luck,
> Benjamin
