
Subject: Writing eps files from iplot

Posted by [John Mariska](#) on Wed, 23 Dec 2009 16:00:55 GMT

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Producing decent eps plots for publication requires extensive control over all aspects of the plot, such as the x- and y-sizes, the font sizes, etc. I've always exercised this control using direct graphics. The downside, of course, is what you see on the screen is not what ends up in the eps file when you change the device--something we have all asked to be fixed for so many years I've lost count. Once or twice a year, I try to use itools to do publication quality plots. I just tried again, and things have improved a bit, but not enough. Does anyone know how to specify the x- and y-sizes of the bounding box in an eps file written from an iplot window? All I can seem to get is 6"x4".

John M.

Subject: Re: Writing eps files from iplot

Posted by [John M.](#) on Fri, 25 Dec 2009 13:54:45 GMT

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On Dec 24, 12:20 pm, JM <j...@dmu.ac.uk> wrote:

- > Years ago I wrote (for myself) a set of routines to work transparently
- > between X-windows and the PS device. They were written in total
- > ignorance of David Fanning's routines (and no doubt all the poorer for
- > that), but I've carried on using them because they cover my needs.
- > Just like with David's routines, there's a 'head' and a 'tail'
- > procedure that goes into every plotting procedure. The end-goal was
- > nearly always either hardcopy or PDF files.
- >
- > Put simply, the user specifies all page, plot and image dimensions in
- > cm and, in the resulting PS/EPS file, the dimensions will be exactly
- > what the user specified. Any windows that are displayed are scaled to
- > very nearly match the specified dimensions - there's an associated
- > image display routine that resamples images for display to the window
- > device, but of course 'prints' the image at the full resolution to the
- > PS device.
- >
- > The extra coding is minimal, and now it's second nature to work up my
- > plots in cm space - I find that especially useful for multiple plots
- >
- > Your welcome to the code - let me know.
- >
- > -John Mardaljevic
- >
- > PS. Numerous examples of plots to exact cm co-ordinates in thesis
- > chapters 3 to 6 here:

>

> <http://www.iesd.dmu.ac.uk/~jm/doku.php?id=resources:thesis>

Your approach is more or less what I already do in direct graphics. It is just plain annoying that we all have to go through this complexity to get the results we want and journal editors expect. That is why I keep wandering back to itools every so often (and why I keep playing with and moving toward matplotlib).

I've played some more with pp's suggestion about just setting the aspect ratio and run into all sorts of complications. For example, the margin keyword does not work consistently when combined with the dimension keyword. I finally found that I can control the aspect ratio exactly and adjust the margins by adjusting the `viewplane_rect`. This was once a bit painful--there is code at Dave Fanning's web site for doing it. Now it is much easier using the `igetproperty` and `isetproperty` procedures.

John M.

Subject: Re: Writing eps files from iplot
Posted by [JM\[1\]](#) on Sat, 26 Dec 2009 13:10:00 GMT
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Exactly why I stuck with direct graphics - I decided that, for my purposes, it was easier to cup/paste/modify code than to wrestle with itools etc.

Best of luck,

-John Mardaljevic
