
Subject: PS file is huge!

Posted by [Justin Cantrell](#) on Tue, 25 May 2010 21:25:02 GMT

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Why are my PS files getting so large? I'm doing a simple plot of ~25 points and the file size is 7.5MB!

Here's my code:

```
DEVICE,file=string('cluster1.ps'),bits=8
plot,dist,fe,psym=8,yrange=[-0.2,0.3],ytitle='[Fe/H]',xtitle='Distance
(pc)',charthick=4,thick=3,symsize=1,ystyle=1
oplot,x,two,linestyle=2
oplot,x,three,linestyle=2
oplot,x,half,linestyle=2
xyouts,500,two+.005,'2X',charthick=4
xyouts,500,three+.005,'3X',charthick=4
xyouts,500,half+.005,'0.5X',charthick=4
```

```
temp=findgen(11)+1
device,/close
```

Subject: Re: PS file is huge!

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Wed, 26 May 2010 17:06:08 GMT

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Justin Cantrell writes:

> Ok, I dropped the plotsym and changed to psym=6. File size is still
> 7.6MB. I'm lost.

Humm. Me, too. :-(

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.

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

Sepore ma de ni thue. ("Perhaps thos speakest truth.")

Subject: Re: PS file is huge!

Posted by [jkeller](#) on Thu, 27 May 2010 09:35:36 GMT

Could it possibly depend on the font you are using for your annotations?

Subject: Re: PS file is huge!

Posted by [Mariolncandenza](#) on Thu, 27 May 2010 16:24:06 GMT

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On May 25, 2:25 pm, Justin Cantrell <justinrcantr...@gmail.com> wrote:

> Why are my PS files getting so large? I'm doing a simple plot of ~25
> points and the file size is 7.5MB!

Something is not as it seems.

IDL> HELP,dist,fe,x,two,three,half

Also, your code snippet doesn't include SET_PLOT,'PS'.

Subject: Re: PS file is huge!

Posted by [Karl\[1\]](#) on Thu, 27 May 2010 22:33:17 GMT

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On May 27, 10:24 am, Ed Hyer <ejh...@gmail.com> wrote:

> On May 25, 2:25 pm, Justin Cantrell <justinrcantr...@gmail.com> wrote:

>

>> Why are my PS files getting so large? I'm doing a simple plot of ~25

>> points and the file size is 7.5MB!

>

> Something is not as it seems.

> IDL> HELP,dist,fe,x,two,three,half

>

> Also, your code snippet doesn't include SET_PLOT,'PS'.

Yes, it would be useful to post a standalone piece of code that people could actually run.

Other thoughts:

If you know PostScript language and/or have some patience, you can inspect the contents of the PS file and see if there are any obvious clues. And those clues would be:

Text is stroked out instead of drawn with fonts - search for a text string like "Distance". If you do not find it, the chars might be stroked out. I doubt that this is the case, since there are only about 20 total chars and I don't think that the PS driver can do that

anyway.

Also possibility is your use of linestyle. The PS driver *should* generate PS commands to tell the PS renderer to use a programmable linestyle. But if it instead chose to issue commands to draw the line style pattern, one segment at a time, you'll get a ton of move/draw commands. Try drawing solid lines to see if that helps.

Or just look over the file and try to determine what sort of thing is taking up all the space.

Finally, try to isolate it by removing some of the properties/attributes you are setting and skipping over some of your commands until the file size drops sharply. Tedious, but not so bad in the IDL environment.
