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Subject: Re: EPS to PDF contour plots

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Sat, 02 Apr 2011 14:44:29 GMT

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Matt writes:

> I see that something like this has been posted several times before,  
> but I can't seem to find a simple solution...  
>  
> I'm generating eps contour plots using David Fanning's great new  
> routines and the /cell\_fill option. However, some of them have the  
> well-known 'stripe' effect that is discussed in David's book. My  
> question is this: How can I convert these eps files to pdf format  
> without the stripes, and without the pdfs files being too large? If I  
> use ImageMagick with +antialias, I can only get the fonts to look nice  
> if I really crank up the density, which leads to huge pdfs. I'm  
> assuming that this is because they are first converted to raster  
> images and then to pdf. Is there a way to keep this all in vector  
> format? The file size is a problem, because it makes the document  
> they are going into huge, and very slow to navigate (and the plots  
> don't seem to look great in some viewers).  
>  
> At the moment I'm just doing the conversion using epstopdf.  
>  
> I know that this isn't really an IDL question, but if anyone has found  
> a solution, it'd be very much appreciated.

You are right that ImageMagick is not the solution here, since it is software for working with raster files, and must go through a raster intermediary to go from one vector format (PostScript) to another (PDF).

I use Adobe Acrobat and Distiller for this purpose, but this is reasonably expensive (although solid and with LOTS of features) software. I see advertisements for less expensive alternatives from time to time. These routines can be called from within IDL using the SPAWN command in exactly the same way ImageMagick is used from within the Coyote Graphics programs.

Another solution I have used is to print PostScript graphics routines directly to a PDF file via the PRINTER device in IDL and a PDF printer.

[http://www.idlcoyote.com/fileio\\_tips/pdffiles.html](http://www.idlcoyote.com/fileio_tips/pdffiles.html)

This solution is nice and convenient, but it requires the user to directly choose the PDF printer driver. I've

never been able to figure out a way to do this programmatically.

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.

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

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

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Subject: Re: EPS to PDF contour plots

Posted by [Kenneth P. Bowman](#) on Sat, 02 Apr 2011 15:49:26 GMT

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In article

<9aec7091-0040-4a51-8bce-d1523a5a877c@q36g2000yqn.googlegroups.com>,

Matt <theothermattrigby@gmail.com> wrote:

> I know that this isn't really an IDL question, but if anyone has found  
> a solution, it'd be very much appreciated.

What seems to work best for me is to create PS files instead of EPS, and then convert them to PDF using pstopdf.

The PDF files can be opened directly in Illustrator to make necessary adjustments.

Or open the PS files in Illustrator and save as PDF. I find Illustrator to be expensive, annoying, and indispensable.

Ken Bowman

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Subject: Re: EPS to PDF contour plots

Posted by [russell.grew](#) on Mon, 04 Apr 2011 02:29:38 GMT

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You could try

ps2pdf -dEPSCrop foo.eps

assuming your bounding box makes sense. If you run windows you may need to play with Ghostscript paths or install Cywgin to get the above

happening.

Good luck.

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Subject: Re: EPS to PDF contour plots  
Posted by [Matt\[3\]](#) on Mon, 04 Apr 2011 15:33:26 GMT  
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Thanks for the suggestions, guys. However, none of these seem to get rid of those lines (e.g. here's the output from distiller using the default settings: [http://dl.dropbox.com/u/13779929/ps\\_converted\\_distiller.pdf](http://dl.dropbox.com/u/13779929/ps_converted_distiller.pdf))... Maybe I'm missing something here. Does anyone know any Distiller settings that could get around this?

The only thing I haven't been able to try is to use the PDF printer... I'm using a mac, and can't quite figure out how to select my Adobe PDF printer from Dialog\_PrinterSetup(). Maybe someone has some experience with this too?

Cheers,

Matt

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Subject: Re: EPS to PDF contour plots  
Posted by [R.Bauer](#) on Thu, 14 Apr 2011 07:41:21 GMT  
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Am 04.04.2011 04:29, schrieb Russell:

> You could try

>

> ps2pdf -dEPSCrop foo.eps

>

> assuming your bounding box makes sense. If you run windows you may  
> need to play with Ghostscript paths or install Cywgin to get the above  
> happening.

>

> Good luck.

>

>

>

>

ps2pdf Test.ps

and the result of that is good

filesize is 50K

cheers  
Reimar

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