
Subject: Re: Postscript problem

Posted by [davidf](#) on Mon, 08 Jun 1998 07:00:00 GMT

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Oh, heck, I'm out of excuses. This is just not a good day to be writing. :-(

I wrote this nonsense:

```
> Whoops, I just don't have it at all together today.
> I won some tennis matches this weekend and I'm still
> thinking about that beautiful cross-court running
> forehand instead of my job. :-)
>
> I wrote this:
>
>> Set_Plot, 'PS'
>> Device, XSize=5, YSize=3, /Inches, /Encap
>> TV, image, 0.1, 0.33, /Normal, XSize=1, YSize=1
>> TV, image, 0.4, 0.33, /Normal, XSize=1, YSize=1
>> TV, image, 0.7, 0.33, /Normal, XSize=1, YSize=1
>
> And I should have written this:
>
> Set_Plot, 'PS'
> Device, XSize=5, YSize=3, /Inches, /Encap
> TV, image, 0.1, 0.33, /Normal, XSize=0.25, YSize=0.25
> TV, image, 0.4, 0.33, /Normal, XSize=0.25, YSize=0.25
> TV, image, 0.7, 0.33, /Normal, XSize=0.25, YSize=0.25
```

And I should have written this:

```
Set_Plot, 'PS'
Device, XSize=5, YSize=3, /Inches, /Encap
TV, image, 0.1, 0.33, /Normal, XSize=0.20, YSize=0.33
TV, image, 0.4, 0.33, /Normal, XSize=0.20, YSize=0.33
TV, image, 0.7, 0.33, /Normal, XSize=0.20, YSize=0.33
```

Sheesh!

David

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Device, XSize=5, YSize=3, /Inches, /Encap  
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```

Cheers,

David

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Tim Abbott (tmca@cfht.hawaii.edu) writes:

```
> I have a problem with postscript output from a routine which works  
> just fine on output to the display.
```

...[snip]

```
> Is there something about the PS driver I'm not understanding...?
```

There is a lot about the PS driver *to* understand!

I think the problem here is that images are not normally sized and displayed in PostScript in exactly the same way they are sized and displayed on the display.

In particular, instead of using Congrid to get the image the correct size, like you do normally, you probably want to use the XSize and YSize keywords of the TV command to size the images in PostScript. I like to give both the size of the image and the position of the lower-left corner of the image in Normalized coordinates. Then I can use the same code whether I am going to put the images on the display or into a PostScript file.

For example, suppose I have an image and I want to put this in a 500 by 300 window on my display, each image centered in the Y direction and equally spaced in X. I might type this:

```
Window, XSize=500, YSize=300
snapshot = Congrid(image, 100, 100)
TV, image, 0.1, 0.33, /Normal
TV, image, 0.4, 0.33, /Normal
TV, image, 0.7, 0.33, /Normal
```

If I want to do the same thing in PostScript I might do this:

```
Set_Plot, 'PS'
Device, XSize=5, YSize=3, /Inches, /Encap
TV, image, 0.1, 0.33, /Normal, XSize=1, YSize=1
TV, image, 0.4, 0.33, /Normal, XSize=1, YSize=1
TV, image, 0.7, 0.33, /Normal, XSize=1, YSize=1
```

The nice thing is that I could use the XSize and YSize keywords to the TV command even if I were displaying to the device itself. The values of those keywords are just ignored on devices that do not support scalable pixels the way PostScript does.

There are a lot of these PostScript tips on my web page and in my IDL Programming Techniques book.

Best Regards,

David

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