
Subject: Re: Device's bits_per_pixel keyword
Posted by [Harald Frey](#) on Wed, 11 Nov 1998 08:00:00 GMT
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Charles Cavanaugh wrote:

```
> I have a program that generates color postscript plots, and I want to
> make the files
> smaller. I have tried :
>
> set_plot, 'PS'
> device, bits_per_pixel = 2
> .
> .
> .
> device, /close
>
> but the file generated is only very slightly smaller than when I do
> not use the
> bits_per_pixel keyword. I've also tried bits_per_pixel = 1, 4 and 8,
> but the file
> size change is so very slight (and in some cases larger than when the
> keyword
> is not used).
>
> If anyone has been able to generate considerably smaller postscript
> files by using
> the bits_per_pixel keyword, please let me know how to do that. Thank
> you.
>
> I'm using IDL 5.1 on an SGI workstation running IRIX 6.5.1.
>
>
> Charles
>
> --
> Charles Cavanaugh
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>
>
```

bits_per_pixel has nothing to do with the size of the PS output, it is just the number of bits that is adjusted to each pixel and allows

display in black/white or in any of 255 grey-levels. You have to use the xsize and ysize keywords.

```
set_plot,'ps'  
device,xsize=15.,ysize=15.,xoffset=3.,yoffset=5.,scale_factor=1.,bits=8,/color  
  
.  
.  
device,/close
```

Harald
hfrey@ssl.berkeley.edu

Subject: Re: Device's bits_per_pixel keyword
Posted by [Charles Cavanaugh](#) on Thu, 12 Nov 1998 08:00:00 GMT
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<HTML>
Harald,

<P>Thanks for your reply, but does your solution reduce only the file size,
or does it

also reduce the plot size? I specifically want only the file
size to be reduced.

<P>According to the IDL 5.0 Reference Guide Volume 1, on page 74, in the

BITS_PER_PIXEL keyword explanation :

<P><I>"IDL is capable of producing PostScript images with 1, 2, 4, or 8
bits per pixel. Using more</I>

<I>bits per pixel gives higher resolution at the cost of generating
larger files.</I>

<I>BITS_PER_PIXEL is used to specify the number of bits to use."</I>

<P>I interpret that to mean bits_per_pixel has something to do with the
size of the PS output.

Do I misunderstand you or the keyword explanation?

<P>Charles

<P>Harald Frey wrote:
<BLOCKQUOTE TYPE=CITE>bits_per_pixel has nothing to do with the size
of the PS output, it is

just the number of bits that is adjusted to each pixel and allows

display in black/white or in any of 255 grey-levels. You have to use
the

xsize and ysize keywords.

<P>set_plot,'ps'

 device,xsize=15.,ysize=15.,xoffset=3.,yoffset=5.,scale_factor=1.,bits=8,/color

<P>.

.

device,/close

<P>Harald

hfrey@ssl.berkeley.edu</BLOCKQUOTE>

<PRE>--
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