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 then 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

xsize and ysize keywords.

set_plot,'ps'
device,xsize=15.,ysize=15.,xoffset=3.,yoffset=5.,scale_facto r=1.,bits=8,/color
.

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

Harald hfrey@ssl.berkeley.edu

device./close

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_facto r=1.,bits=8,/color
<P>.

.

.

device,/close
<P>Harald

hfrey@ssl.berkeley.edu</BLOCKQUOTE>

<PRE>--
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