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Subject: Re: New to IDL and having troubles

Posted by [Martin Schultz](#) on Tue, 22 Jun 1999 07:00:00 GMT

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Kurki wrote:

>  
> I looked for a FAQ regarding this NG and didn't find one, so I'm going  
> to just jump right in --  
>  
> I was just introduced to IDL last week and given a few \*.pro files that  
> generated postscript files of graphs from external data files and I was  
> told to modify one of them to display my data -- well, no such luck. I  
> did get to the point of have about 2/3 of one of the plots on my graph.  
> The situation is this -- I have a file with 6 space delimited columns and  
> 126 rows. I want to plot the column 1 vs. column 3 and column 5. Most  
> of the time I'm just getting one axis and maybe the title of the graph  
> in my postscript file.  
>  
> My boss gave me a few books, including the "Using IDL" manual and I read  
> the chapter on graphing and tried to do some of their examples, but they  
> didn't work for me either!  
>  
> Now, I'm not new programming (I'm also not a serious programmer, but I  
> can get by) and this is frustrating the heck out of me. Does anybody  
> know what might be wrong?  
>  
> Thanks for any help you can give  
>  
> Sent via Deja.com <http://www.deja.com/>  
> Share what you know. Learn what you don't.

here is a copy from a recent post by Mike Schienle who maintains the  
FAQ:

<<http://www.ivsoftware.com:8000/FAQ/>> is the location for the FAQ.

< [http://www.ivsoftware.com/pub/faq/IDL\\_FAQ\\_Update19990515.htm](http://www.ivsoftware.com/pub/faq/IDL_FAQ_Update19990515.htm) > is a  
snapshot containing the changed or added items from  
May 01, through May 15,  
1999.

<[http://www.ivsoftware.com/pub/faq/IDL\\_FAQ\\_19990515.html](http://www.ivsoftware.com/pub/faq/IDL_FAQ_19990515.html)> is a snapshot  
containing the latest version of the FAQ as of May 15,  
1999.

Also, check out the Coyote website by David Fanning:

<http://www.dfanning.com/>

If your boss gives you books about IDL, ask him to purchase David's book (which he can do from that website)!

Regards,  
Martin.

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Subject: Re: New to IDL and having troubles  
Posted by [davidf](#) on Tue, 22 Jun 1999 07:00:00 GMT  
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Kurki ([kurki15@my-deja.com](mailto:kurki15@my-deja.com)) writes:

> I looked for a FAQ regarding this NG and didn't find one, so I'm going  
> to just jump right in --

Hooray for you! :-)

You can find the FAQ here:

<http://www.ivsoftware.com:8000/FAQ/default.htm>

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Well, you could be doing any number of things wrong. You may want to read the series of articles on my web page entitled "Producing Perfect PostScript Output" for some clues:

<http://www.dfanning.com/documents/tips.html>

My guess is that you have set the PostScript page up in such as way that you are clipping the plot. My program PSWindow

might help you out with this. It creates a window on the PostScript page with the same aspect ratio as your display window:

<http://www.dfanning.com/programs/pswindow.pro>

> My boss gave me a few books, including the "Using IDL" manual and I read  
> the chapter on graphing and tried to do some of thier examples, but they  
> didn't work for me either!

Your boss is giving you the wrong books. :-)

Cheers,

David

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

Toll-Free IDL Book Orders: 1-888-461-0155

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Subject: Re: New to IDL and having troubles

Posted by [Med Bennett](#) on Fri, 25 Jun 1999 07:00:00 GMT

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Be sure to do a 'device,/close' command after issuing your postscript commands. If you don't, the file is still open, and printing it will often give you only partial or garbled output.

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