



Sizing Plotting Sheets to your Data

By Roy Goyette

I get confused with the Plotting Sheet Editor all the time. It's tricky, in my opinion, to get it to print to the size I want. But after banging my keyboard several times and using up an entire ream of paper in the printer, I think I've figured it out.

For this exercise I'm going to use the Sample Circle Flight project from the Sample Projects CD we hand out at the training seminars.

FIGURE 1.

The project opens and you see the collected data represented by a xyz data set, what I want to do is print this on an 8.5 x 11 inch sheet from a standard MS Windows® printer.

1. **Open the Plotting Sheet Editor** by clicking on Preparation > Editors > Plotting Sheet Editor.
 2. **Set the sizing for Length/Width.**
Click on the Edit menu. You have two sizing choices: Length/Width and Scale. This is a toggle when you click on the selection it will either change to Length/Width or Scale. For this example, I want 'Length/Width.'
 3. **Tell the editor what size paper you want to use.**
 - a. In the Length field of the editor I enter my length of 8.5.
 - b. I enter my width of 11.0 in the Width field.
 - c. To get the editor to accept the values, click in any other field in the editor.
- Since my Geodesy is set to US Survey foot for my distance units these values are in inches.

Automatically the editor will adjust the size of the plotting sheet (which in HYPACK® is represented by a green outline), to 8.5 x 11 inches. But look at my results! The data is a tiny patch on this sheet. (This depends on the scale of the sheet. In some cases it's going to be huge.) This just won't do!

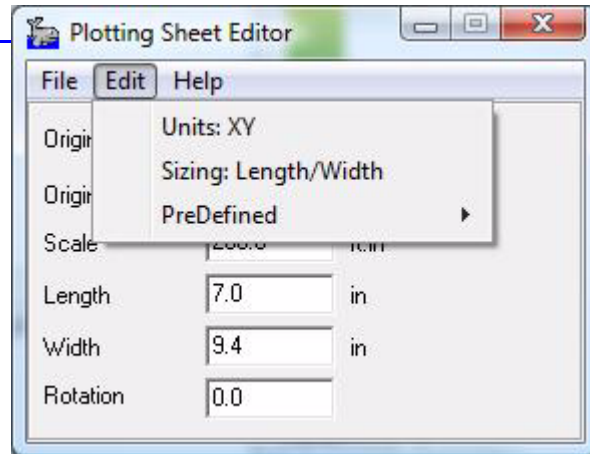
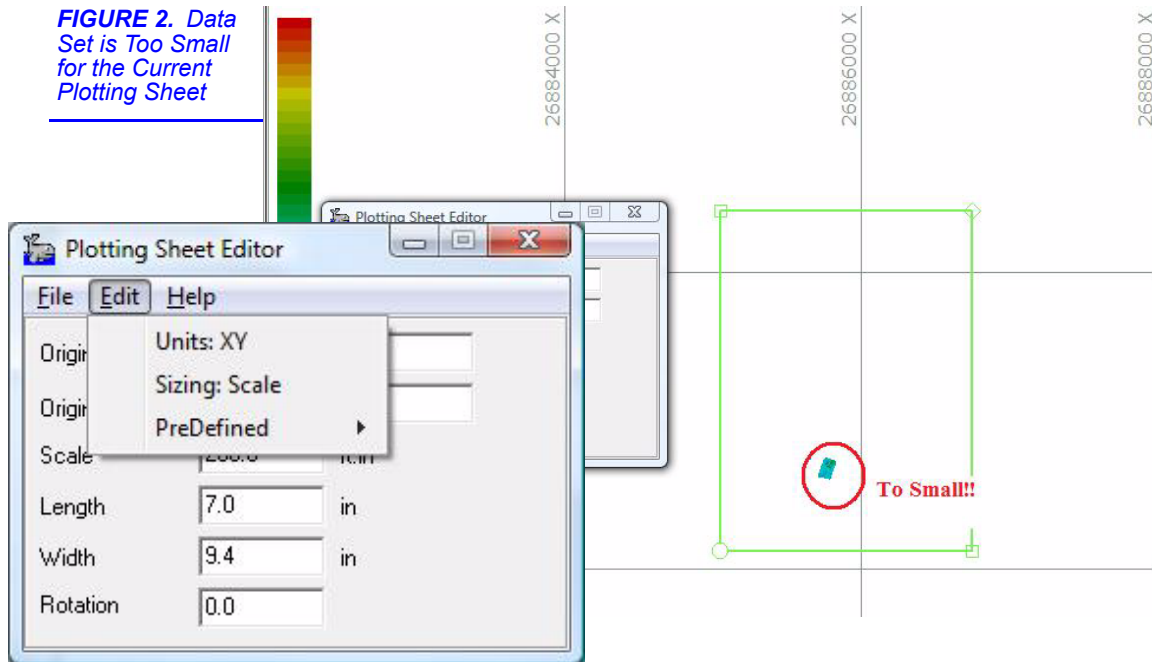


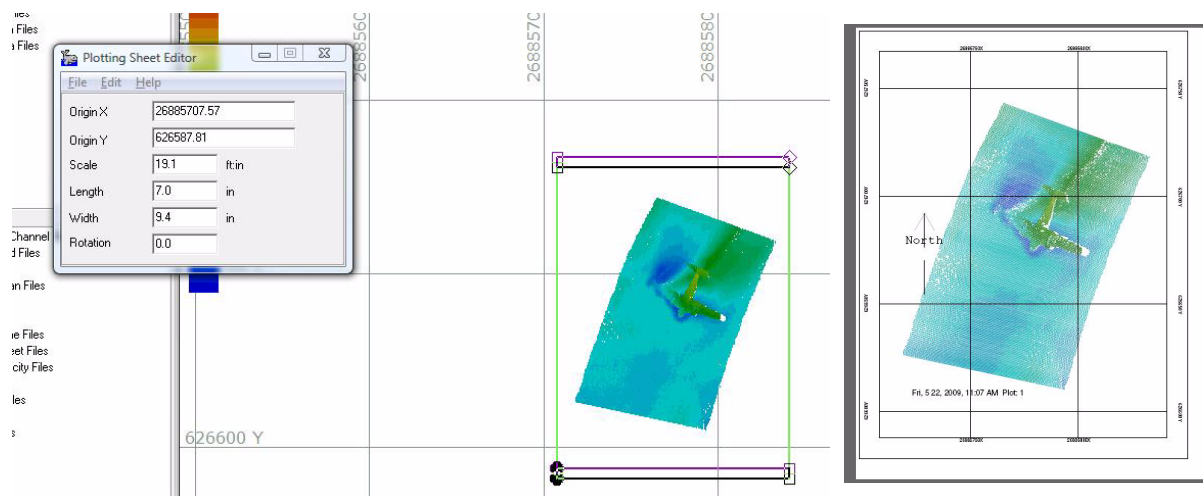
FIGURE 2. Data Set is Too Small for the Current Plotting Sheet



Well this was the part I never understood. It seems like, in my perfect world, the data should have been resized for me so it fit the sheet of paper I chose, but it's not such a perfect world. If I grab the handles at the corners of the plotting sheet and resize the sheet, the size of the paper changes. Here's the trick:

4. **Go back to the Edit menu of the Plotting Sheet Editor and change the Sizing option to 'Scale'.** This locks the size of the sheet to the values you entered.
5. Now you can **drag the handles of the plotting sheet to resize it to fit the data.** Instead of the size of the sheet changing, the Scale changes.

FIGURE 3. Plotting Sheet Resized to fit the Data



When you resize the sheet, keep in mind a few items about standard MS Windows® printers and about HYPLIT itself.

- Most standard MS Windows® printers will not print to the very edge of a piece of paper. Don't ask me why, but they just add a margin to the print out. You can change

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- some of them to print to the edges of the sheet of paper, some you can not. If yours doesn't, you need to account for this margin. How much margin will your printer place on the print out is dependant on your printer. Check the printer's manual.
- The contents of your final product or print out. If you bring this plotting sheet into HYPLOT and then add a border, you must leave space for the border or it will print off the page some where. It pays to stop and think about what you want to see in the end and add room for those items that will be added to your plot before printing.
6. Once you have resized your plotting sheet, **save your plotting sheet**. Select FILE>SAVE and name your plotting sheet.