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Subject: Re: David Fanning's rubberband box  
Posted by [mallors](#) on Mon, 16 Mar 1998 08:00:00 GMT  
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In article <NOSPAM.98Mar12100832@pickering.ll.mit.edu>, nospam@ll.mit.edu (Joseph Scott Stuart) writes:

>  
> I've recently gotten David Fanning's book, and I like it quite a bit.  
> Good job, David! I am having a problem though with the rubberband box  
> code on page 117. I'm using IDL 5.0.2 on an SGI. When I am finished  
> drawing the rubberband box and release the mouse button, the program  
> does not exit the repeat loop. I have to push another button before it  
> will register that I've released the first button. I added the  
> following line just before the ENDREP:  
>  
> cursor, x, y, /NoWait  
> ENDREP UNITL !Mouse.Button NE 1  
>  
> That mostly fixed the problem, but it still seems to only work  
> sporadically. That is, sometimes I'll draw a box, release the button,  
> and it ends the loop as it is supposed to, other times it does not,  
> and I have to either redraw the box or push another button. This is a  
> problem because I was planning to use the other mouse buttons for  
> other things (middle button to zoom out, right button to exit the  
> program). This behavior persists when I run the program on the SGI  
> with the display on the console or on a PC (NT) with X-Win32  
>

I have a selection routine TRACK\_MOUSE that will work in a WIDGET\_DRAW, allowing rubber band selections of arbitrary regions (or you can select individual intervals, too). The code got a bit out of hand when I was writing it, but it does have comments :-). You can take a look at it on my web page:

<http://cspar.uah.edu/~mallozzir/idl/idl.html>

There is an example program there of how to use TRACK\_MOUSE. I also have an older version written by a colleague of mine for direct graphics windows, which I might dig up if anyone is interested. Since IDL widgets are so nice and easy, I usually stick to widget code for interactive-intensive tasks like selecting and zooming plots, and don't really use the direct graphics version anymore.

If anyone makes changes to the code, I'd appreciate receiving an updated version.

Regards,

-bob mallozzi

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Robert S. Mallozzi  
<http://cspar.uah.edu/~mallozzir/>  
Remove NOJUNK on reply

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