
Subject: Re: Writing on X without X device (!)
Posted by [Liam Gumley](#) on Tue, 09 Mar 1999 08:00:00 GMT
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Andriç½ L. Belç½m wrote:

- > I'm writing a procedure to process satellite images on a map projection.
- > I extract the image information from a jpeg file, and then I make some
- > transformations and write the result on GIF.
- > But I would like to run all in batch mode because this take time and
- > must be run every night.
- > The problem is: how to run IDL in batch mode and use all tv, tvlct,
- > map_image, and others ??

To create IDL graphics on a Unix box without being logged in, you need two things.

The first is a Unix shell script (which is run in batch mode) which invokes IDL. It should look like this:

```
#---cut here---
#!/bin/ksh

# Move to the directory where the IDL script is located

cd $HOME/avhrr

# Run IDL setup script (add IDL_PATH modifications if needed)

. /usr/local/rsi/idl_5/bin/idl_setup.ksh

# Run IDL processing script

idl script.pro
#---cut here---
```

The second is an IDL script which does the processing. Note that this is a **NOT** a procedure or a function; it has no PRO, FUNCTION, or END statements. Here's an example:

```
;---cut here---
;- Example of an IDL script that runs in the background on Unix

;- Set up Z buffer in 2D mode

set_plot, 'Z'
device, z_buffer=0, set_colors=256, $
  set_resolution=[512,512], set_character_size=[6,9]
```

;- Create graphic

```
ncolors = !d.table_size  
loadct, 39  
erase, ncolors/4  
map_set, /ortho, /cont, /noerase  
map_continents, /fill, color = ncolors/2  
map_grid, /label
```

;- Save graphic to GIF

```
tvlct, r, g, b, /get  
write_gif, 'test.gif', tvrd(), r, g, b
```

;- Exit IDL

```
exit  
;---cut here---
```

Note that instead of using an ordinary graphics window (which requires you to be logged in), the IDL Z buffer is used for displaying graphics.

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