
Subject: Re: framegrabber

Posted by [David G. Grier](#) on Tue, 20 Apr 1999 07:00:00 GMT

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Gunnar Hedin wrote:

- > I would like to read in picture directly from a framgrabber into IDL,
- > for direct processing of the images. I my opionon this can't be the
- > most unlikely usage of IDL and I therefore wonder if there is
- > anyone who has already done this and who would like to enlighten
- > me in the do and don't and if possible send some code.
- >
- > I have no specific framegrabber card in mind and I'm eager
- > to here if any suggest of what kind to choose.

I've had success with both the Matrox Meteor and the MuTech MV-1000 running under Linux on an Intel machine. In both cases, I wrote IDL-callable C libraries to control the framegrabbers and used CALL_EXTERNAL to communicate with the libraries. This worked well enough that I never bothered to delve into the possibilities of LINK_IMAGE. It's best to allocate a BYTEARR for the image in IDL and pass the pointer to C to get the data. That way you take advantage of IDL's memory allocation machinery. The examples in the directory /usr/local/rsi/idl/external/call_external/ got me started under IDL 5.2. They may be elsewhere on your system.

In short, if you can write command line programs for the framegrabber (or GPIB, or any other equipment) in C, running it from IDL is straightforward.

Best regards,

David

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