

---

Subject: Re: Multiple surface plotting  
Posted by [davidf](#) on Wed, 30 May 2001 20:02:41 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

Paul van Delst ([paul.vandelst@noaa.gov](mailto:paul.vandelst@noaa.gov)) writes:

> I want to plot out a number of intersecting surfaces, different colours, some shaded, some  
> gridded.  
> After some inquiries, I was lead to Struan Gray's excellent web page and once I figured out how  
> to  
> use the Z-buffer, I had great looking plots of exactly what I wanted .... onscreen (or in a web  
> page).  
>  
> When I output to a file using the recommended TVRD() from z-buffer and then tv'ing after a  
> set\_plot,'PS', or writing the tvrd() result to a png file is a result that looks quite awful when  
> printed.  
>  
> What I would dearly love to do would be to create postscript output directly rather than doing a  
> TVRD() of the z-buffer and then tv'ing it to PS output. Does anyone know if this is possible and  
> if  
> so, how? All the z-buffer exmaples I've seen use TVRD() and TV for output.

Well, here are two suggestions:

- (1) That Z-buffer can be made pretty darn big. Big enough,  
probably, so that you could make nice PostScript output.
- (2) Do the same thing in object graphics. The object graphics  
system *\*is\** a Z-buffer!

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.  
Fanning Software Consulting  
Phone: 970-221-0438 E-Mail: [davidf@dfanning.com](mailto:davidf@dfanning.com)  
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>  
Toll-Free IDL Book Orders: 1-888-461-0155

---