In article <3l9a9c$94h@post.gsfc.nasa.gov>,
thompson@orpheus.nascom.nasa.gov (William Thompson) wrote:

> Emilio Hernandez <emilio@formentor.uib.es> writes:
>
>> Hi all,
>> Do you know is there any standard routine to build (and to read) mpeg
>> movies from sequences of IDL images?

It is also possible to make QuickTime movies on a Mac in a similar manner.

1.  Generate the frames one at a time.
2.  Write each frame to a separate file:  frame.001, frame.002, etc.
3.  Use a utility like Spyglass View to convert the sequence of images to
a PICS file.  (There is an upper limit of 16 MB per file for PICS files.
They can be joined after converting to QT.)
4.  Convert to QT with MovieConverter or something similar.  A number of
compression schemes are available in QT, including lossless ones.  Newer
versions may include MPEG, I'm not sure.

Major drawback:  only usable on Macs, Windows, and SGI machines that have QT.
Advantages:  Good compression.

I've put 180 MB movies generated in IDL on CD-ROM this way (600x300x5000
frames, approx 5:1 compression).

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