
Subject: Re: mpeg quality

Posted by [Kenneth P. Bowman](#) on Wed, 21 Apr 2004 03:44:56 GMT

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In article <1Zbhc.1597\$Ua5.1269400@monger.newsread.com>,
"David Jackson" <jacksond@dickinson.edu> wrote:

> Sorry if this has been asked before, but does anyone know how to improve the
> quality of an mpeg written from IDL's Xinteranimate command. I tried
> changing mpg_quality and mpg_bitrate but I always got a file that was
> exactly the same size and quality. I must be doing something silly.

Because MPEG was mainly designed to handle "photographs", I have never liked what it does to scientific graphs (line graphs, in particular). I find that it is better to TVRD each frame and then write the image to a file (I prefer PNGs, but there are other options ... see WRITE_IMAGE). Then use a utility to convert the images to a movie using a codec that is better suited for graphics (e.g, lossless). On the Mac I use GraphicConverter (shareware) with the "Animation" codec. QuickTime Pro will also do the conversion, I believe. QuickTime Pro is available for Windows. Other readers can provide other suggestions.

Ken Bowman
