
Subject: Re: Publication-quality plots

Posted by [Paul Van Delst\[1\]](#) on Fri, 04 Jun 2004 15:46:32 GMT

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David Fanning wrote:

> Paul Van Delst writes:

>

>

>> Once I got it working, I used the iSurface iTool so I could look at a surface and rotate
>> it etc. Well, it took forever to render the surface and attempting to rotate it was
>> pointless since there was no real-time response... it was just sooo slow. Haven't used
>> them since - recalling the last direct graphics SURFACE command and altering my AZ
keyword

>> is faster than iSurface.

>

>

> Well, maybe, but object graphics are awfully nice
> for doing surfaces.

I don't know what this means. SURFACE/SHADE_SURF is also nice for doing surfaces - it also has the clear advantage that when I hit the enter key, I get immediate feedback, i.e. my data displayed onscreen. Maybe the OG stuff on my computer is slow because I like to look at large data sets. But, then, why is the DG output so fast?

> Have you tried FSC_SURFACE?

I just downloaded it and gave it a shot - very nice. The one thing I want to do with surfaces, rotate them with the mouse, was actually easy to do and relatively speedy. Thanks for the tip - the code has been added to my idl/user_contrib directory. I tried doing the same with iSurface and, well, frankly, the user interface totally bamboozles me. It's difficult to play with iSurface since because any action on my part takes so long to show up onscreen, it gets hard to connect action and reaction. The end result is that there's no carrot to entice me to investigate the capabilities of these tools any further.

I tried surfacing a DIST(1000) array with DG SURFACE (fast), iSurface (sloooow), and fsc_surface (slower than DG surface, but faster than iSurface). I'm still waiting for the OG surfacing of a DIST(5000) array to display (3minutes after the DG equivalent finished its ~30s march across the window.)

> Maybe your computer is 10 years old, what with you
> working for a government agency and all. :-)

Nope - it's brand spanking new. :o) It took 3 years to get a replacement tho'. :o(

Maybe it's my level of crotchety-ness increasing with age, but if it takes longer than 5 minutes for me to just *look* at my data, I'm not interested. What with everything else going on in the world nowadays, the last thing I need is yet another thing to raise the blood pressure. :o)

paulv
