
Subject: How to make GIF file (2) ?

Posted by [bleau](#) on Mon, 12 Jun 1995 07:00:00 GMT

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Hi again. I posted a message last week re generating a GIF file from IDL so I can serve it over WWW, and received quite a few responses so far. All of them have directed me to use TVRD and WRITE_GIF. Thanks to those who responded. This does not, however, solve my problem entirely. Here are the additional details.

I had learned about TVRD and WRITE_GIF from TFM before I posted my initial message, and had hoped there was a better way of approaching the problem (like with a PLOT option). I put up a simple plot and called TVRD(0,0,100,100,0), followed by a WRITE_GIF. I moved the resultant file to my WWW server directory, went to my Mac, fired up Netscape, and viewed the image. It was a small square image in the corner of the graph, showing the axes. So far, so good. I next called TVRD(0,0,200,200,0) and put it in another file. This displayed a rectangular image with some lines, but was not recognizable as part of the graph (well, maybe if you strain). The rectangle was roughly twice the width of the first subimage and half the height, though I wouldn't swear to it (I didn't measure it). Finally, I tried it with TVRD(0,0,500,500,0), and when viewed this produced a *blank* image! There's something going on here I do not understand, folks, and it puts a big question mark beside the entire process.

The second problem is one of automation. As I mentioned earlier I want these graphs to be served out over WWW. What I didn't mention in my earlier post was the method I had in mind. I'd like these graphs to be generated when a WWW request comes in for data in a certain time frame. My HTTP server would fire up an application which would figure out what raw data files are needed, then start up IDL and feed it the data. IDL would generate a GIF file, which the application would then feed back to the HTTP server and thence to the WWW client. So, IDL would be running in a detached mode, with *no* display device.

Question: Can TVRD get information from the display device if there is no display device?

Also: Can PLOT be made to generate a plot (which TVRD can access) if there is no display device? I know PLOT can be told to generate a PostScript file (do a SET_PLOT,'PS'), but this doesn't help, as Netscape doesn't know how to display PostScript. Ideally, I'd like to do the equivalent of SET_PLOT,'GIF', but that doesn't appear to be an option. If the PLOT-TVDRD combination doesn't work in this mode, what can I use on PLOT to eventually get a GIF file? Thanks.

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