
Subject: How to make GIF file?

Posted by [bleau](#) on Fri, 09 Jun 1995 07:00:00 GMT

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Hi. I'm running IDL V3.6.1 and have a question about plotting. First, let me describe what I'm trying to do overall, in case anyone has a better suggestion on how to do it.

I want to create a GIF file to put on my system and have it served over the WWW to other sites. This GIF file is a fairly simple plot, with X- and Y-axis, a bunch of points, and lines connecting them. The raw data for this is an Ascii file with columns of floating point numbers.

I figure we'll have to write a procedure to read in the values, do some decision making, and plot them. I know about the PLOT command in IDL, and there's enough information I can slug through it and tailor my plots properly; if not I'll just come back here for more info.

The puzzling part is how to have PLOT generate a GIF image file. I looked at SET_PLOT, which has a slew of options on output devices (PostScript, HP PCL, CGM, etc.). GIF, however, is *not* one of those options. I noticed there is a WRITE_GIF command, but the manual (unless I've looked in the wrong place) doesn't say how to call it and what its arguments are. Okay, so one of the arguments is an array in GIF format. That begs the question, however: How does one create the GIF image in the first place? If it isn't done with PLOT, then how? If it is, what's the magic keyword?

Alternately, is there some utility for VMS which will take a set of numbers and generate a plot in GIF format? I know, this may be the wrong newsgroup for such a question, but I thought I'd ask. Thanks much.

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