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Subject: Re: How to Get Started with the Z-Buffer

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Tue, 19 Dec 2006 19:55:18 GMT

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rchughes@gmail.com writes:

- > The reason I am using the Z buffer is because the routine that I took
- > it from either displays the plots in an X window on the screen or
- > creates a postscript file. Creating the postscript file is just an
- > option that I have included in the routine.
- >
- > Before I started to incorporate the Z buffer I was writing it straight
- > to the postscript device like you suggested (it is much easier I must
- > say) but for some reason I can't run it in the cron because IDL needs
- > access to X Windows. I don't know why.

I think this is the place to start your investigations.

Is there some kind of DEVICE command somewhere you aren't telling us about? Are you trying to find out what fonts are available? How many colors are available? Have you tried setting your device to "NULL" and seeing what happens?

- > I thought IDL might need Xwin
- > to plot so after reading several posts on this newsgroup it pointed me
- > towards using the Z buffer. So I've tried to have all the plots write
- > to the Z buffer before sending it to either Xwin or Postscript but
- > current attempts have been unsuccessful.

It's not unusually to get bum advice when reading this newsgroup. I'd set my filters so the only articles you see are those by JD Smith. :-)

- > Would you still suggest to send it straight to postscript?

Yes, there is nothing about writing to PostScript that will confuse your cron job. You will have to look for the problem elsewhere.

Cheers,

David

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Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>

Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

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