Subject: Re: writing to 2 "windows" in idl? Posted by Eric Deutsch on Thu, 18 Jan 1996 08:00:00 GMT View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

## Cathy Smith wrote:

- > Hi- I'd like to write out character strings to a gif imagee and determine
- > their lengths (in pixels). I can do this using xyouts and this works for
- > most of what I want to do. However, now I would like to find the length
- > of a character string BEFORE I write it out. I tried writing out
- > in the same color as my image to get the returned length and then writing
- > it out again in the color I want. This works except that I cover up some
- > lines on my original plot that I don't want covered. Is there a way to
- > write to a "fake" device instead?

yes, there is a "Z-buffer" device which is a virtual device that lets you do these sorts of things, but...

- > The relevant parts of my code are:
- > tvlct,/GET,r,g,b
- > window, colors=223,xsize=n1,ysize=n2
- > etc.....

device,font='-adobe-helvetica-bold-r-normal--10-100-75-75-p- 60-iso8859-1'

you are using an X hardware font here, and it is very unfortunate (but not surprising, I guess) that you cannot use X hardware fonts when using the Z device... As far as I know, the best you can do is use the Hershey fonts (or a bitmapped font solution). Anyone know otherwise??

- xyouts, x+4, y, string, /device, width=namew ,charsize=1.2, color=44 >
- mmwidth=namew\*n1 >
- xyouts, x-mmwidth-4, y, string, /device, width=namew ,charsize=1.2,color=222

However, if I understand your coding here, it looks to me like you're trying to right-justify some text. IDL provides a nice facility for this with the xyouts ,ALIGN=1 keyword; and you can use ,ALIGN=0.5 to center text about the specified X.Y coordinates.

Hope this helps.. Eric Eric Deutsch email: deutsch@astro.washington.edu Department of Astronomy Voice: (206) 616-2788

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