
Subject: Re: How to draw a line on an image?

Posted by [David Foster](#) on Wed, 31 Jan 1996 08:00:00 GMT

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yoshida@fermi.bsd.uchicago.edu (Hiro Yoshida) wrote:

>
> Hello IDL experts,
>
> Is there a handy way to draw lines on an image in IDL?
>
> I would like to draw some simple graphics such as lines, boxes, and circles
> on an image. (I am not talking about modifying image itself by putting
> white pixels to draw these figures.) I believe that IDL has some commands
> for this type of "overlay" task. Unfortunately, however, I cannot find one
> so far.

You might try using the normal drawing routines, like PLOT, OPLOT
and PLOTS, but set the graphics mode to XOR (exclusive-or) mode
like the following:

< xarray and yarray are integer arrays of coordinates >

```
wset, current_window  
device, get_graphics = oldg, set_graphics = 6  
plots, xarray, yarray, /device
```

This "draws" the lines on your image by XOR'ing all pixels. What
you get is usually not one continuous color, depending on the
contents of the image, but it may be workable. You can then
"undraw" the lines and restore the original image with:

```
plots, xarray, yarray, /device  
device, set_graphics = oldg
```

Usually you will also want to restore the original graphics mode,
since most drawing operations are done using a different mode.

Hope this helps.

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