Subject: Re: [Q] how to make mpeg/fli movies in IDL
Posted by bowman on Fri, 12 Apr 1996 07:00:00 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

In article
<Pine.SOL.3.91.960412112621.22130H-100000@Julius.atm.ch.cam.ac.uk>, Iarla
Kilbane-Dawe <iarla@atm.ch.cam.ac.uk> wrote:

> Ddoes anyone know of any routines for producing mpeg or fli movies
> in IDL?

This may not be of any use to you, but here is how to make QuickTime
movies from IDL using a Mac. (If anyone knows an easier way, please let
me know).

1. Generate a series of frames in IDL. (I use the X device because it
has reasonable font control. Draw the image. Do a TVRD. Write the
resulting byte array to a file.) Write each frame into a separate file in
an empty directory. Names must be something like frame.001, frame.002,
...

2. Ftp the files to a Mac or mount the disk with NFS or Appleshare.
Using Spyglass Transform or View, do 'Animate From Disk'.

3. Do 'Save As...' and save the frames as a PICS file. Note, PICS files
can be no larger than 16 MB, but they are compressed.

4. Use MovieConverter or the equivalent to open the PICS file. Save
using your favorite compression scheme. For animated 'line graphs', I
prefer the Apple Graphics compressor. It is lossless (with the right
settings) and usually gives good compression. The playback framerate that
you will achieve will depend on the Mac you play it on. 10 fps for a
600x350 image is usually pretty easy to get on a 68040 machine. You can
force QuickTime to display everyframe.

You can record the QT movie to videotape (typically NTSC in this country),
but quality will suffer severely. I find it is much better to use a
laptop to play movies on a computer projector than it is to make
videotape.

I think there are MPEG compressors for QuickTime, but I have not used them
since MPEG is designed for video ('real world' images) and does poorly on
line art.

Hope this is of use.

Regards, Ken Bowman

--
Kenneth P. Bowman, Assoc. Prof.   409-862-4060
Department of Meteorology   409-862-4132 fax
Texas A&M University   bowman@csrp.tamu.edu
College Station, TX   77843-3150
   Satellite ozone movies on CD-ROM --> http://www.lenticular.com/