
Subject: using plot() function in a batch file

Posted by [Marc Buie](#) on Tue, 11 Jan 2011 18:45:15 GMT

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Folks -

I've been investing some time in working with the new plotting functions in IDL v8.0. Things are still a little rough around the edges but there are definite advantages, particularly the device independence.

There are occasions when I generate graphics in a batch file or cron job. Under these circumstances, the IDL process does not have access to a display (X or otherwise). With direct graphics I used the 'Z buffer' as the device.

Has anyone found a way to do this with the new tools? I've been all over the documentation on this and can't find any relevant discussion. I did try the following:

```
p=plot(x,y,hide=1)
p.save,'test.png'
```

but this crashes with the following message:

```
% WIDGET_CONTROL: Unable to connect to X Windows display: :0.0
% PLOT: WIDGET_CONTROL: Unable to establish X Connection.
```

This doesn't sound very encouraging but I'm still holding out hope that there's something I've forgotten about and just haven't been able to locate in the documentation.

Cheers,
Marc
