## Subject: Re: MP4/Animated GIF/JPEG woes....(Windows, IDL 8.1) Posted by Michael Galloy on Mon, 11 Jul 2011 16:29:26 GMT

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## On 7/11/11 9:59 AM, Daft Pict wrote:

- > I've just started collaborating with some planetary astronomers who
- > tend to use very different tools compared to us traditional
- > observational astronomers :-) It's fun but I'm trying to generate
- > products that they use (and I typically don't) and having some teeth-
- > gnashing moments and screaming at the IDL help pages....

- > 1). Creating an MP4 file from a stream of images seems easy
- > according to the help pages and I duplicated the example code. The
- > resulting file is playable on my windows box using media player, but
- > not when using QuickTime on either windows or their Mac systems.

>

- > 2) Animated GIFs again seem straightforward, except that write gif
- > appears to reset my color table so I lose the color in overlays over
- > images. I pass in the current RGB values from the common block after
- > setting my tables but the gif file is B&W and the RGB arrays are all
- reset!

- > 3) Even tried animated JPEG since the help pages describes how to do
- > it, but the sample code doesn't work as I get an error when trying to
- > use the unit option even though it is described in the help....

>

- > Venting over if anyone has some suggestions as to what causes any of
- > these problems or have solved these issues, are please let me know
- > cheers Brian

Have you checked out the IDLffVideoWrite class in IDL 8.1? I occasionally do animations, but haven't had to since IDL 8.1 was released. The What's New says:

"High-quality Video Animations

The IDLffVideoWrite class allows you to write images to a video file, with an optional soundtrack. You can create .avi or .mp4 video files with the IDLffVideoWrite class. By default, video streams in .mp4 files use the MPEG-4 codec, and audio streams in .mp4 files use the AAC codec."

It uses FFmpeg which I have used in the past with great results.

Mike

Michael Galloy www.michaelgalloy.com

Modern IDL, A Guide to Learning IDL: http://modernidl.idldev.com

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