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Subject: MP4/Animated GIF/JPEG woes....(Windows, IDL 8.1)

Posted by [Daft Pict](#) on Mon, 11 Jul 2011 15:59:00 GMT

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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

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