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Subject: Re: How can make a simple movie from .txt files  
Posted by [Russell\[1\]](#) on Wed, 21 Sep 2011 20:24:32 GMT  
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On Sep 16, 9:28 am, ece <ecekile...@gmail.com> wrote:

> Hi,  
>  
> I have 100 spectra in .txt files. Each file has wavelength and flux  
> values. I want to make a movie showing each spectra as a function of  
> time. Does anyone have a suggestion about how to start?

Hi Ece, I've done something like this for some galaxy spectra I had.  
What I did was to use the MPEG tools (mpeg\_open.pro, mpeg\_put.pro,  
mpeg\_close.pro, and mpeg\_save.pro) that come with IDL. So the  
algorithm is pretty simple:

- (1) read the first spectrum
- (2) create a window with the pixmap option set
- (3) plot the spectrum
- (4) use tvrd() to get the data which you just plotted. this will be a  
3xm x n array.
- (5) use the mpeg\_\* utilities to put this into the file
- (6) destroy the window
- (7) goto (1) with a new spectrum

Now, you can add things along the way to deal with frame rate, colors,  
etc. And there maybe a better way than the creating/destroying all  
those windows, but this did work for me.

-Russell

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