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Subject: Contour and 'Z-buffer'

Posted by [Nestor Zarraoa](#) on Thu, 06 Feb 1997 08:00:00 GMT

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We want to use IDL 4.0.1 (sunos) to create a contour plot in GIF format. The calling process must run overnight.

Before, we have run the thing using X windows and Postscript output devices and all is fine and nice. Only that the postscript can not be transferred into GIF with `write_gif`, and that overnight the X-windows is not opened (we just work with daylight, you know...)

So we try to use the Z-buffer and `write_gif`, which was wonderful for many sorts of graphics, but which gives us errors when using "contour". I have tried many things and simply do not come with why it happens. The same program which runs nicely with X, would not run with Z, no further change.

We tried moreover to use X-windows with `/pixmap`, but again it would not work if the x-windows display is not open, even if we do not try at all to create a physical window on the screen.

Any hints about what goes on with the 'Z-buffer', any other alternative to use `write_gif` without 'X' or 'Z' buffers, or any good (and cheap) convertor between postscript and GIF (which runs as command line) will be deeply appreciated.

Thanks for your time!

Nestor

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