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Subject: volume() command

Posted by [dg86](#) on Sat, 23 Mar 2013 23:42:27 GMT

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Volumetric rendering being one of the things that IDL does better than Matlab or python's matplotlib, it might seem surprising that IDL does not have a volume() function analogous to the other

function graphics routines. In fact, IDL's function graphics system actually can create a volumetric rendering analogous to the iTools ivolume routine, but with better programmability. To create a volume,

```
IDL> graphic, 'volume', data, _extra = ex, graphic = vol
```

DATA should be a [nx, ny, nz] volumetric data set.

VOL is the resulting object.

Keywords are passed through the extra mechanism.

To learn what properties are available,

```
IDL> itpropertyreport, vol.gettool(), igetid('volume')
```

Although this procedure yields a full-fledged function graphics object, it has some compatibility quirks when used in combination with image() and plot() commands. It would be nice if IDL's developers were to box up and document a well-integrated implementation of volume().

Just my 2 cents,

David

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