Subject: Frame Grabber
Posted by Volker Carl on Fri, 25 Feb 2000 08:00:00 GMT
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Anybody out there with experiance regarding IDL and frame grabber
support? I want to get my camera data into IDL via grabbing. Who can
help me.

thanks in advance
Volker Carl

Subject: Re: Frame Grabber
Posted by Mark Rivers on Fri, 25 Feb 2000 08:00:00 GMT
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Volker Carl wrote in message <38B6279F.BFE2F9E5@cityweb.de>...
> Anybody out there with experiance regarding IDL and frame grabber
> support? I want to get my camera data into IDL via grabbing. Who can
> help me.

This can be done in 2 different ways:
1) Write an IDL device driver for the framegrabber. I did this years ago
   for a VAX Q-bus based framegrabber. The advantage of this approach is
that you can use the standard IDL routines like TV, TVRD, PLOT, TVLCT, etc.
to read and write the device. The disadvantage is that it is not trival.\

2) Use CALL_EXTERNAL to call a shareable library (e.g. DLL). You probably
already have such a DLL from your vendor. You then need only write 2
things:
   - A thin C "wrapper" layer so that IDL can call your DLL. This wrapper
   layer takes care of calling conventions, since IDL uses the (argc, argv)
   method of calling C functions with CALL_EXTERNAL.
   - A set of IDL routines which call CALL_EXTERNAL. These might be things
like:
      ; Read image from framegrabber
      image = READ_FG(xstart, ystart, xstop, ystop)
      ; Start acquiring images
      START_FG
      ; Stop acquiring images
      STOP_FG

Cheers,
Mark Rivers