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Subject: Help: TLE data

Posted by [Kenneth Mankoff](#) on Tue, 09 Jan 2001 03:16:40 GMT

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Hi everyone,

I have a few months worth of TLEs (Two Line Element sets) from NASA. I know that this data describes everything there is to know about an orbiting craft, and i know what the different fields of each TLE refer to.

What I would like to do is plot the craft's position over the time-period of the data that I have. Not just the altitude vs longitude or something like that, but have an image (or time-lapse animation) of a globe, and the craft moving around the globe. The only thing that would be unrealistic is that I would have to magnify the body of the craft a bit so that it would take up a few pixels around a globe that would fit on my monitor.

This is analogous to the solar-system simulator at JPL (<http://space.jpl.nasa.gov/>), or the NASA J-Track3D page (<http://liftoff.msfc.nasa.gov/RealTime/JTrack/3D/JTrack3D.htm> I). Of course, what i am attempting to do is simpler, more specific, less robust, one-time usage, etc.

I am wondering if anyone knows of any software (preferably IDL code) that can help in this in any way, even just a small part of the problem.

Thanks,

Ken Mankoff.

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