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Subject: Re: Newbie-Alert: Plotting 3D data in IDL  
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Fri, 23 May 2003 14:36:20 GMT  
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Stephan Eickschen (eicksch@gfz-potsdam.de) writes:

> I am sure that this is an old topic, easily to solve problem but I hope that  
> you are lenient towards me...

Are you kidding me!? We are \*brutal\* to newbies!

> I have a 3D data set. I managed to get it read by IDL. Now I would like to  
> plot the data as three orthogonal slices, each plane parallel to one of the  
> axis. I was not able to get slicer3 working properly.

Humm. This would definitely be the preferred solution.  
Are you sure you are calling it correctly? It requires  
a pointer to the data:

```
IDL> ptr = Ptr_Free(data)
IDL> Slicer3, ptr
```

> Additionally, I prefer  
> a non-interactive approach. I googled a while and found some pointers to  
> slice.pro by David Fanning. I grabbed it from the net, but I couldn't find  
> ps\_form anywhere - not even on Davids web page...

Oh, don't even remind me of PS\_FORM. :-(

Let this be a lesson to you as you become more proficient  
in IDL. Don't \*ever\* publish your first widget program. You  
will regret it all your life.

If you \*have\* to use SLICE (and I don't recommend that ancient  
program, either), then download PSCONFIG and do a global  
search and replace on PS\_FORM:

<http://www.dfanning.com/programs/psconfig.zip>

> So my question(s):  
> - is there an (easy?) step-by-step guide to do the task  
> - can I find all files needed for slice with IDL\_5.5 somewhere?

If you use SLICE, be sure to set DEVICE, DECOMPOSED=0. I think  
that program was written 25 years before 24-bit colors were a  
reality.

Cheers,

David

--

David W. Fanning, Ph.D.

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Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>

Toll-Free IDL Book Orders: 1-888-461-0155

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Subject: Re: Newbie-Alert: Plotting 3D data in IDL

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Fri, 23 May 2003 14:38:23 GMT

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David Fanning (david@dfanning.com) writes:

```
> Humm. This would definitely be the preferred solution.  
> Are you sure you are calling it correctly? It requires  
> a pointer to the data:  
>  
> IDL> ptr = Ptr_Free(data)  
> IDL> Slicer3, ptr
```

See, one of our strategies is to completely lead newbies astray. Uh, try this:

```
IDL> ptr = Ptr_New(data)
```

```
:-(
```

Cheers,

David

--

David W. Fanning, Ph.D.

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Subject: Re: Newbie-Alert: Plotting 3D data in IDL

Posted by [Stephan Eickschen](#) on Mon, 26 May 2003 14:09:36 GMT

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Thanks David - I managed to get slice working ;-)

>> I am sure that this is an old topic, easily to solve problem but I hope that  
>> you are lenient towards me...  
> Are you kidding me!? We are \*brutal\* to newbies!  
I was afraid of that...

>> I have a 3D data set. I managed to get it read by IDL. Now I would like to  
>> plot the data as three orthogonal slices, each plane parallel to one of the  
>> axis. I was not able to get slicer3 working properly.

>  
>  
> Humm. This would definitely be the preferred solution.  
> Are you sure you are calling it correctly? It requires  
> a pointer to the data:

>  
> IDL> ptr = Ptr\_Free(data)  
> IDL> Slicer3, ptr  
[2nd n^Hmail:]  
> See, one of our strategies is to completely lead newbies  
> astray. Uh, try this:  
>  
> IDL> ptr = Ptr\_New(data)  
\*g\* -- I thought about that...

(snip)

> If you \*have\* to use SLICE (and I don't recommend that ancient  
> program, either), then download PSCONFIG and do a global  
> search and replace on PS\_FORM:

Well - I succeeded in getting it to work - nicely done!

> If you use SLICE, be sure to set DEVICE, DECOMPOSED=0. I think  
> that program was written 25 years before 24-bit colors were a  
> reality.

---- snip: slice.pro ----

> ; for later processing. The program works on 8-bit, 16-bit, and  
> ; 24-bit displays.

(...)

> ; 23 April 1997. Added support for 24-bit color displays. DWF

---- snap: \*g\* ----

Stephan

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