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Subject: Re: what is an efficient lossless compression way to store a gray-scale image

Posted by [Wolfgang Funk](#) on Tue, 26 Aug 2003 16:35:51 GMT

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Hi Julia,

the PNG format provides a lossless compression scheme (in fact it was defined as a replacement for GIF).

Depending on your IDL version the WRITE\_PNG routine is available (as far as I remember PNG support starts with version 5.3). I'm running IDL 5.4 and WRITE\_PNG compresses the good old "Lenna" image (512 by 512 grey scale) from 256K into a 146K PNG file.

Hope it helps.

Wolfgang

> Hi, there,  
>  
> For a gray-scale image, I haven't found a good way to store it yet. It  
> seems that there is no way to store gray-scale images in IDL  
> efficiently. If so, that will be too bad, because all the satellite  
> images we processed are very large and occupy a lot of space.  
>  
> I tried 'tiff' format with Packbits compression, but it does not help  
> for gray-scale image. Sometimes the file size of the compressed image  
> is even larger than the original raw data!!!  
>  
> Can anyone give me some hint? Thank you very much!  
>  
> Regards,  
>  
> Julia

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