Subject: Re: MPEG under IDL
Posted by johnh on Mon, 27 Mar 1995 08:00:00 GMT

My suggestion is to write the separate frames of the movie out
as a set of GIFs.
Then use a program called mpeg_encode to turn the
series of GIFs into an MPEG movie.
(I suppose mpeg_encode should be able to handle JPEG images too).
(I'm sure someone has a better way! Please post it).

Subject: Re: MPEG under IDL
Posted by thompson on Tue, 28 Mar 1995 15:34:04 GMT

Emilio Hernandez <emilio@formentor.uib.es> writes:

> Hi all,
> Do you know is there any standard routine to build (and to read) mpeg
> movies from sequences of IDL images?

Although I've never tried it, it is supposed to be possible to do with a
combination of the PBMPlus package plus a program called mpeg_encode. The
steps are supposedly as follows:

1. Write out the frames of your movie one by one as GIF files.

2. Use giftoppm from the PBMPlus utilities to convert the GIF files to PPM
format.

3. Use mpeg_encode to convert the PPM files to an MPEG movie.

You should be able to find PBMPlus and mpeg_encode at various ftp sites.

Good luck,

Bill Thompson

Subject: Re: MPEG under IDL
Posted by bowman on Wed, 29 Mar 1995 00:02:15 GMT

In article <3l9a9c$94h@post.gsfc.nasa.gov>,
thompson@orpheus.nascom.nasa.gov (William Thompson) wrote:

> Emilio Hernandez <emilio@formentor.uib.es> writes:
>
>> Hi all,
>> Do you know is there any standard routine to build (and to read) mpeg
>> movies from sequences of IDL images?

It is also possible to make QuickTime movies on a Mac in a similar manner.

1. Generate the frames one at a time.
2. Write each frame to a separate file: frame.001, frame.002, etc.
3. Use a utility like Spyglass View to convert the sequence of images to
a PICS file. (There is an upper limit of 16 MB per file for PICS files.
They can be joined after converting to QT.)
4. Convert to QT with MovieConverter or something similar. A number of
compression schemes are available in QT, including lossless ones. Newer
versions may include MPEG, I'm not sure.

Major drawback: only usable on Macs, Windows, and SGI machines that have QT.
Advantages: Good compression.

I've put 180 MB movies generated in IDL on CD-ROM this way (600x300x5000
frames, approx 5:1 compression).

Ken Bowman

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