
Subject: Plotting to file
Posted by [Bosco Y. So](#) on Mon, 15 May 1995 07:00:00 GMT
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I'm using the Macintosh version of IDL and I want to output my plots to graphic files via a procedure. If I was drawing with SHADE_SURF, I can use the IMAGE optional argument to save the graphic to a 2D array and then use one of the WRITE_XXX routines to save it to a file. However, I can't seem to do the equivalent with PLOT. Can someone give me a pointer?

Also, is there a way to save a series of plots as a QuickTime movie? Although I can always use an utility to convert a series of PICT files into a QT movie, it would be great to be able to do it in one step.

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Subject: Re: Plotting to file
Posted by [bso](#) on Wed, 17 May 1995 07:00:00 GMT
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In article <D8n2A4.CJr@midway.uchicago.edu>, rivers@cars3.uchicago.edu wrote:

> If the Mac supports the Z device then you can PLOT to the Z device, read the
> bitmap back and use WRITE_XXX to save to some graphics file. You could also
use
> the Postscript driver to save to PS files which you can read into Word, etc.

Thanks. I reread the TVRD section in the reference manual and realized that I can actually capture the image in the plot window to an array without

switching to the Z-buffer and back. One collateral benefit is that the progress of the procedure is constantly shown in the plot window. Do you foresee any problems with this approach?

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