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Subject: Re: How to make GIF file (2) ?

Posted by [bleau](#) on Mon, 12 Jun 1995 07:00:00 GMT

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Sorry, folks. I just read a few more messages and realized you'd answered my questions. The answer being:

```
SET_PLOT,'Z'  
PLOT,X,Y  
A=TVRD()  
WRITE_FILE,'A.GIF',A
```

This will plot values in Y against values in X and write them out in GIF format. I just tried it in a batch job, and it works nicely. Success!

Thanks to everyone who responded about using Z buffer, especially Robert M. Candey ([Robert.M.Candey@gsfc.nasa.gov](mailto:Robert.M.Candey@gsfc.nasa.gov)), Mark Rivers ([rivers@cars3.uchicago.edu](mailto:rivers@cars3.uchicago.edu)), Jason Mathews ([mathews@bolero.gsfc.nasa.gov](mailto:mathews@bolero.gsfc.nasa.gov)), and H. Ian Novack ([ian@gomez.jpl.nasa.gov](mailto:ian@gomez.jpl.nasa.gov)).

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Subject: Re: How to make GIF file (2) ?

Posted by [rivers](#) on Mon, 12 Jun 1995 07:00:00 GMT

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In article <[3ri3c2\\$dm6@hecate.umd.edu](mailto:3ri3c2$dm6@hecate.umd.edu)>, [bleau@UMDOSP.UMD.EDU](mailto:bleau@UMDOSP.UMD.EDU) (Lawrence Bleau) writes:

> Hi again. I posted a message last week re generating a GIF file from IDL so I  
> can serve it over WWW, and received quite a few responses so far. All of them  
> have directed me to use TVRD and WRITE\_GIF. Thanks to those who responded.  
> This does not, however, solve my problem entirely. Here are the additional  
> details.

...

> The second problem is one of automation. As I mentioned earlier I want these  
> graphs to be served out over WWW. What I didn't mention in my earlier post was  
> the method I had in mind. I'd like these graphs to be generated when a WWW  
> request comes in for data in a certain time frame. My HTTP server would fire  
> up an application which would figure out what raw data files are needed, then  
> start up IDL and feed it the data. IDL would generate a GIF file, which the  
> application would then feed back to the HTTP server and thence to the WWW  
> client. So, IDL would be running in a detached mode, with \*no\* display device.  
>

> Question: Can TVRD get information from the display device if there is no  
> display device?

>  
> Also: Can PLOT be made to generate a plot (which TVRD can access) if there is  
> no display device? I know PLOT can be told to generate a PostScript file (do a  
> SET\_PLOT,'PS'), but this doesn't help, as Netscape doesn't know how to display  
> PostScript. Ideally, I'd like to do the equivalent of SET\_PLOT,'GIF', but that  
> doesn't appear to be an option. If the PLOT-TVRD combination doesn't work in  
> this mode, what can I use on PLOT to eventually get a GIF file? Thanks.

You should have read our responses more carefully. At least 3 of us suggested that you use the Z pseudo-device (SET\_PLOT, 'Z'). This solves these problems. You can PLOT to and do TVRD() from the Z device from a batch file.

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|                    |                                      |
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Subject: Re: How to make GIF file (2) ?  
Posted by [thompson](#) on Tue, 13 Jun 1995 07:00:00 GMT  
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bleau@UMDSP.UMD.EDU (Lawrence Bleau) writes:

> Hi again. I posted a message last week re generating a GIF file from IDL so I  
> can serve it over WWW, and received quite a few responses so far. All of them  
> have directed me to use TVRD and WRITE\_GIF. Thanks to those who responded.  
> This does not, however, solve my problem entirely. Here are the additional  
> details.

> I had learned about TVRD and WRITE\_GIF from TFM before I posted my initial  
> message, and had hoped there was a better way of approaching the problem (like  
> with a PLOT option). I put up a simple plot and called TVRD(0,0,100,100,0),  
> followed by a WRITE\_GIF. I moved the resultant file to my WWW server  
> directory, went to my Mac, fired up Netscape, and viewed the image. It was a  
> small square image in the corner of the graph, showing the axes. So far, so  
> good. I next called TVRD(0,0,200,200,0) and put it in another file. This  
> displayed a rectangular image with some lines, but was not recognizable as part  
> of the graph (well, maybe if you strain). The rectangle was roughly twice the  
> width of the first subimage and half the height, though I wouldn't swear to it  
> (I didn't measure it). Finally, I tried it with TVRD(0,0,500,500,0), and when  
> viewed this produced a \*blank\* image! There's something going on here I do not  
> understand, folks, and it puts a big question mark beside the entire process.

(rest deleted)

As I recall, if you use TVRD() without any parameters, it automatically reads in the entire window. I suspect that's what you want to do. If you use the 'Z' device, as mentioned in other posts, then you can use the command

```
IDL> DEVICE,SET_RESOLUTION=[xsize,ysize]
```

to make the size of the pseudo-display the desired size of the GIF file before doing any plotting.

Bill Thompson

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