Subject: Re: How to make GIF file?
Posted by Robert.M.Candey on Fri, 09 Jun 1995 07:00:00 GMT
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In article <3ra31t$j08@hecate.umd.edu>, bleau@UMDSP.UMD.EDU wrote:

> Hi. I running IDL V3.6.1 and have a question about plotting. First, let me
> describe what I'm trying to do overall, in case anyone has a better suggestion
> on how to do it.
>
> I want to create a GIF file to put on my system and have it served over
the WWW
> to other sites. This GIF file is a fairly simple plot, with X- and Y-axis, a
> bunch of points, and lines connecting them. The raw data for this is an Ascii
> file with columns of floating point numbers.
> . . .
>
> Larry Bleau
> University of Maryland
> bleau@umdsp.umd.edu
> 301-405-6223

This is off the top of my head but should be close. I guess we need to add this to the IDL FAQ.

```
set_plot,'Z' ; plot to Z so IDL can be used in batch mode
device,z_buffer=0,set_resolution=[400,300] ; size of GIF image
loadct,13 ; or whatever color palette, Z device defaults to 256 colors
plot, . . . ; whatever plot and xyout commands

tvlct, r,g,b, /get ; get colortable actually used
image = tvrd() ; get bitmap from Z device
write_gif, 'file.gif', image, r,g,b
```

If you transfer the GIF image to a Macintosh, use Fetch and set its Suffix Mapping Custom option to assign the filetype 'GIFf' and use binary transfer.

--
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Subject: Re: How to make GIF file?
Posted by rivers on Sat, 10 Jun 1995 07:00:00 GMT
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In article <3ra31t$j08@hecate.umd.edu>, bleau@UMDSP.UMD.EDU (Lawrence Bleau) writes:

> Hi. I running IDL V3.6.1 and have a question about plotting. First, let me
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> bunch of points, and lines connecting them. The raw data for this is an Ascii
> file with columns of floating point numbers.
>
> I figure we'll have to write a procedure to read in the values, do some
> decision making, and plot them. I know about the PLOT command in IDL, and
> there's enough information I can slug through it and tailor my plots properly;
> if not I'll just come back here for more info.
>
> The puzzling part is how to have PLOT generate a GIF image file. I looked at
> SET_PLOT, which has a slew of options on output devices (PostScript, HP PCL,
> CGM, etc.). GIF, however, is *not* one of those options. I noticed there is a
> WRITE_GIF command, but the manual (unless I've looked in the wrong place)
> doesn't say how to call it and what it's arguments are. Okay, so one of the
> arguments is an array in GIF format. That begs the question, however: How does
> one create the GIF image in the first place? If it isn't done with PLOT, then
> how? If it is, what's the magic keyword?
>

Try the following:

```
IDL> set_plot, 'z'              ; Select the Z pseudo device
; Set the resolution, turn off Z buffering for increased speed
IDL> device, set_resolution=[800, 500], z=0
IDL> plot, findgen(100)         ; Draw the plot
IDL> buff = tvrd()              ; Read the bitmap back into an IDL variable
IDL> write_gif, 'filename', buff, ...
```


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Subject: Re: How to make GIF file?
Posted by mathews on Sat, 10 Jun 1995 07:00:00 GMT
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In article <D9xsFM.7D9@midway.uchicago.edu>,
Mark Rivers <rivers@cars3.uchicago.edu> wrote:
> In article <3ra31t$j08@hecate.umd.edu>, bleau@UMDSP.UMD.EDU (Lawrence Bleau) writes:

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>

I use a similar approach with several WWW-based data systems that
invoke CGI perl scripts via a HTML form. The perl script executes
IDL in batch mode, runs a IDL routine to make a plot of the
selected parameters, and writes the results to a GIF. The perl
program output is displayed on the WWW browser as a HTML document
with an inline GIF image.

An example application is the COHOWeb data system via the URL:
http://nssdc.gsfc.nasa.gov/cohoweb/cw.html

Sample examples of various perl programs that use IDL on the web
and the corresponding HTML forms are available via the following
URL: http://coney.gsfc.nasa.gov/Mathews/misc/idl-www.html

Hope this helps.

Jason Mathews

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