
Subject: Re: Making a ginormous 54 panel plot...

Posted by [Kenneth P. Bowman](#) on Wed, 01 Dec 2010 20:49:55 GMT

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In article

<5d27124d-2a89-4667-b024-dd293bda55a1@f21g2000prn.googlegroups.com>,
OUWxGuesser <aaron.kennedy@und.nodak.edu> wrote:

> Here's the deal. I have 54 .png plots I want to combine into a 9x6
> panel plot in IDL. Native resolution for each image is 1000x700
> pixels. This exceeds the maximum buffer size of 8192x8192.
>
> No problem... I use congrid and shrink everything to 90% of the
> original size which gives me a final image size of 8100x3780.
>
> In my code, I first specify the window as:
> p=window(dimensions=[8100,3780])
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> I then loop through the files I need to panelize (or is it
> penalize? :)) and place them in the appropriate places. This
> works.
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> The issue I have is IDL does not listen to my dimensions for the
> original window! Instead, it creates a window that is 8192x2632.
> This creates large whitespace between the columns and shrinks the
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> specified. This makes things tough to read which defeats the
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> My alternative *cringe* is to use GIMP to cut and paste the 54 plots
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> the source of the problem, but I just end up getting MESA frame
> buffer errors and in some cases, IDL crashes to the desktop with no
> warning. If anyone has any suggestions or assistance, I'd greatly
> appreciate it!

Why are you opening a window?

Can't you just read the PNG files, concatenate or copy them
into your big array, then write the array out as a new PNG.

Ken Bowman

Subject: Re: Making a ginormous 54 panel plot...

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Wed, 01 Dec 2010 20:58:09 GMT

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> warning. If anyone has any suggestions or assistance, I'd greatly
> appreciate it!

Oh, my gosh. Have you tried TVImage? :-)

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.

Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>

Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

Subject: Re: Making a ginormous 54 panel plot...

Sadly, the big array is too large for the memory. When I use the TV route and try to TVRD at the end, it spits out "TVRD: An error has occurred. Unable to complete command."

On Dec 1, 2:49 pm, "Kenneth P. Bowman" <k-bow...@null.edu> wrote:

```
> In article
> <5d27124d-2a89-4667-b024-dd293bda5...@f21g2000prn.googlegroup s.com >,
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> Ken Bowman

Subject: Re: Making a ginormous 54 panel plot...
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Wed, 01 Dec 2010 22:05:59 GMT
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OUWxGuesser writes:

> Sadly, the big array is too large for the memory. When I use the TV
> route and try to TVRD at the end, it spits out "TVRD: An error has
> occurred. Unable to complete command."

Why don't you just output your images to a PostScript file?

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.
Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>
Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

Subject: Re: Making a ginormous 54 panel plot...
Posted by manodeep@gmail.com on Wed, 01 Dec 2010 22:10:47 GMT
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On Dec 1, 2:49 pm, "Kenneth P. Bowman" <k-bow...@null.edu> wrote:

> In article
> <5d27124d-2a89-4667-b024-dd293bda5...@f21g2000prn.googlegroup s.com >,
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> Ken Bowman

If not using IDL for the final image is an option, then you should try
montage (from Imagemagick) to tile the images. You have control over
the layout, the individual image sizes and the spacing between the
images.

Here is the man page for montage:
<http://www.imagemagick.org/Usage/montage/>

If all else fails, convert from the images from png to eps, include in
a tex file in the layout you want and generate a ps or pdf file.

Cheers,
Manodeep

Subject: Re: Making a ginormous 54 panel plot...
Posted by [OUWxGuesser](#) on Wed, 01 Dec 2010 22:23:17 GMT

Darn. I was hoping to avoid crossing that bridge but that may be the only solution!

On Dec 1, 4:05 pm, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:
> OUWxGuesser writes:
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> Why don't you just output your images to a PostScript file?
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> Cheers,
>
> David
>
> --
> David Fanning, Ph.D.
> Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.
> Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming:<http://www.dfanning.com/>
> Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

Subject: Re: Making a ginormous 54 panel plot...
Posted by [penteado](#) on Thu, 02 Dec 2010 00:15:52 GMT
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On Dec 1, 7:57 pm, OUWxGuesser <aaron.kenn...@und.nodak.edu> wrote:
> Sadly, the big array is too large for the memory. When I use the TV
> route and try to TVRD at the end, it spits out "TVRD: An error has
> occurred. Unable to complete command."

That is still the option with the potential to use the least memory.
If the array is too large and you would downsize it anyway to get to
less than 9000x4200, you can downsample the individual images before
putting them into the big array (which would not be so big).

Anyway, you probably do have enough memory to make the big array at
100%: 9000x4200 pixels at 24 bpp is only ~108MB. You were able to make
a buffer 81% of that size, which may (probably does?) use more memory
than the array would.

Subject: Re: Making a ginormous 54 panel plot...

Posted by [greg.addr](#) on Thu, 02 Dec 2010 11:33:20 GMT

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I use this to merge png files - might be helpful. If memory is the problem, at least you can combine as far as possible before resorting to GIMP.

Greg

```
pro gm_merge_png,filenames,outfile,frame,vertical=vertical
    ;filenames - png files to be merged
    ;outfile - output filename
    ;frame - white border between images, in pixels
    ;vertical - set to merge vertically instead of default
horizontal

for i=0,n_elements(filenames)-1 do begin
    im0=read_png(filenames[i])
    if n_elements(frame) gt 0 then begin
        sz=size(im0,/dim)
        im1=make_array(3,sz[1]+frame*2,sz[2]+frame*2,/byte,value=255 b)
        im1[* ,frame:sz[1]+frame-1,frame:sz[2]+frame-1]=im0
        im0=im1
    endif
    case i of
        0:im=im0
        else:im=keyword_set(vertical)?[[[im]],[[im0]]]:[[im],[im0]]
    endcase
endfor
write_png,outfile,im
end
```

Subject: Re: Making a ginormous 54 panel plot...

Posted by [Kenneth P. Bowman](#) on Thu, 02 Dec 2010 14:39:35 GMT

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In article

<6fc9ecfb-a3ea-4afa-a371-186420318ec2@y3g2000vbm.googlegroups.com>,
OUWxGuesser <aaron.kennedy@und.nodak.edu> wrote:

> Sadly, the big array is too large for the memory. When I use the TV
> route and try to TVRD at the end, it spits out "TVRD: An error has
> occurred. Unable to complete command."

I still don't understand why are you using TV.

This code snippet reads a PNG file and creates a new PNG file with the original image in a 2 x 2 tiling.

No TV or TVRD necessary.

Ken

```
IDL> img = READ_PNG('test.png')
% Loaded DLM: PNG.
IDL> help, img
IMG      BYTE      = Array[3, 1024, 612]
IDL> new_img = BYTARR(3, 2*1024, 2*612)
IDL> new_img[0,0,0] = img
IDL> new_img[0,1024,0] = img
IDL> new_img[0,1024,612] = img
IDL> new_img[0,0,612] = img
IDL> write_png, 'test1.png', new_img
```

Subject: Re: Making a ginormous 54 panel plot...
Posted by [OUWxGuesser](#) on Thu, 02 Dec 2010 15:39:03 GMT
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First of all, thanks for all of the suggestions! In the end, I decided to do some experimentation with TVRD to see what it can handle. While I don't have an exact size for all of you, I was able to creatively edit my individual panels to decrease the resolution slightly. I was successfully able to create an image using TVRD with a resolution of 6930x3780. At this size, there is an audible increase in fan-speed in my computer while IDL is humming away. Ah, the sound of success!

Subject: Re: Making a ginormous 54 panel plot...
Posted by [OUWxGuesser](#) on Thu, 02 Dec 2010 15:40:46 GMT
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Oh and FYI, the memory issues were related to the patched IDL 8. The non TV/TVRD method works fine in IDL 7.x
