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Subject: Re: write graphics to file?

Posted by [hartman](#) on Mon, 17 Jul 1995 07:00:00 GMT

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In <DBuB0r.AD0@midway.uchicago.edu> rivers@cars3.uchicago.edu (Mark Rivers) writes:

> This question has been answered a number of times recently, it probably belongs  
> in the FAQ.

> IDL> plot, x, y, title = 'This is my plot'  
> IDL> image = tvrd()  
> IDL> write\_gif, file, image ....

Thanks - I love you all... :-)

> I believe this sequence works if you are on any windowing display (X, Windows,  
> Mac). For better speed and more flexibility, first issue the command  
> SET\_PLOT, 'Z', /NOZ

IDL says:

Keyword NOZ not allowed in call to: SET\_PLOT

But using 'tvrd' works great for me.

JanWillem

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Subject: Re: write graphics to file?

Posted by [rivers](#) on Mon, 17 Jul 1995 07:00:00 GMT

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In article <hartman.805901825@ruund9.fys.ruu.nl>, hartman@fys.ruu.nl (Jan Willem Hartman) writes:

> Hello all,

>

> Yet another question...

> I would like to have a file dump of my IDL window, in any graphics  
> format. Something like 'set\_plot,'gif' will do very well.., I know  
> there are lots of routines that let you write a gif/tiff/whatever file  
> from an image, but what if you just have an x-y plot, and want to save  
> that plot to a gif-file, without losing a lot of information? It  
> should also work on MS-windows version of IDL, so a 'spawn,"xwd .."  
> will not do.

This question has been answered a number of times recently, it probably belongs in the FAQ.

```
IDL> plot, x, y, title = 'This is my plot'
IDL> image = tvrd()
IDL> write_gif, file, image ....
```

I believe this sequence works if you are on any windowing display (X, Windows, Mac). For better speed and more flexibility, first issue the command SET\_PLOT, 'Z', /NOZ to write to the Z-buffer pseudo-device. You can set its resolution, and its write and readback performance is very fast.

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Subject: Re: write graphics to file?  
Posted by [Kenneth S. Kump](#) on Tue, 18 Jul 1995 07:00:00 GMT  
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Here is a quick little bit of code which "captures" any idl window (not just plot window) into an image. I often use it like this:

```
write_gif,'out.gif',plot2image()
```

---

```
function plot2image,windown
;+
; NAME: PLOT2IMAGE
;
; Purpose: Reads the plot from the currently active window and converts it
;          to an image which can be printed, converted to a slide or file
;
; USAGE: RESULT=plot2image([window_number])
;
;          If window_number is not given, the current window is used.
;          Will prompt you to invert image or not.
;
;
; Ken Kump 12/94
;-
```

```
if n_elements(windown) gt 0 then wset,windown
```

```
info=!d
x=info.x_vsize
y=info.y_vsize ; gets the visible size from the display
image=tvrd(0,0,x,y)
print,"do you wish to invert the image? (y/n) "
; since it will contain black pixels if plotting background is black.
ans=get_kbrd(2)
if(ans eq 'y') then image= not image
return,image
end
```

hartman@fys.ruu.nl (Jan Willem Hartman) wrote:

```
> I would like to have a file dump of my IDL window, in any graphics
> format. Something like 'set_plot,'gif' will do very well.., I know
> there are lots of routines that let you write a gif/tiff/whatever file
> from an image, but what if you just have an x-y plot, and want to save
> that plot to a gif-file, without loosing a lot of information? It
> shoud also work on MS-windows version of IDL, so a 'spawn,"xwd .."
> will not do.
> If anybody knows, thanks in advance.
>
> JanWillem
>
>
>
```

--

Ken Kump

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Subject: Re: write graphics to file?

Posted by [bleau](#) on Wed, 19 Jul 1995 07:00:00 GMT

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In article <DBuB0r.AD0@midway.uchicago.edu>, rivers@cars3.uchicago.edu (Mark Rivers) writes:

```
>> I would like to have a file dump of my IDL window, in any graphics
```

```
>> format.
```

```
[snip]
```

>  
> This question has been answered a number of times recently, it probably belongs  
> in the FAQ.

>  
> IDL> plot, x, y, title = 'This is my plot'  
> IDL> image = tvrd()  
> IDL> write\_gif, file, image ....

>  
> I believe this sequence works if you are on any windowing display (X, Windows,  
> Mac). For better speed and more flexibility, first issue the command  
> SET\_PLOT, 'Z', /NOZ  
> to write to the Z-buffer pseudo-device. You can set its resolution, and its  
> write and readback performance is very fast.

>  
Maybe if should (be in the FAQ, that is); I'm the previous person to ask about  
it, I believe. I decided to but in on this thread, though, to ask a related  
question: How does one create a color GIF file? write\_gif loads&compiles some  
other procedures, one of which is a black&white color table. The messages it  
(write\_gif) gives are:

```
% Compiled module: WRITE_GIF.  
% Compiled module: LOADCT.  
% Compiled module: FILEPATH.  
% LOADCT: Loading table B-W LINEAR
```

Has anyone used this before to store a color image? I can rtfm on setting up  
color tables and plotting them to the Z device and all, but since write\_gif  
isn't documented that well I haven't the faintest idea what I need to do  
make it write out a color gif file. Ideas?

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