
Subject: How do I improve the quality of movie output?
Posted by [Rob.Dimeo](#) on Fri, 05 Apr 2013 11:03:09 GMT
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Hi all,

I have been creating some movies from some animations I created in IDL but I know very little about how to get nice video output from IDL animations. I'm using direct graphics so I'm snatching frames using TVRD() and I'm creating MP4 videos (but I'm not necessarily wedded to that format). Unfortunately I'm not really that happy with the quality of the result. The colors are faded and the resolution is not great, even with the video player on its highest resolution).

A brief code snippet is listed below that shows you how I'm doing it.

```
xsize = (ysize = 600)
fps = 60
oVid = IDLffVideoWrite(filename+'.mp4')
vidStream = oVid.AddVideoStream(xsize,ysize,fps,bit_rate = 5e7)

for j = 0,nframes-1 do begin
  ; Animated IDL graphics go here
  ; Plot something...
  frame = tvrd(/true) ; capture the screen
  !NULL = oVid.Put(vidStream, frame)
endfor
oVid.Cleanup
```

Example output of this can be seen here:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TsGqmhskXlo>

The output is ok but not even close to what I get when I do an animation in a direct graphics window with pixmaps and the device,copy trick. Before I decide that my expectations are too high (that the video output be comparable to the IDL display), I wanted to find out from others who have had some experience with this sort of thing.

Any help would be greatly appreciated!

Rob
