
Subject: Re: Contour and 'Z-buffer'

Posted by [Liam Gumley](#) on Thu, 06 Feb 1997 08:00:00 GMT

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Nestor Zarraoa wrote [in part]:

- > We want to use IDL 4.0.1 (sunos) to create a contour plot
- > in GIF format. The calling process must run overnight.
- > We tried moreover to use X-windows with /pixmap, but again it would
- > not work if the x-windows display is not open, even if we do not
- > try at all to create a physical window on the screen.

Nestor,

You should be able to use X pixmaps in an IDL background job. We run 'cron' jobs that do this routinely.

In the script that calls idl, you must set the DISPLAY environment variable *before* idl is started, e.g. (csh assumed)

```
setenv DISPLAY :0.0
setenv IDL_DIR /usr/local/rsi/idl_4
source $IDL_DIR/bin/idl_setup
idl startup.pro
```

We use a very minimal IDL program for 'startup.pro', e.g.

```
.rnew process.pro
exit
```

process.pro would contain the WINDOW command, e.g.

```
window, /free, /pixmap
```

and then your IDL processing commands. Give it a whirl and let me know what happens.

Cheers,
Liam.
