Chapter 4   NCSA ImageTool Menus

Chapter Overview

Button and Text Field Menus

Text Fields and Other Control Window Menus

Chapter Overview

This chapter provides information on the hidden menu items available in NCSA ImageTool.

Button and Text Field Menus

Control buttons and text fields often have associated menus. Some menus simply provide descriptive text for the buttons. Others provide more flexibility or additional functionality.

Stack Buttons

When you switch to stack mode, some buttons appear in the control panel. These buttons all have associated menus. The menu for the Flush button provides no additional functionality. This menu's sole element duplicates the effect of clicking the button. Selecting Flush storage purges the contents of the entire stack.

The Store, Show, and Delete button menus provide no operations in addition to those performed by the buttons themselves, but they do add a degree of flexibility. The entries in these menus consist of the numbers from 1 to 10. Selecting a number causes the associated operation to be performed on the stack entry indexed by the number selected from the menu rather than the one indicated by the number beside the control. For example, select the entry titled 3 from the Store button's menu to store the currently selected image in the third stack entry.

Animate Buttons

The menus for these buttons provide no additional function, nor do they provide additional flexibility. They simply provide an alternative method of initiating the same action. Menus of this type are also informative. The text of the menu item provides more information about the operation than may be discernible from the appearance of the button. For example, the + button has a menu with only one item, Increase speed. This is obviously more descriptive than the addition symbol.

Text Fields and Other Control Window Menus

Each text field in the control panel has an associated menu. These menus provide a variety of functions in most cases, and there are control key equivalents that may be used instead.

Directory Text Field Menu

The field labeled Directory has a menu (Figure 4.1) associated with it that contains two options. The Change directory option causes the current directory to be changed to the directory you name in the text field. Press CTRL-C at the end of the text field to perform the same function. Pressing CTRL-N gets the default directory name.

Figure 4.1   Directory Text Field Menu

^N - Get directory name
^C - Change directory

NOTE: The pathname of the current directory is always displayed in the black border (title bar) on the top of the NCSA ImageTool frame.

Image Text Field Menu

The Image Text Field menu (Figure 4.2) has more elements. If you select Load image from file, or press CTRL-L at the end of the text field, the named file is loaded. If you haven't specified a complete pathname for the file, NCSA ImageTool looks for it in the current directory. If you have not changed the current directory since changing the text in the directory field, the directory named is not the same directory that is searched.

Animate from files provides animation from raster file matching the file specification in the Image text field. Clear canvas, and Scale image file enable you to clear the canvas and scale an image, respectively. To initiate these operations you can also press CTRL-A, CTRL-C, and CTRL-S, respectively, at the end of the text field.

Figure 4.2   Image Text Field Menu

^N - Get file name
^L - Load image from file
^A - Animate from files
^C - Clear canvas

Loading? Menu

The Loading? menu (Figure 4.3) lists options from which you must indicate the type of file you are loading. No key stroke equivalents exist for these options, you simply select the file type with the mouse cursor. Descriptions of the types of files NCSA ImageTool supports, as well as a discussion on HDF files, are provided in Chapter 2, "Formatting Your Data Files."

Figure 4.3   Loading? Menu

```
First (whatever) and palette (if any)
First RIS8 image & palette (HDF)
First SDS 2D-data (HDF)
First (whatever) only
First RIS8 image only (HDF)
```

Palette Text Field Menu

The field labeled Palette also has several items in its menu. The Load palette from file option loads a color palette from the palette file. Refer to the File Formats section in Chapter 2 for details on the file format used. Restore previous palette returns the palette to its unmodified state. Show palette displays a color strip at the current origin point on the canvas. You can also press the alternative CTRL key codes for these operations: CTRL-L, CTRL-R, and CTRL-S. The menus for Xdim and Ydim fields simply position the cursor at the end of these text fields and select the associated text.

SDS Scaling Menu

The SDS Scaling Menu (Figure 4.4) contains options for using a popup dialog window, as well as specifications for linear or logarithmic scaling of a scientific dataset image file. No keystroke equivalents exist for this menu's options. You'll only be using this menu if you're loading a SDS.

Figure 4.4   SDS Scaling Menu

```
Use popup dialog window
Linear, data max & min
Log, data max & min
```