

Introduction

Overview

This introduction provides an overview of NCSA ImageTool capabilities on the Sun Workstation. The organization and use of this manual is described and its typographic conventions are explained.

About NCSA ImageTool

NCSA ImageTool is a utility that provides a variety of methods for visualizing a set of data points. Color images, contour plots, 3D plots, and XY graphs are mechanisms that you employ to "see" the data. Contour plots, 3D plots, and XY graphs can be printed. Color images can be magnified, composited, and, to some degree, edited. You can modify color palettes and save them. You can also save individual images or selected portions of the canvas.

New Features in NCSA ImageTool 1.1

NCSA ImageTool 1.1 now allows you to load and manipulate HDF (Hierarchical Data Format) files. Consequently, with HDF support you can open HDF files from or transfer them to other NCSA software.

You'll notice a few new option in the NCSA ImageTool screen. One of these options, "Image Loading," requires you to specify the type of file you are loading. The other option, "SDS scaling," requires that you enter your file dimensions (unless you're opening an HDF file which includes its dimensions.)

Finally, NCSA programmers have fixed many bugs, added error messages, and cleaned up the format and text of the first version.

System Requirements

In order to run NCSA ImageTool, you must have a Sun Workstation with color hardware capable of displaying 256 colors simultaneously. You must also have SunView installed on the machine.

Use of This Manual

This section describes the organization of this manual and the conventions and nomenclature used in developing it. Before using NCSA ImageTool, you should be familiar with the SunView user interface and know how to use control buttons, the mouse, and scroll bars. If you have not used the Sun Workstation before, refer to the owner's guide that came with your Sun Workstation before using this package.

Manual Contents

This manual is organized into the following chapters:

Chapter 1, "Learning to Use NCSA ImageTool," assists you in creating a graphic representation of your data file. The chapter offers a brief tutorial on the simpler options available in NCSA ImageTool.

Chapter 2, "Formatting Your Data Files," explains how NCSA ImageTool reads and displays data files. The chapter contains a detailed discussion of the file formats NCSA ImageTool can read.

Chapter 3, "Animation, Palettes, and Plots," covers more advanced display options in NCSA ImageTool, including animation, palette modification, and plots.

Chapter 4, "NCSA ImageTool Menus," provides information on the hidden menu items available in NCSA ImageTool.

Appendix A, "NCSA ImageTool Mouse Button Usage," describes the use of the program's mouse buttons.

Appendix B, "Errors and Warnings," describes the meaning of many of NCSA ImageTool's error numbers and warning messages, as well as some operation system errors.

Appendix C, "Obtaining NCSA Software," outlines the procedures for obtaining NCSA software via FTP, an archive server, or by regular mail.

Also included is a Glossary of key terms.

Form of Presentation

The material in this manual is presented in text, screen displays, or command line notation.

Text

In explaining various features and commands, this manual often presents a word within a paragraph in *italics* to indicate that the word is defined within the paragraph, or that it is a significant term that should be noted and/or is being mentioned for the first time.

Portions of this manual refer to other sections of the manual which explain related topics. These cross references usually mention the title of sections or chapters enclosed in quotation marks, such as, See Chapter 1, "Using Composite Tool."

Command Line Format Notation

Throughout this manual, many explanations instruct you to make entries by typing on the keyboard. These entry instructions are printed in **courier bold type** and appear within a paragraph or on a separate line. The command lines in this manual are normally shown in lowercase, except in rare instances where uppercase is required.

When it is necessary for you to press a key that is labeled with more than one character (such as the RETURN key), this manual identifies the key with all capital (uppercase) letters. Keys to be entered are printed in bold type. Keys that are pressed simultaneously or in succession are linked with a hyphen. For example, press CONTROL-A.