Chapter 2 Options and Special Features

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Chapter Overview

This chapter thoroughly explains how to select the parameters of your animation and how to create multiple movies from a single Tektronix 4010 file.

Setting Frame Parameters

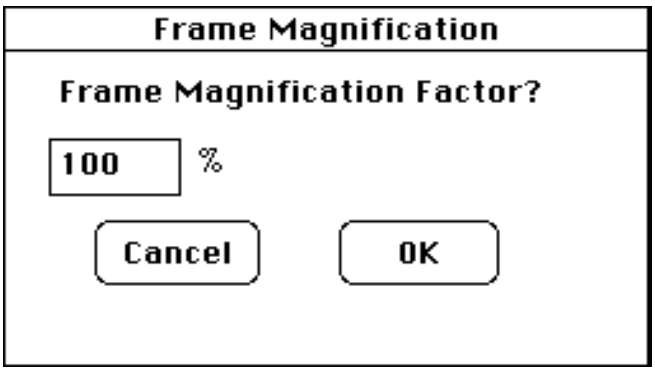
The NCSA HyperCard Scientific Animation Package allows you to customize several characteristics of your animation: the size of your frames, which frame should be the first of the animation sequence, and which frames, if any, are to be skipped as the animation is run.

Magnifying or Reducing the Frame Size

To adjust the size of the frames which comprise your animation sequence:

1. Select Frame Magnification from the Options menu, or press -M. The Frame Magnification dialog box shown in Figure 2.1 appears.

Figure 2.1 Frame Magnification Dialog Box

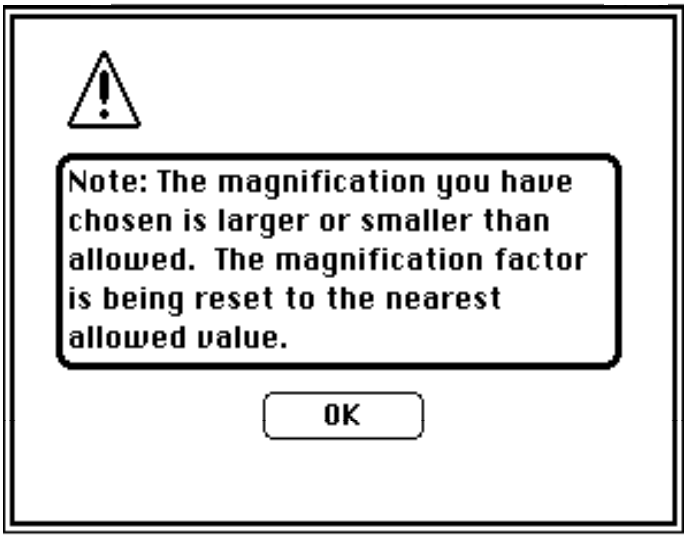


2. Enter a whole number from 50 to 125, inclusive (100 is the default frame size).

3. Click OK.

NOTE: If you specify a magnification factor of less than 50% or greater than 125%, you will receive the error message shown in Figure 2.2, and the magnification factor will be automatically set to either 50 or 125, whichever is nearest the value you entered.

Figure 2.2 Magnification Warning Message



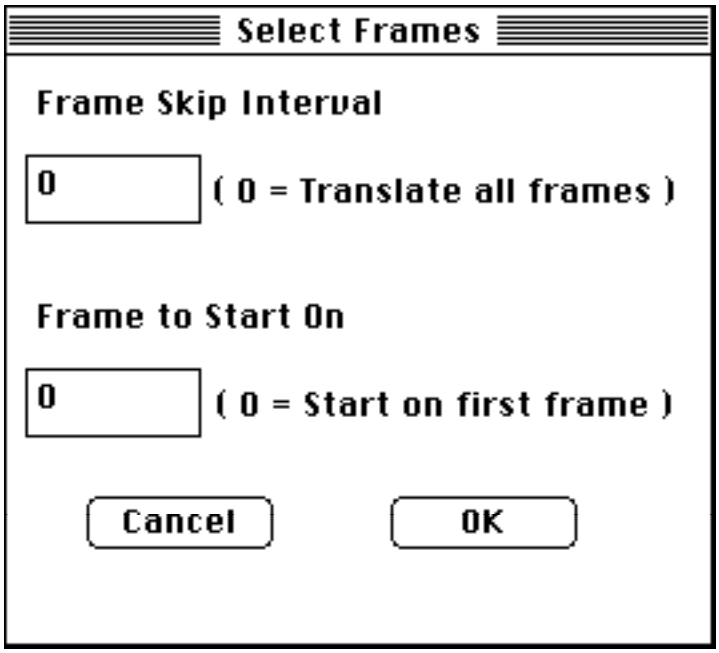
Designating Initial or Skipped Frames

To designate the initial frame of your animation sequence or specify frames to be skipped during animation:

1. Choose Select Frames from the Options menu or press -S. The Select

Frames dialog box shown in Figure 2.3 appears.

Figure 2.3 Select Frames Dialog Box



2. Enter a number indicating what intervals of frames are to be skipped by typing your preference in the text box labelled Frame Skip Interval. For example, if you wish to skip every other frame you would enter a 1. To skip every two frames, you would enter a 2. All remaining frames are animated. To shorten the movie or show greater diversity between each frame, set the Frame Skip Interval to a higher number.

3. Enter the number of the frame at which you wish the animation to begin by typing your preference in the text box labeled Frame to Start On. For example, if you want to begin your animation at the fourth frame in the stack, you would enter 4.

Reviewing Your Frame Parameters

To review your frame parameters, select Show Info from the Options menu or press -I. The Show Info dialog box (see Figure 1.7) appears and displays the Tektronix 4010 file you are translating, the name of the PICT file you are writing into, the magnification factor of your frames, the frame skip level, and the frame start level.

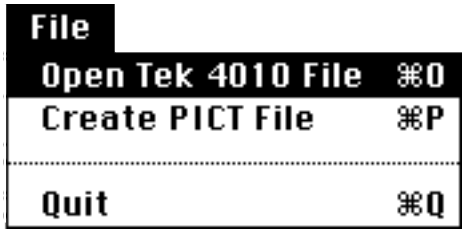
To exit the Show Info dialog box, click OK.

4 Creating Multiple Movies from Tektronix 4010 Files

The HyperCard stack is capable of animating up to about 300 frames contained within a single movie (to translate one Tektronix 4010 file into one PICT file, follow steps 1 through 9 in the section, “Translating a Tektronix File into PICT,” in
Chapter 1). However, you may also create several small movies from a single Tektronix file. Such a separation would allow you, for example, to emphasize a particular segment of the file. To create many movies from a single Tektronix 4010 file:

1. Translate the Tektronix 4010 file by selecting Open Tek 4010 file from the File menu shown in figure 2.4 or by pressing -O. In the directory dialog box that appears, select and open the desired file.

Figure 2.4 File Menu

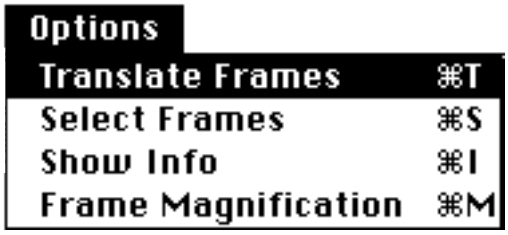


2. Select Create PICT File from the File menu or press -P. In the directory dialog box that appears, select or name and open the PICT file that the Tektronix 4010 file is to be translated into.

3. Specify the frame parameters by following the steps listed in the section of this chapter entitled, “Setting Frame Parameters.”

4. Translate your Tektronix 4010 file into PICT by selecting Translate Frames from the Options menu or by pressing -T (see Figure 2.5).

Figure 2.5 Options Menu



5. To create another movie, open the same Tektronix 4010 file, but this time open a new PICT file and choose new frame selection parameters.

6. Repeat steps 4 and 5 until you have created the desired number of PICT files from the single Tektronix 4010 file.

7. Import the PICT files into HyperCard (see Chapter 1, “Importing PICT

Files into HyperCard for Animation).