

## PlayMovieAction

**PlayMovieAction** [/A/Z] **keyword** [=value] [, **keyword** [=value]]

The PlayMovieAction operation is used to extract frames from a movie file.

### Flags

/A	Macintosh: /A is ignored. Windows: Uses alternate deprecated technology, AVI instead of MMF.
/Z	Errors do not stop procedure execution. Use V_Flag to see if an error occurred.

### Keywords

extract	Extracts current frame into an 8-bit RGB image wave named M_MovieFrame. (Can be combined with frame=f.)
extract=e	Extracts <i>e</i> frames into a single multiframe wave, M_MovieChunk. This wave will have 3 planes for RGB and will have <i>e</i> chunks. <i>e</i> =1 is the same as plain extract. For <i>e</i> >1, the current time is automatically updated.
frame=f	Moves to specified movie frame.
getID	Returns top movie ID number in V_Value. Do not use in same call with getTime.
getTime	Reads current movie time into variable V_value (in seconds).
gotoBeginning	Goes to beginning of movie.
gotoEnd	Closes the movie opened using the open keyword movie file.
kill	Closes open movie.
loop=mode	On Macintosh only, <i>mode</i> chooses between two extraction methods. The default, equivalent to loop=0, is fast but can not back up; an attempt to extract a frame previous to the last one extracted results in an error. The alternate method, loop=1, provides random access but can be very slow when reading sequential frames. The loop keyword was added in Igor Pro 8.00. It is ignored on Windows.
open=fullPath	Opens the specified movie file to enable frame extraction. V_Flag is set to zero if no error occurred and V_Value is set to the file reference number.
ref=refNum	The ref keyword is used with all PlayMovieAction commands after using the open keyword to access a movie file. <i>refNum</i> must be the file reference number returned in V_Value in the open step. The ref keyword is needed only if multiple files or windows are open. You can also use setFrontMovie to set the active movie.
setFrontMovie=id	Sets the movie with given <i>id</i> as the active movie file. Do not use setFrontMovie and getID in same call to PlayMovieAction.
start	Obsolete. Movie windows are no longer supported in Igor itself.
step=s	Moves by <i>s</i> frames into movie (0 is same as 1, negative values move backwards).
stop	Obsolete. Movie windows are no longer supported in Igor itself.

### Details

Operations are performed in the following order: kill, gotoBeginning, gotoEnd, frame, step, getTime, extract. kill overrides all other parameters.

If you want to extract a grayscale image, you can convert the RGB image into grayscale using the ImageTransform command as follows: