14th April 2013   Changing default environment of VMD

In VMD, I usually use:

1. a white background.

2. CPK drawing method (Graphics > Representations > Drawing method)

3. Orthographic projection (Display > Orthographic radio button)

None of the above are the default values. When VMD is run, it gets the default values from the VMD startup script file .vmdrc. Thus, to change the default values, one needs to make change in this file.

The file can be located anywhere depending on in which location VMD was installed, so it is better to do a recursive search starting at root using find command (sudo is required to access the root). Thus,

me@X:$ sudo find / -name .vmdrc

There might be multiple copies, but modify the one in the /lib directory, e.g., the following in my case:

/opt/vmd-1.9.1/lib/.vmdrc

To edit:

me@X:$ sudo vi /opt/vmd-1.9.1/lib/.vmdrc

Now paste the following commands and save.

color Display Background white

display projection Orthographic

mol modstyle 0 0 CPK 1.000000 0.300000 10.000000 10.000000

Next time VMD is run, above will be the default values of background etc.

Posted 14th April 2013 by computational.physics

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