Subject: Re: More Questions on 24 bit color
Posted by davidf on Sat, 14 Nov 1998 08:00:00 GMT
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Reinhold Schaaf (schaaf@astro.uni-bonn.de) writes:

> However, this time some question remained. I have the problem to export
> line plots, which are produced by IDL with direct graphics, in some
> format that allows the plots to be imported into Word documents (I am
> working under NT). Since I cannot assume a postscript printer, exporting
> eps-Files is no option. I tried to copy the graphics into the Windows
> clipboard and to paste them into the Word document, which worked; but
> since I want printer output at a reasonable quality (300 dpi) and since
> the size of the plot on the paper has to be not too small (6 inch x 4
> inch), this procedure is too memory intensive to be useful.
>
> So I ended up exporting the plot as a gif-file, which can be imported to
> Word easily. David's advise in this thread came exactley at the right
> time for me, so everything is fine.
>
> But, although the plot in the IDL-window is white (I mean: *really*
> white), the background color in the gif-image is not *really* white,
> but instead a light grey.
>
> Any suggestions (both to the gif color problem and to the export-import
> scheme)?

Reinhold, I'm sorry to say that this problem cannot be laid
on IDL's doorstep. This is a Windows problem. I just ran
your example program and imported the GIF file into Word and,
sure enough, the background is gray.

So, I tried loading it into into Netscape. Background is
still grey. Humm. That's odd. So I poked around in
Netscape's Preferences dialog. Ah, here it is. I had
the "Use Windows Colors" button selected. Click that
off, apply the "real" color scheme, and presto, the
background of the GIF image in Netscape is perfectly
white.

The white to grey transition is apparent in Word no
matter how many colors I restrict the GIF file to:

    image2D = COLOR_QUAN(snapshot, 1, r, g, b, COLORS=128)

I don't know what to tell you. I tried various things
(including reversing the colors), but to no avail. When
Bill Gates gets it in his head that white should be

rendered as grey, there is apparently little we can do.
Word does exactly the same thing with BMP files.

So I await, with you, more enlightened suggestions.
Perhaps RSI can whip up a WRITE_SCREWY_FORMAT function
especially for Microsoft.

Cheers,

David

David Fanning, Ph.D.
Fanning Software Consulting
E-Mail: davidf@dfanning.com
Phone: 970-221-0438, Toll-Free Book Orders: 1-888-461-0155
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: http://www.dfanning.com/