Subject: Re: 8-bit vs. 24-bit color on Windows
Posted by Liam Gumley on Fri, 22 Jan 1999 08:00:00 GMT
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William Thompson wrote:
> I know this question has been asked many times before, but I'm afraid I don't
> remember what the answer is. Is there any way to convince IDL to use 8-bit
> pseudo-color on a Windows computer with a 16-bit or higher display? I know
> that in other operating systems this is done by using
>
> DEVICE,PSEUDO_COLOR=8
>
> However, this is not supported under Windows. I tried
>
> DEVICE,DECOMPOSED=0
>
> which the documentation claims will make routines work like they did before,
> but this doesn't appear to be the whole story. With DECOMPOSED=0, data will
> come up with the correct color, but only if they are displayed after the color
> table is loaded. This is unacceptable. There must be another step to convince
> IDL to use 8-bit pseudo-color, and if there isn't then RSI must address this.
>
> I've checked David Fanning's Coyote Guide (http://www.dfanning.com/), but the
> only suggestion I could find there that meets my needs is to set Windows to run
> at 256 colors. I'm perfectly happy to do that, but it would be nice to be able
> to use 16-bit or 24-bit for those programs which need it, and 8-bit color for
> IDL. This is possible in other operating systems; can it be done in Windows?

When using IDL under Windows with a 24 bit display setting, the only way around this problem is to re-display your graphic after changing the color table. That's why David's XCOLORS program (http://www.dfanning.com/programs/xcolors.pro) includes a keyword which enables you to notify an external event handler that the color table has changed.

BTW I've noticed image display problems (especially with grey scale images) under Windows when using a 16 bit display setting. The problems do not appear in 8 bit or 24 bit display modes (which are the modes supported by IDL).

Cheers,
Liam.

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