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Subject: Re: read\_tiff - simple question

Posted by [davidf](#) on Sun, 28 Feb 1999 08:00:00 GMT

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Harald von der Osten-Woldenburg (hvdosten@ludwigsburg.netsurf.de) writes:

```
> I am trying to read an existing tiff image. Doing this exactly as
> proposed in the online help menu I only get error messages. For
> example:
>
> device, true=24
>
> tvlct, r, g, b
> tv, image
>
> leads to the error message unknown variable r in tvlct. What is missing?
```

My guess is that this is a 24-bit image in this TIFF file, so there are no R, G, and B vectors that would create an associated color palette. The RGB information is included inside the image itself. You can easily test this by looking at image, r, g, and b with the HELP command:

```
Help, image, r, g, b
```

I think you will find that image is a 3-by-m-by-n array and that r, g, and b are undefined. Try this code:

```
Device, True=24
image = Read_Tiff('zeragon.tif')
TV, image, True=1 ; if image is 3-by-whatever
```

You can find out exactly what is in the TIFF file before you try to read it by using the new QUERY\_TIFF function:

```
is_tiff = Query_TIFF('zeragon.tif', tiff_info)
IF is_tiff THEN Help, tiff_info, /Structure ELSE $
Print, 'Not a TIFF file'
```

This will tell you whether the file contains a palette, whether it is a 24-bit or 8-bit image, what its dimensions are, etc. Very handy.

```
> By the way: Does something exist like an archive including all the
> discussion in this newsgroup, so that beginners like me can first have a
> look on this before asking such simple questions in this newsgroup?
```

You can always visit the IDL FAQ, maintained by Mike Schienle at:

[http://www.ivsoftware.com/pub/idl\\_faq.html](http://www.ivsoftware.com/pub/idl_faq.html)

And I have plenty of IDL programming tips on my site as well:

<http://www.dfanning.com/documents/tips.html>

But I don't think anyone minds simple questions in the newsgroup if the people seeking answers are sincere in their efforts to learn IDL. :-)

Cheers,

David

P.S. I've just received the latest batch of IDL books from the printer. This version has been updated rather extensively for IDL 5.2. I have also increased the amount of discussion on 8-bit verses 24-bit image display, as this continues to be a source of confusion for many IDL users as we make the transition from 8-bit to 24-bit computers.

I also have about 8 books from the previous Dec 98 version of the book that I will sell to students cheaply, if anyone is interested.

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Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>

Toll-Free IDL Book Orders: 1-888-461-0155

[Note: This follow-up was e-mailed to the cited author.]

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