
Subject: Re: color table trouble

Posted by [davidf](#) on Fri, 02 Apr 1999 08:00:00 GMT

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I wrote (rather too flippantly) just a moment ago:

> I know, I know. I'm a sucker for these color questions, but I
> LOVE this question!
>
> IDL> Device, Decomposed=0

Here is a modest proposal for RSI. Why not turn color decomposition OFF by default. Then people like Gary won't get confused and I won't have to answer this question 10 times a week (multiplied by the number of technical support engineers at RSI).

But here is the real kicker reason for me: if I *care* about displaying my 24-bit images correctly (and color decomposition really only makes sense if I have 24-bit images, it seems to me) then--as I posted last week--I HAVE to set the DECOMPOSED keyword anyway:

Device, Decomposed=1
TV, image24

If I don't do this, then I run the risk that my image will not be displayed properly, since with color decomposition off, ALL values, even those in 24-bit image values, are run through the color table.

I understand the argument that if people have 24-bit hardware they expect it to behave like 24-bit hardware, but the reality for the vast majority of IDL users, I feel sure, is that color decomposition is something they can safely put off learning for many more months and years to come. There is just way too much code out there (including much of the code supplied with IDL) that forces us to think in an undecomposed color way.

Cheers,

David

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