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Subject: Re: Medical Imaging Question

Posted by [Peter Clinch](#) on Wed, 18 Aug 1999 07:00:00 GMT

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David Fanning wrote:

- > Not a bad idea, probably, but in my experience color
- > is anathema to medical researchers. I take a great
- > deal of abuse in my IDL classes when I display the
- > CTSCAN image in color and upside down. :-(

Colour isn't anathema: look at PET nuclear medicine scans...

But with a 4096 level x ray or mri representation the problem with colour is along the lines of "is blue bigger than red, or vice versa" You can solve this one way using "temperature" type scales (think this is what is done with PET, will ask next time I'm over at Nuclear Medicine), but these tend to have fewer values than 12 bit: is pale red "more" than deeper red? If so, how does it relate to deep yellow? And so on... And will one person's scheme match another? probably not! When selecting a background for our Uni web pages a pale cyan was an option. I described it as "warm", many others rejected it as "too cold"...

With a staright grey level, you know exactly where you are: more intensity, more value.

Pete.

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