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Subject: Re: Colormaps (a favorite subject!)

Posted by [Alex Schuster](#) on Tue, 28 Mar 2000 08:00:00 GMT

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Craig Hamilton wrote:

> Thanks for the code, but my problem is not with grey-levels vs.  
> number of colormap entries. My problem is as originally stated  
> it: I want the user to be able to select the number of colors  
> in the colormap, but I can't popup a window to get that information  
> without having the number of colormap entries already set  
> in the act of popping up the window. I must not be explaining  
> myself very well. I've done loads of image processing programming  
> in other languages on Unix and Windoze, so I'm familiar  
> with colormaps and scaling of image data for display.  
> I'm working with 16-bit data on 8-bit displays right now and I want to  
> avoid color-flashing, so I want to use from 32 to 128 colormap  
> entries for this display program. I want the user to be  
> able to select how many entries are used.

Why don't you just let IDL allocate as much colors as it can get (window  
& wdelete & ncolors=!d.n\_colors)?

> Maybe a little more simply:  
> I have been initializing the size of the colormap used with:  
>     window,0,colors=numcolors,/pixmap,xsize=10,ysize=10  
>     wdelete,0  
> But now I just want to get the number 'numcolors' from the user first.  
> I think I am realizing that I cannot get that number with a widget.  
> Right?

I have had a similar problem: A tool displays brain images, but there  
are often too few colors. So I check for the number of available colors,  
and if it is at least 64, I use 64 color cells. If there are less, I  
install a private colormap. This results in a flickering display, but at  
least the user gets enough colors.

What I did to check the number of available colors is to open a  
temporary IDL session which checks the number, and writes it to a file  
in /tmp. The session then exists, and another IDL session starts. It  
reads the file in /tmp, and allocates as much color cells as stated in  
the file.

Alex

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PGP Key available