Subject: Re: Window Background
Posted by davidf on Mon, 06 Nov 2000 08:00:00 GMT
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Eric Kihn (ekihn@ngdc.noaa.gov) writes:

> Since I got such a great response to my last post I thought I'd try one=
> =20
> more time. Thanks to JD I got the code running but now the=20
> behaviour on Windows and Linux is different. On the Linux side my plot=20
> window comes up with a white background, on the Windows side a black one=
> .
> Same code and version of IDL 5.3. Since I need the white BG I tried=20
> !P.BACKGROUND =3D 255 on windows but no change.

What you really should be doing here is setting the background color value to the index of the white color in the color vectors you are using. You loaded a white color into index 0. So your code should look like this:

```
TVLCT, r, g, b
!P.Background = 0
```

Then if you don't get what you are looking for, you might have other problems.

I tend to prefer to ask for colors by name. I have recently upgraded some of the color tools on my web page to recognize 88 different colors by name. (I even added the capability of adding your own color names and values as a color value file.) The advantage of this method is that it *always* gives me the correct color on all machines and in any color decomposition state (if I am using IDL 5.2 or higher where I can tell what the color decomposition state is).

For example, if I want to create background, axes, and data plotting colors, I would write my code like this:

```
axisColor = FSC_COLOR("Green", !D.Table_Size-2)
backColor = FSC_COLOR("Charcoal", !D.Table_Size-3)
dataColor = FSC_COLOR("Yellow", !D.Table_Size-4)
Plot, Findgen(11), Color=axisColor, Background=backColor, /NoData
OPlot, Findgen(11), Color=dataColor
```

This works for all machines in any color decomposition space.

In addition to FSC_COLOR, the new program PICKCOLORNAME will
allow the user to interactively select a new color name for
use with FSC_COLOR:

```
  ; Set new data color.

  datacolor = PickColorName("Yellow")
  data = Reverse(Findgen(11))
  OPLOT, data, Color=FSC_COLOR(datacolor, !D.Table_Size-4)
```

To see a list of the 88 colors available, type this:

```
 IDL> Print, FSC_COLOR(/Names)
```

Or, to see an interactive list of the color names and
the actual colors:

```
  IDL> color = PickColorName('dark gray')
```

You can find the programs here:

  http://www.dfanning.com/programs/fsc_color.pro
  http://www.dfanning.com/programs/pickcolorname.pro

Cheers,

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