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Subject: Re: TVIM display routine on 24-bit displays  
Posted by [davidf](#) on Thu, 11 Jan 2001 18:12:53 GMT  
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David Williams (d.williams@qub.ac.uk) writes:

> I've recently made the switch (as a user, not as sysadmin!) from a Sun  
> Ultra running Solaris to a PC running Red Hat 6.2. No big deal, perhaps,  
> but I'm having to come to terms with using a decent graphics card with  
> 24-bit colour when using IDL (and the various astronomy add-ons like CDS  
> and SolarSoft).  
>  
> My problem is this: I used to use a very nifty display routine by Paul  
> Ricchiazzi called TVIM.PRO, which always did the job brilliantly for me.  
> It still plots fine on a postscript device, but when you use it to  
> display an image on your 24-bit colour XWindow, the colour table doesn't  
> scale nicely. If you're using colour table 0 (greyscale), for example,  
> to view a 2-D image, then it doesn't scale from black (minimum data  
> value) to white (maximum data value) as it would under an 8-bit display.  
>  
> I know that the colour system under 24-bit isn't as straightforward as  
> under 8-bit, for which (I read) IDL is optimised.  
>  
> Because so many of my routines (and some of my colleagues') depend on  
> TVIM and all its nice keywords, does anyone know of a way to make TVIM  
> display things properly on a 24-bit XWindow? The only kludge I've been  
> able to get to work so far has been to get our sysadmin to cripple the  
> machine's display to 8-bit colour, which seems like a rather ham-fisted  
> way of doing things.  
>  
> Any help would be \_greatly\_ appreciated,

I think most of the problem is in this one line:

```
max_color=!d.n_colors-2
```

This line should really be set to this:

```
max_color=!d.table_size-2
```

Then, I would add a Device, Decomposed=0 line someplace  
in the file. Or, you can always remember to do this  
at the IDL command line. :-)

Cheers,

David

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