
Subject: Re: Setting colors for Plotting to PRINTER
Posted by [david\[2\]](#) on Sun, 12 Aug 2001 03:40:08 GMT
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Aaron Birenboim writes:

> After reviewing Dr. Fanning's code, it appears to me that
> the following should work for a color plot on all non-screen devices
> (or at least the ones where !D.NCOLORS EQ 256) :
>
> TVLCT,255,0,0,22
> PLOT,indgen(9),COLOR=22
>
> To produce a red plot.
> Is this correct????

Yes, for all 8-bit displays.

> --- However, my PS device (at least) still appears black.
> that may be a seperate issue to look into later.

A common mistake is to forget to set the
COLOR keyword when you configure the PostScript
device. You must also set the BITS_PER_PIXEL
keyword to 8. (There are the defaults, by the
way, with PSConfig, which is one of the reasons
I always use it to configure the PostScript device.)

> All that aside....
> There is a special case for 'PRINTER' where fsc_color.pro
> seems to NOT do the TVLCT call.
> How is it that for 'PRINTER' a color gets loaded into index 22....
> when the TVLCT call appears to be skipped?

If there is, I can't seem to find it. :-(

> This is kind of hard for me to test, since I do not have
> a color printer on my development system.
>
> How would the color 22 get set to red for:
>
> SET_PLOT,'PRINTER'
> c = fsc_color('red',22)
> ; i think c would be 22 here
> PLOT,indgen(9),COLOR=c
>
> Is there any place in the IDL documentation that covers
> how to set PLOT colors on non-screen devices?

> Is the PRINTER device somehow different from other
> non-screen devices?

The PRINTER device (depending upon which printer you are using, of course) is weird. All kinds of strange things go on with it. For example, I've had little luck loading colors while inside the PRINTER device. I almost always have to load colors outside the device, and copy them into the PRINTER:

```
Set_Plot, 'PRINTER', /Copy
```

And then there is a bug in the PRINTER device such that if you load a single color (e.g. red, in your example) while in the PRINTER device, the background shows up in that color. This no matter *what* index you load the color in. (This doesn't happen on all printers, thank goodness.)

So, to make your PRINTER example work, I think you might want to try this:

```
c = fsc_color('red',22)
SET_PLOT,'PRINTER'm /Copy
PLOT,indgen(9),COLOR=c
```

Cheers,

David

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