
Subject: Re: Intermittent plotting problem

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Fri, 05 Oct 2001 01:03:10 GMT

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George Hawkins (hawkins@aavso.org) writes:

```
> I have a plotting program running on a windows computer,  
> and the problem is sometimes it works and sometimes it  
> doesn't (the exact same program with nothing changed).  
> When it doesn't work, most of the plot is made fine,  
> except that none of the lines from the "Plots" commands  
> are drawn. The gist of the program is ...  
>  
> window,1,xsize=782*3,ysize=1020*3,/pixmap  
> plot,x,y,psym=3  
> ...  
> plots,[.04,.23],[.925,.925],color=255,/normal,thick=3.0,line style=0  
> plots,[.23,.23],[.925,.96],color=!d.n_colors-1,/normal,thick =3.0,linestyle=0  
> ...  
> write_png,filename,not(tvrd())  
> wdelete,1  
>  
> Rebooting sometimes solves the problem but not always.  
> Does anyone have the answer to this intermittent problem?
```

Color decomposition. :-)

I'm going to predict that when the program works
color decomposition is turned OFF (Device, Decomposed=0),
and when it doesn't work color decomposition is turned
ON (Device, Decomposed=1). I'm going to further
assert (I'm feeling really bold today) that you
don't have any idea what the color decomposition
state is when you execute these commands. :-)

I'll even offer a postulate. The program will
work more often than it does now if you change
!D.N_Colors to !D.Table_Size.

Rebooting will indeed sometimes solve the problem
(although it seems a bit over the top to me), but
knowing where you are when you draw graphics
always works more reliably for me.

Cheers,

David

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