Subject: Re: Colour table, multiple sessions
Posted by David Fanning on Thu, 21 Mar 2002 14:14:56 GMT

Craig Markwardt (craigmnet@cow.physics.wisc.edu) writes:

> As Reimar points out, you probably have an 8-bit (pseudo-color)
> display. If that is true, then you are running into a basic
> limitation of your display rather than IDL. For example, Netscape, xv
> (if you are doing Unix), will be starved for colors too, after one
> instance of IDL is started.
>
> One saving possibility is for each IDL session to reserve a fraction
> of the available colors. Usually, you would do this in a call to
> WINDOW with the COLORS keyword. For example, WINDOW, COLORS=100. The
> first time around that should leave about another 100 colors available
> for the second invocation of IDL, or any other color-hungry
> application.
>
> To get around this further you will need a new graphics mode for your
> screen (could be as simple as selecting it). 24-bit is the best
> supported by IDL.

There used to be undocumented Get_X_ID and Set_X_ID keywords
for the DEVICE and WINDOW commands that would allow you to
export and share X window drawables (and their associated
colortables) with other programs. This was one way to
circumvent the limitations of an 8-bit graphics card. I see
that by IDL 5.4 these keywords have been removed. Probably
because they don't seem necessary in a 24-bit world.

Cheers,

David

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