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Subject: Re: changing the color map without having to re-load an image

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Wed, 03 Apr 2002 14:42:59 GMT

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Marc Sauvage (msauvage@cea.fr) writes:

> since I recently changed my work environment from an X-terminal  
> running on a solaris network to a mac on OSX with Xfree86, I'm  
> experiencing a strange problem with colors: I cannot modify the color  
> map (e.g. with xloadct, or by loading a new table with the command  
> line) and have these changes apply to the already displayed images.  
> The changes will only affect the images I load after the change.  
>  
> I never experienced this problem in my previous configuration. The  
> problem appears to be connected to the way I'm working now: I'm using  
> Xdarwin (basically that's Xfree86 compiled from Mac OS X) to start an  
> X session on the mac, then I connect to a solaris machine and run IDL  
> there on remote.  
>  
> At first I couldn't even use colors, but searching around made me  
> stumble on  
>  
> device,decompose=0  
>  
> Which solves this problem. So now I can use colors, any color table,  
> in fact. I can modify the color table with xloadct, and I see the  
> color table changing in the xloadct widget, but these changes do not  
> affect the already opened graphics window and I have to reload the  
> images to see the changes (I've tried setting retain to 2 but I don't  
> think this addresses my problem). This is a pain because in my field,  
> astronomy, I have to do this almost all the time to actually see  
> what's in the images, and explore the structure of the objects.  
>  
> I checked on both the Mac and the unix server which types of visual  
> were supported (with xpdinfo) and apparently the same types are  
> supported on both side. Currently I'm set to true\_color. Also worth  
> knowing: my version of IDL is 5.4.  
>  
> Anyone with ideas on how to solve this problem is welcome.

Welcome to the world of 24-bit color, Marc! :-)

What you are experiencing is perfectly normal, and exactly the way 24-bit color is supposed to work. And rest assured, after a bit of an adjustment you are going to want to work in 24-bit color all the time, just like the rest of us.

Here are a couple of articles you might want to read:

[http://www.dfanning.com/color\\_tips/identical\\_graphics.html](http://www.dfanning.com/color_tips/identical_graphics.html)

[http://www.dfanning.com/color\\_tips/noxloadct.html](http://www.dfanning.com/color_tips/noxloadct.html)

Also, download my XCOLORS program and read the documentation header, especially the information about the NOTIFY\_PRO keyword.

<http://www.dfanning.com/programs/xcolors.pro>

Similar capabilities are built into XLOADCT, but they are a bit more cumbersome, in my opinion.

Cheers,

David

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

Toll-Free IDL Book Orders: 1-888-461-0155

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