Subject: changing the color map without having to re-load an image
Posted by msauvage on Wed, 03 Apr 2002 09:12:02 GMT

Hi there,

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 form 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 xpdyinfo) 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.

    Marc.