
Subject: Re: set_plot,'PS' and accurate colors?
Posted by [dave](#) on Wed, 08 Jan 2003 21:02:55 GMT
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Mark Hadfield wrote:

> "dave" <knapp@rtt.colorado.edu.NOSPAM> wrote in message
> news:3E1C8321.655CD000@rtt.colorado.edu.NOSPAM...
>
>> It's looking like IDL can't plot output graphics (PS, metafile etc) with
> more than
>> 256 colors ever, is that true?
>
> It's true of the direct-graphics PS device. It's not true of the
> direct-graphics METAFILE or PRINTER devices, both of which accept a
> TRUE_COLOR keyword. (These statements are based on my reading of the manual.
> I don't actually have any experience of creating direct-graphics plots with
>> 256 colours.)

I tried the true_color keyword with "metafile" and cannot find a syntax that it won't complain about. Tells me true_color cannot be used with the metafile device.

>
> Actually, it's not quite true of the PS device, in that you can end up with
> more than 256 colours in a Postscript file by loading a colour table,
> plotting, loading a different colour table, plotting. Do this n times and
> you can have 256*n colours in the file.

Interesting thought, although I've coded this in a way that would make that difficult now.

And, of course, you can write true-colour images to bitmap formats like

> TIFF, JPG and PNG.

If I rewrite all my code to not make line plots but rewrite 2-d arrays, yes.
