
Subject: Re: set_plot,'PS' and accurate colors?

Posted by [Paul Van Delst\[1\]](#) on Wed, 08 Jan 2003 20:58:33 GMT

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dave wrote:

```
>
> David Fanning wrote:
>
>> dave (knapp@rtt.colorado.edu.NOSPAM) writes:
>>>
>>> It's looking like IDL can't plot output graphics (PS, metafile etc) with more than
>>> 256 colors ever, is that true?
>>
>> 256 colors out of a palette of 16.7 million. Yes,
>> that is what it means to be an 8-bit device. Computers
>> used to be like this in the old days. :-)
>
> Sigh,
>
> So how does one print anything in IDL with good color selection?
```

methinks there may a problem with how your system be setup. plotting in color in IDL (direct graphics at least) is pretty easy - especially stuff like you have described.

- What version of IDL are you using?
- How many bit planes are you set up to use? 8,16,24? (xdpyinfo should tell you that - for unix at least)
- If 8 bit planes, what is the output when you do:

```
window, /free, /pixmap, colors = -5
plot, [ 0 ]
wdelete, !d.window
print, 'Number of colors is ', !d.n_colors
print, 'Color table size is ', !d.table_size
```

immediately after starting IDL?

Depending on what your system colour depth is and how many color-intensive applications (e.g. web browser, fancy editor, movie player, etc) you have running, you may have simply run out of colours.

paulv

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