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

Posted by [Mark Hadfield](#) on Wed, 08 Jan 2003 20:47:07 GMT

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"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.)

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.

And, of course, you can write true-colour images to bitmap formats like
TIFF, JPG and PNG.

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