
Subject: Re: Why does color change to b/w when using PNG?

Posted by [bleau](#) on Wed, 17 Mar 2004 19:51:07 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

In article <c6d70400.0403161901.71f0d9b8@posting.google.com>, andrew.cool@dsto.defence.gov.au (Andrew Cool) writes:

> bleau@UMTOF.UMD.EDU (Lawrence Bleau) wrote in message news:<c380s1\$3hb\$1@grapevine.wam.umd.edu>...

>> I'm running IDL 5.4 on OpenVMS 7.1-2 and am trying to do some plots.

>>

>> Previously, we were using the ps device (SET_PLOT,'PS') and generating

>> PostScript files for each plot. We now want to generate PNG files as well.

[snip]

>> So, what's different between these two plot types (PS vs. PNG) that would

>> cause the same code to produce different results? TIA.

>

> Wouldn't WRITE_PNG do the job for you?? Along with the R,G,B parameters.

Thanks for the tip, Andrew. I specified the r,g,b arguments and it wrote out the color table as well as the image. Now I have a color image. That's the good news. Now for the bad.

The plot looks absolutely horrible! This is by comparison with the PS plot made earlier. Something is seriously wrong here. To see what I mean, take a look at

http://uleis.umd.edu/~bleau/ULEIS_2004_001_2004_005.PNG;4

It should look something like

http://uleis.umd.edu/docs/desai/GIFS/ULEIS_2004_001_2004_005.GIF

In the PNG plot, the y-axis is way too short, the y-axis label runs the wrong direction, the labelling near the top is scrunched together, and not all of the data gets plotted (bottom plot missing).

Something is seriously different when using PNG vs. PS but using the exact same plotting commands. Has anyone had experience with PNG?

As another test, I decided to write out a JPEG format as well. I just added a call to WRITE_JPEG; see

http://uleis.umd.edu/~bleau/ULEIS_2004_001_2004_005.JPG;1

This one, however, is completely black! It's like all color table entries are 0s. The call to TVLCT is still there.

Could it be that TVLCT fails miserably with JPEG and PNG images, even though it works with PS and GIF? If I can get the color table working with the JPEG image I can then troubleshoot problems with the Z device vs.

problems with PNG per se.

So, I have two problems: major problem is poor plotting with PNG, minor problem is how to get colors on a JPEG image (why TVLCT fails). TIA.

Lawrence Bleau
University of Maryland
Physics Dept., Space Physics Group
301-405-6223
bleau@umtof.umd.edu
