
Subject: Re: Plotting in color on a 24 bit display
Posted by [karsten](#) on Tue, 29 Aug 1995 07:00:00 GMT
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jmcfee@dres.dnd.ca (John McFee) writes:

> I am trying to plot multiple graphs in different colors in IDL 4.0 on a
> Sparcstation 20 with a 24 bit display. My old programs, designed for an
> 8-bit display, do not work. As a first step, I ran the following very
> simple pro file to plot white on black:

```
> red = [1,0,0,1,1,0,.9,.7,1,0]
> green = [0,1,0,1,0,1,.9,.9,1,0]
> blue = [0,0,1,0,1,1,.7,.9,1,0]
> s = size(red)
> nct = s(1)
> erase
> bck_color = long(red(nct-1) + 256L*(green(nct-1) + 256L*blue(nct-1)))
> plt_color = long(red(nct-2) + 256L*(green(nct-2) + 256L*blue(nct-2)))
> d = findgen(100)
> plot,d,background=bck_color,color=plt_color,title='Simple plot'
> end
```

> and I just get a black screen. According to the manual - Users Guide

By default your 24-bit visual class is read-only. Therefore IDL cannot change colors, you get a black screen. You have to change your visual class to PseudoColor to make your program work. The easiest way to do so is to add some lines

```
/* what visual class to use */
idl.gr_visual:      PseudoColor
/* how many colors */
idl.colors:         200
/* # of bits of visual */
idl.gr_depth:       8
```

in your .Xdefaults file.

For more informations read the section The X Windows Device.
You may find this section in the hyperhelp of IDL 4.0 under the topic X windows device.

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