
Subject: Re: Understanding Color in IDL

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Wed, 11 Oct 2006 19:24:55 GMT

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JD Smith writes:

> Every time I interact with new IDL users, even very savvy, technically
> inclined users, the number one initial stumbling block relates to
> colors, usually DECOMPOSED issues. I think ITTVIS should take a hard
> look at their default color model, and ask themselves whether it's
> satisfying the largest number of users. Yes, once you learn the magic
> tricks, you are fine, but first impressions are everything, and the
> first impression many of my colleagues have of IDL is that it is buggy
> and can't display images very well.

I guess we could argue about what would "satisfy the largest number of users", but I have a feeling the iTools crowd (and I'm not saying that tongue in cheek) and even the folks like me, who LOVE 24-bit color and couldn't live without it now that I've built enough tools to deal with it, would get the shaft. In my experience, 80-90% of the IDL users still use the indexed color model for most of their programming needs.

I'd be satisfied with the way it is now (since we finally have most of the UNIX folks able to see *something* other than red on black plots!) if we just didn't have to write our programs differently to send them to a PostScript file or printer. :-(

Cheers,

David

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Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>

Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")
