Subject: Re: Understanding Color in IDL
Posted by JD Smith on Wed, 11 Oct 2006 18:54:32 GMT

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On Wed, 11 Oct 2006 11:29:03 -0600, David Fanning wrote:

> Folks,
>
> A quick look at my web page statistics for the keywords people
> use to find my pages convinces me that understanding how color
> works in IDL is still the number one problem for new users.
> (Closely followed by how to get decent PostScript output and
> how to calculate the log base 2 of a number, apparently.)
>
> I've written a number of articles on color over the years,
> but I've never collected this material into a single
> coherent explanation. I've attempted to do that now with
> a chapter I've written for the 3rd edition of my book.
> (Please don't hold your breath, but I *am* working on it,
> off and on.)
>
> I've made the chapter available as a PDF file for
> those who might be interested. If you are still confused
> after reading it, please let me know. I'd like to get
> this right before the book is published. :-)

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.

JD