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Subject: Re: strange behaviour of bar\_plot  
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Thu, 22 Mar 2007 16:09:02 GMT  
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paulartcoelho@gmail.com writes:

- > first time posting. i'm running IDL on Linux and i have a strange
- > behavior of bar\_plot procedure. first time in a session it runs ok.
- > second time, colours are changed (i don't set any colour in
- > particular)

If you don't set any colors in particular, then you  
can't be surprised when they change. :-)

Inside your program try loading some colors and using  
those color indices as your colors. There are various  
ways to do this (see the COLOR TIPS section in the IDL Tips  
section of my web page for lots of examples), but  
suppose you want 15 colors (you are drawing 15 bars).  
You might do something like this:

```
LOADCT, 33, NCOLORS=15, BOTTOM=1  
colorIndices = Indgen(15)+1
```

Then, when you call your BAR\_PLOT:

```
BAR_PLOT, data, Colors=colorIndices
```

- > and although the graph is plotted i end up with a message
- > '% Program caused arithmetic error: Floating illegal operand'. Only
- > restarting IDL make it back to normal behavior (.reset isn't enough).

This is typically a warning and may or may not be something to  
worry about. You should find out. Set !EXCEPT=2 and run your  
program again. This time it will stop with an error. Read the  
error message to find out what line in your program is causing  
the error and do the usual debugging thing to find out what in  
the world is going on there!? Likely suspects are a value that  
is getting very near zero, a value that \*is\* zero, etc. A couple  
of PRINT statements might help. Usually you are making some assumptions  
about your data that simply aren't true. This is a good time--  
well before the presentation to your boss--to learn about that, too.

- > i'd like to mention that i'm an IDL beginner as well.

That's alright. We are \*all\* beginners here. :-)

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.")

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