
Subject: Re: An IDL cron job, true color plots, Xvfb, Z-buffer, and all sorts of troubles

Posted by [kathryn.ksm](#) on Fri, 08 Feb 2008 16:25:36 GMT

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On Feb 8, 10:06 am, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:

> Kathryn writes:

>> For example, if I use the modified version of my stupid plotting
>> procedure that was in David's reply (running interactively, using X
>> windows), I have a couple of additional problems. First, I downloaded
>> FSC_COLOR so that I could use the annotatecolor option to colorbar.
>> However, the call as it stands in colorbar (which I also just re-
>> downloaded, to make sure I had the current version) leaves me with a
>> syntax error in FSC_COLOR, supposedly to do with the filename argument
>> in the call:

>> theColor = PickColorName(Filename=filename, _Extra=extra,
>> Cancel=cancelled)

>

> More likely that PickColorName is not in your path. Maybe
> you didn't download it. I use the Library to build programs
> in the Library, so...

>

> <http://www.dfanning.com/programs/coyoteprograms.zip>

>

>

>

>> Furthermore, if I try to use the Z buffer and TVREAD to solve my
>> problem, for example:

>> set_plot, 'Z'

>> plot_test, [0,2],[0.3,2.5]

>> tvread(/png, filename='plot_test',/nodialog)

>

>> My plot comes out with a blue background, invisible axes, and red
>> annotation on the colorbar. So clearly I'm still missing something
>> with respect to specifying the colors.

>

> Well, I think you forgot to specify them. This would be what
> I would expect for that color table 33 you were using the other
> day and this code.

>

> Something like this should work better:

>

> set_plot, 'Z'

> tvlct, 255, 255, 255, 1 ; White

> tvlct, 0, 0, 128, 2 ; Navy Blue

> tvlct, 205, 92, 92, 3 ; Indian Red

> Plot, [0,2],[0.3,2.5], Background=1, Color=2, /NoData

> OPlot, [0,2],[0.3,2.5], Color=3

> void = tvread(/png, filename='plot_test',/nodialog)
>
>> To be sure I wasn't screwing something up with calls in my
>> startup file, I commented out all graphics-related things prior to
>> testing the above snippet.
>
> There's your problem! ;-)
>
>> Thanks to everyone on this newsgroup for always being so generous with
>> suggestions,
>
> I thought I might have been too harsh yesterday in my assessment
> of your program, but you seem to be bucking up. Hang in there,
> you are just an Ah-ha moment away! :-)
>
> Cheers,
>
> David
> --
> David Fanning, Ph.D.
> Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.
> Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming:<http://www.dfanning.com/>
> Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

Hi again David,

You weren't too harsh at all - I'm just trying to hack my way to a solution to a problem as fast as possible. I know it ain't pretty.

So, I am still a little confused. The reason for using a color table in the first place is so that I can do the neat trick of scaling the colors in my plots to represent some arbitrary distribution of values over an arbitrary range, which is the purpose of the actual version of this little plotter. Is there a way to do that either with FSC_COLOR or some version of color tables in the Z buffer and get the colors I really want out?

Thanks tons,

Kathryn
