Subject: Color problems with IDL on Win NT 3.51
Posted by lorraine on Tue, 18 Jun 1996 07:00:00 GMT
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I used IDL 4.01 extensively on a Sparcstation in 256 color mode and have
become comfortable with the interface. Recently, I have begun using IDL
on a Windows NT 3.51 machine and have encountered problems with dynamic
color modification using xpalette and loadct. In 16 bit color mode
(64K colors available), once an image is tvscl 'd, the color map is
frozen until it is redisplayed. If I start xpalette and select a different
map, the original map is displayed in the color bar icon until I stop and
relaunch xpalette. The sliders don't change the image color map dynamically
either.

```
a=sin(indgen(100,100)*1.0) ;  make an array to scale
loadct,0     ; select the default bw palette
tvscl,a      ; a bw image appears
loadct,1     ; select the blue-white palette
(image is still bw here)
tvscl,a      ; bw image replaced with blue-white image
```

I have spoken with RSI technical support and remain unhappy. There answer
essentially is that IDL only handles colors appropriately under 256 color
mode and suggest going into the control panel and changing color mode from
TrueColor or 16bit. This involves restarting Win NT! Aaaagh! I have an
application that takes data and needs a 16 bit color space for display but
would like to use IDL for further analysis. This may be fixed in a later
release of IDL. But the suggested sequence is run application 1, save data,
reboot, run idl and look at data, exit, reboot, and repeat.

Has anyone come up with a workaround? I can't be the only person to have
hit this.   I don't know if this could be done by rewriting xpalette
(written in IDL).

By the way, IDL on a 133 MHz Pentium with 64M Ram runs about twice as fast as
on a Sparc 20. Not a scientific benchmark.

regards,
Peter Lorraine
GE Corporate Research & Development
lorraine@crd.ge.com