
Subject: Discrete Color Bars

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Mon, 16 Mar 2009 04:17:54 GMT

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Folks,

Colorbar is a nice program, very useful, etc. But it comes up short when you need a color legend with just a handful of colors. You have to have fairly specialized knowledge to get the underlying Plot command to do what you want it to do. And then you almost always have the problem that the colorbar annotations do not line up with the actual colors.

The problem has come home to roost one time too many when I started to need limited color bars on a regular basis. Too much fooling around!

So I sat down today and wrote what I wished I had written years ago: a discrete color bar program, named DCBar. Annotations are centered under the colors, and the annotations can be rotated if you need more space. The color bar can be displayed either horizontally or vertically, and you can specify the colors you want to use as color names, color indices into the current color table, or as 24-bit integers that can be decomposed into RGB colors. The program works with the other suite of color programs found in the Coyote Library, and will need some of them to work properly.

You can learn more about the program and see examples in this article:

http://www.dfanning.com/color_tips/discretecb.html

The program itself is provided without a paid subscription on my web page. ;-)

<http://www.dfanning.com/programs/dcbar.pro>

Donations, of course, are always appreciated and matched by Coyote before being passed on to worthy organizations devoted to helping those who need the help.

Cheers,

David

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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.")
