Subject: Color problem with contours
Posted by robintw on Wed, 08 Jul 2009 08:49:16 GMT
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Hi,

I'm trying to plot a circular (polar) contour plot using the map plotting commands. I've attached my code below. I don't really understand much about colours in IDL, but I found that it was being displayed as white text on a black background. After a bit of playing I found that adding the lines under the comment "Load colors into colortable" made it display with a white background and black text.

However, this seems to add an extra line at the bottom of the colortable, which means that very low values of my contours plot as white (which makes it look as if they're not there, as the background is white).

As I said, I don't really quite get IDL colors, even though I've read various bits in books about them. I've tried playing with the "bottom" keywords to various routines, but that doesn't really seem to help. I've also tried playing with FSC_COLOR (which I'm using successfully elsewhere in my program), but that just seemed to confuse things entirely.

Ideally, what I'd like is to have a white background, with black text and lines, and then with the colors for the contours plotting correctly. I'm sure this must be possible, but I'm not sure how.

Any help would be much appreciated,

Robin
University of Southampton, UK

```
PRO MAP_PLOT_DATA, azimuths, zeniths, dns, title
  ; Set positions for drawing the plot and the colourbar
  draw_position = [.10, .07, .80, .90]
  cbar_position = [.85, .07, .88, .90]

  ; Set the map projection to orthographic, looking down from the
north pole
  ; The REVERSE=1 and the third numeric parameter (180) ensure that N,
E, S and W are at the appropriate locations
  MAP_SET, /ORTHOGRAPHIC, 90, 0, 180, REVERSE=1, /ISOTROPIC,
title=title, position=draw_position, color=1

  ; Load colours into colortable
  device, decomposed=0
```

```
  loadct, 13
  TVLCT, 0, 0, 0, 1        ; Drawing colour
  TVLCT, 255, 255, 255, 0              ; Background colour

  ; Calculate 100 levels for the contouring
  range = MAX(dns) - MIN(dns)
  levels = indgen(100) * (range/100)

  ; Plot the contours from the irregular data
  contour, dns, azimuths, zeniths, /irregular, /overplot,
levels=levels, /cell_fill, position=draw_position, color=1

  ; Plot the grid over the top of the data
  map_grid, /grid, londel=45, latdel=20, color=1,
position=draw_position

  colorbar, /vertical, /right, range=[min(dns), max(dns)],
position=cbar_position, title="Digital Number", color=1
END
```