Subject: Re: fun with nonlinearity and COLORBAR
Posted by Jeremy Bailin on Fri, 22 Oct 2010 02:34:35 GMT
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On Oct 21, 3:35 pm, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:
> Jeremy Bailin writes:
>> I'm looking for advice on a plot I'm making that uses David's COLORBAR
>> routine. The problem is that the mapping between color index in the
>> image and data value is quite non-linear - and not a simple
>> transformation, either (it's generated via histogram equalization).
>
>> There are a few ways I can imagine having it look. So first, from an
>> aesthetics (and ease-of-understanding) standpoint, which would be
>> best?
>>   1. The colorbar has one line for each color index, and is annotated
>> using 6 evenly-spaced divisions, but the numbers marking those
>> divisions are not evenly distributed.
>>   2. The colorbar has one line for each color index, the annotations
>> are evenly spaced in *value*, but are spaced unevenly along the color
>> bar.
>>   3. The colorbar is annotated using 6 evenly-spaced divisions that
>> have evenly-spaced numbers, and the colors within the color bar vary
>> (i.e. the mapping between row up the color bar and color index is no
>> longer linear).
>
>> The second question is implementation. I can achieve #1 very easily
>> using COLORBAR. I think that in order to do #2, I would need to
>> essentially roll my own version of COLORBAR that changes the
>> annotation locations - are there any shortcuts that would let me use
>> the existing routine? To do #3, my best idea is to regenerate a new
>> (non-linearly altered) color table, and then use the existing COLORBAR
>> routine. Any caveats with that, or any easier ways to do it?
>
>> Alternatively, what other ideas do people have for conveying this kind
>> of information?
>
> If you are talking about six discrete colors, I would use
> the discrete color bar, DCBAR.
>
> I have implemented something like number 1, equally spaced
> divisions, with non-linear values, using FSC_Colorbar (new
> name!) in this article:
>
>   http://www.dfanning.com/map_tips/precipmap.html
>
> I had to use a tick formatting function to do it correctly.
>
> 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.")

Ah yes, FSC_COLORBAR. ;-) I haven't switched to 8.0 yet, so I'm still
safe from that issue for now...

It's a continuous color bar (basically color table 4 with a slight
modification). I've got a feeling that #3 is the aesthetically-correct
thing to do. Not coincidentally, it's probably the one that requires
the most work. Ah well...

-Jeremy.