
Subject: Re: PostScript Background Color Preference
Posted by [Paul Van Delst\[1\]](#) on Wed, 17 Nov 2010 16:42:42 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

David Fanning wrote:

> Paul van Delst writes:

>

>> For default, I'm happy with either a white (ala NG graphics) or black (ala DG graphics) background onscreen - which I

>> interpret as effectively "transparent" so that printouts will be as one expects. I would recommend you adopt a white

>> background so you're seen as being aligned with the bright and sunny future direction of graphics in IDL (i.e. NG)

>

> I *have* adopted a white background. But just
> as you assume black is "transparent" because of
> long exposure to the quirks of IDL, I assume
> background is "white" when I make a PostScript
> file.

By default, yes. That is, if the user doesn't specify *any* background colour.

> My new routines are giving us a new opportunity
> to interpret the world the way it "ought to be",
> rather than the way it "always has been". :-)

I reckon just go with white background everywhere by default. People should be used to seeing white background graphics onscreen nowadays.

Simple for you to code and simple for neophytes to grok what will happen when they print. The older IDL codgers will have to make their own way.... :o)

>

> Cheers,

>

> David

>

> P.S. While admiring your "black is transparent"
> approach, I can't help wondering what trick of
> perception you use to get colors that work correctly
> on both black and white backgrounds. :-)

Very low tech, non-scalable solution. In my DG code, I do stuff like:

yellow_color = KEYWORD_SET(ps) ? cyan : yellow

so onscreen I have yellow lines on black background. For PS output, the "yellow" becomes blue on white background.

With NG I just don't worry about it any more (i.e. I never use yellow to plot :o)

cheers,

paulv
