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Subject: Re: Colorbar Thinking in the Shower

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Tue, 13 Sep 2011 20:30:54 GMT

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Mark Piper writes:

- > Here's an example of displaying two plots with differing ranges,
- > referenced by a single colorbar. It suffers from the same drawbacks as
- > the other examples I've posted, but maybe it can be a starting point
- > for discussion.

OK, perhaps I am just too handicapped by not being able to use the TICKNAME keyword, but I think you and I probably agree that the \*default\* labeling of the color bar is only suited for a particular data set, namely the target of the color bar.

But, we probably also agree that the colors in the color bar are also completely arbitrary and the labeling of those colors can be anything we want it to be. You label with TICKNAME, I have to do it in a different way because TICKNAME crashes my machine.

But, since the labeling is arbitrary, and thus there is no particular need to attach the color bar to a particular target (which in my view just causes massive user confusion), why don't you just allow the user to specify a color bar range with the color bar itself? Why "attach" it to something when that almost always causes you to have to modify the color bar range with the TICKNAME keyword? (At least when you are comparing two different data sets.) Using TICKNAME is onerous because you make the user format and create strings for the labels of the (nearly always?) incorrect tick mark values.

Cheers,

David

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Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.idlcoyote.com/>

Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

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