
Subject: Puzzled by colour tables...

Posted by [D.Kennedy](#) on Mon, 27 Jan 1997 08:00:00 GMT

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I have a plot (which grew from a request here not so long ago!) consisting of circular data 'regions' (its basically a map of a part of the sky). I'd like these circles to be colour coded according to the value of that 'region'.

The problem is that while I have worked with colour tables before its always been in the context of 'contour' or similar or in prewritten software.

Basically, what is the best way to go about putting together a routine to easily scale the colours according to the data (I wish to do this for many datasets therefore need it to scale itself with no interaction from me. And I'm lazy!).

I would much prefer to use 'loadct, 3' simply for compatibilty with earlier software I'm using. The problem is that the help on this subject is thin and I can't find anything relevant in the various IDL books knocking about the lab (all old, all tattered!). I have no idea what to set 'color' to in my call to 'polyfill', brief experiments with random numbers proved more confusing. How do the tables scale? Are they 0-225 or what for example?

Oh, and would I be right at all in assuming that a routine to add a 'colour bar' up the side of an image exists in a library or FAQ somewhere? Seems like a common type of operation, anyone know where I can lay my hands on something useful?
I reckon this would prove to be tricky to be honest and it seems like re-inventing the wheel.

Sorry for sounding like a complete idiot! I do know how to program, honest. Its just that IDL always seems to have the perfect answer buried somewhere within it, and I only ever find it after writing 100s of lines of code that didn't really work... "Show3? Whats that? You can do that? Wow!"

As usual, as this is work, I'd appreciate email as well as a post due to the fact that my University newserver is somewhat eccentric and might decide that I don't need helpful advice.

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