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Subject: Plot colors

Posted by on Thu, 20 Jun 2013 06:59:52 GMT

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What are your favorite colors for overplotting several data sets in the same diagram? (I'm assuming Coyote graphics here.) You'd want them to be easy to tell apart and to have a good and similar contrast against the (white) background.

For two colors it's easy: red and blue.

But already for three colors, if you add green you get something with less contrasty. And for more colors, if you add the complement colors cyan, magenta, and yellow, both yellow and cyan have the same problem. So then I usually inspect the color names in cgcolor and pick darker versions of the too light colors and some redder version of yellow. And if I need more than six I don't really know what to do...

So, what is a good strategy? Do you have a good list that you always use, and truncate it to the needed length? Or do you start the list differently depending on how long it has to be? Has anybody written a function for this? Something like

function plotcolors, index, Ncolors

/Mats

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