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Subject: Re: Using VERT\_COLORS=RGBA in PLOT()?

Posted by [chris\\_torrence@NOSPAM](mailto:chris_torrence@NOSPAM) on Tue, 13 May 2014 17:52:48 GMT

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On Tuesday, May 13, 2014 10:27:55 AM UTC-6, David Grier wrote:

> Dear Folks,

>

>

>

> I am trying to create a scatter plot in IDL 8.3 (MacOS)

>

> whose symbols have different colors and alpha values.

>

> The documentation for plot() suggests that I should be able to pass a 4 x NPTS array of

>

> RGBA values to the VERT\_COLORS property of plot(), where NPTS is the number of points in

>

> my data set. When I try this, IDL complains:

>

>

>

> % PLOT: Array subscript for PALETTE must have same size as source expression.

>

>

>

> Here's a minimal example:

>

>

>

> npts = 10

>

> a = findgen(2,npts)

>

> rgb = bytarr(3,npts)

>

> p1 = plot(a, vert\_colors=rgb) ; works

>

> p2 = plot(a, vert\_colors=rgba) ; doesn't work

>

>

>

> I'd be grateful for pointers on how to set the transparency of individual vertices

>

> in a plot.

>

>

>

> Many thanks,

>  
>  
>  
> David

Hi David,

Looks like a bug. I'll go ahead and fix it. In the meantime, the workaround is to set the `vert_colors` after the plot has been created. You also need to set an `rgb_table` (this will also get fixed).  
Something like this:

```
npts = 10  
a = findgen(2,npts)  
rgba = bytarr(4,npts)  
rgba[3,*] = 20b*bindgen(npts)  
p2 = plot(a)  
p2.rgb_table=0  
p2.vert_colors=rgba
```

Thanks for catching this!  
-Chris  
ExelisVIS

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