
Subject: Colors for the Color Blind

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Fri, 16 Jan 2015 23:42:06 GMT

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Folks,

Paul Krummel has convinced me that even the color blind need to use colors when they engage in data visualization. To help them out, Paul has suggested a dozen specific colors and two additional color tables that he finds helpful in this regard. You will find a discussion of this topic here:

<http://www.sron.nl/~pault/>

I have added the 12 colors in the last line of Figure 3 in the reference above. I have named the colors in the most unimaginative way as CG1...CG12. You can find these colors in `cgColor`. And you can see the colors in the last column of `cgPickColorName`:

```
void = cgPickColorName()
```

I have also added two color tables to the `fsc_brewer.tbl` file. These are not strictly Brewer color tables, but I had already added a couple of other useful color tables to that file and I saw no reason to establish a new precedent. Paul called these color table "sunset" and "rainbow". Since there is already a rainbow color table in IDL, I have named this color table "cgRainbow."

The easiest way to update is to get a new version of the Coyote Library:

http://www.idlcoyote.com/programs/zip_files/coyoteprograms.zip

Or, you can update the following files:

```
http://www.idlcoyote.com/programs/fsc_brewer.tbl
http://www.idlcoyote.com/programs/cgcolor.pro
http://www.idlcoyote.com/programs/cgpickcolorname.pro
http://www.idlcoyote.com/programs/cgloadct.pro
```

Cheers,

David

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

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