
Subject: Re: background colour in contour plots
Posted by [davidf](#) on Thu, 28 Aug 1997 07:00:00 GMT
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Ioannis Marangopoulos writes:

> I'm using pv-wave to create contour plots of an ultrasound
> field. When the plots appear on screen the background is black,
> however when the postscript file is created and printed is coming
> out with a white background. The white background is convenient
> in most cases, however in order to have good contrast for some of my colours
> -contours (eg yellow doesn't look good on white background!)
> I need to get the background black. This works only if I snapshot the plot off
> the screen. Any ideas on how to change the background into black in the postscript
> file??

This answer comes from one of the many tips on PostScript output
that you will find on my web page.

The !P.BACKGROUND system variable is set to 255 when you make the
PostScript device active. But it doesn't matter what color you load into
color index 255, you still get a white background on your PostScript
plot! In other words, the color you load into index 255 can be used for
other things (as a drawing color, for example), but it doesn't affect the
background color of the plot.

There is only one way to get a background color different from white in a
PostScript file, and that is essentially to draw an image of a single
color in the PostScript window. I like to use POLYFILL for this purpose,
like this:

```
TVLCT, [255,0], [0,255], [0,0], !D.N_COLORS-2  
greenColor = !D.N_COLORS-1  
redColor = !D.N_COLORS-2  
POLYFILL, [1,1,0,0,1], [1,0,0,1,1], /NORMAL, COLOR=greenColor  
PLOT, data, COLOR=redColor, /NOERASE
```

Another way would be to use the TV command like this:

```
image = REPLICATE(greenColor, 2, 2)  
TV, image, XSIZE=!D.X_SIZE, YSIZE=!D.Y_SIZE  
PLOT, data, COLOR=redColor, /NOERASE
```

Cheers,

David

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