
Subject: Re: plot axis colors

Posted by [davidf](#) on Thu, 21 Oct 1999 07:00:00 GMT

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Dave Avis (davis@virtuallythere.net) writes:

> When using colortables (the built-in ones) with a plot, sometimes the axis
> color causes the axis and labels to disappear. I figure that it is because
> the axis and the labels are set to a particular element of the color table
> and that element is the same color as the background color of the plot
> window. How would I go about changing this without editing the color table?
> If I have to edit the color table, which element is the one that the axis
> and labels use, or how can I find out? I have this problem on the color
> table named either "prism" or "spectrum".

The plotting color is set in !P.Color, while the background color is set in !P.Background. Normally, these colors are assigned to the top and bottom of the color table, respectively. With the Prism color table color index 0 and color index !D.Table_Size-1 are both set to a black color. Hence, you draw black on black plots. Not too good for viewing. :-)

I like to load "drawing" colors at the top of my color table and have "data" colors below. For example, I will do something like this:

```
Device, Decomposed=0
white = GetColor("white", !D.Table_Size-1)
navy = GetColor("navy", !D.Table_Size-2)
imgColors = !D.Table_Size-2
LoadCT, 5, NColors=imgColors
!P.Color = navy
!P.Background=white

!P.Multi=[0,1,2]
Plot, Findgen(11)
TVImage, BytScl(image, Top=imgColors-1), /Multi
!P.Multi=0
```

To change image colors, I do this:

```
XLoadCT, NColors=imgColors
```

Of course, you will need my GetColor and TVImage programs to run this code. :-)

<http://www.dfanning.com/documents/programs.html>

Cheers,

David

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

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Subject: Re: plot axis colors

Posted by [Pavel Romashkin](#) on Thu, 21 Oct 1999 07:00:00 GMT

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Use COLOR=x and BACKGROUND=y when you issue your plotting commands. If you are plotting to an indexed-color device and the number of available colors varies, you may find that colors change on your plots. However, you will always see the axes as long as X ne Y.

Cheers,

Pavel

Dave Avis wrote:

> When using colortables (the built-in ones) with a plot, sometimes the axis
> color causes the axis and labels to disappear. I figure that it is because
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> and that element is the same color as the background color of the plot
> window. How would I go about changing this without editing the color table?
> If I have to edit the color table, which element is the one that the axis
> and labels use, or how can I find out? I have this problem on the color
> table named either "prism" or "spectrum" (sorry, don't remember the number
> offhand).
>
> Dave
