
Subject: Re: grayscale vs. color

Posted by [promashkin](#) on Tue, 16 May 2000 07:00:00 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

I always have cases when my graphs from IDL for publications produce, let's say, not quite desired colors when printed. I can't blame it on IDL as they look fine on the screen, its the RGB to CMYK conversion. Color typesetting was much better with that then our costly color laser jet. However, even for grayscale graphs, I switched to always editing IDL ps files in a more suited for that graphics package, like Adobe Illustrator or Corel Draw. They at least have the ability to show on the screen how is it going to look like on the paper, and then you can tweak the colors, shades of gray, etc.

Good luck,

Pavel

Subject: Re: grayscale vs. color

Posted by [davidf](#) on Tue, 16 May 2000 07:00:00 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Andrew (noymer@my-deja.com) writes:

- > Sorry if this is a stupid question. I am making some line
- > graphs (eps files) for a book, using IDL direct graphics.
- > Some of the graphs have several series and it would be nice
- > to use solid grey as an alternative to dot-dash-double-dot-dash-
- > double-dotdash or whatever for some lines.
- >
- > In the past, I have always loaded a colortable and there is
- > always some color, not hard to find, that turns into the just
- > right shade of grey when it goes to the laser printer. This color
- > is not always "grey" --- it's whatever color prints out grey.
- >
- > Trouble is, this time it's going to some imagesetter (no idea
- > which kind) far far away. Plus they don't want color and they'll
- > probably freak if they see color. I don't know what they'll say to
- > a grey-like-color in a color EPS file; maybe that's kosher, but isn't
- > there a way to have grayscale in a garden-variety B&W EPS file?
- >
- > Is there a quick and dirty way to load a colortable that is
- > really just a grayscale? I looked in the material I had but didn't
- > find anything.

Well, you want to stay away from those very light grays, which don't show up very well on white PostScript background, but how about something like this, taking 10 colors from middle gray to black:

```
LoadCT, 0, NColors=20, Bottom=1
plotcolors = Indgen(10) + 11
white = GetColor('white', !D.Table_Size-2)
black = GetColor('black', !D.Table_Size-3)
Device, Decomposed=0
Plot, LoadData(17), YRange=[0,100], Color=black, Back=white
FOR j=0,8 DO OPlot, LoadData(17), Color=plotColors[j]
```

Looks wonderful on my display. And I bet it looks just as good in PostScript. Be sure to turn the Colors keyword ON when you set up the PostScript device. :-)

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.
Fanning Software Consulting
Phone: 970-221-0438 E-Mail: davidf@dfanning.com
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>
Toll-Free IDL Book Orders: 1-888-461-0155
