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Subject: Re: sec : U Re: MPI\_Plot Was: Something else

Posted by [davidf](#) on Thu, 29 Mar 2001 01:19:32 GMT

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Andrew Cool ([andrew.cool@dsto.defence.gov.au](mailto:andrew.cool@dsto.defence.gov.au)) writes:

>> I announced earlier today that Martin and I were making  
>> our program MPI\_PLOT available to help users get their  
>> plots configured to their liking. The software was not  
>> out there for 10 minutes before the whini... excuse me,  
>> before the comments started coming in. Thank you. :-)

>>  
>> [http://www.dfanning.com/programs/mpi\\_plot.zip](http://www.dfanning.com/programs/mpi_plot.zip)

>>  
>  
> Nifty!

What!/? It runs on VMS. Praise be Allah!

Cheers,

David

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David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting

Phone: 970-221-0438 E-Mail: [davidf@dfanning.com](mailto:davidf@dfanning.com)

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

Toll-Free IDL Book Orders: 1-888-461-0155

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Subject: Re: sec : U Re: MPI\_Plot Was: Something else

Posted by [Dave Greenwood](#) on Thu, 29 Mar 2001 16:34:41 GMT

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[davidf@dfanning.com](mailto:davidf@dfanning.com) (David Fanning) wrote:

> Andrew Cool ([andrew.cool@dsto.defence.gov.au](mailto:andrew.cool@dsto.defence.gov.au)) writes:

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>>> I announced earlier today that Martin and I were making  
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>> Nifty!

>  
> What!? It runs on VMS. Praise be Allah!

Well - almost anyway ;-). Actually, I think the problem is more likely to be related to my 8-bit display than to VMS. When I click on the axis color box, I get a complaint about a missing SADDLE BROWN color and the axes turn white (ie disappear). When I select a new color, the axis reappear with that color but all 3 color boxes in the "Plot options" widget turn the axis color. I can continue to manipulate the colors independently, except that the 3 boxes always show the axis color.

If I say "mpi\_plot,color='green'", then when I click on the modify button the axes change from green to the data color (navy by default). If I then change the data color, the axes (and color boxes) revert back to green.

Nevertheless, "nifty" seems an appropriate comment.

Dave

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Dave Greenwood                      Email: Greenwoodde@ORNL.GOV  
Oak Ridge National Lab            %STD-W-DISCLAIMER, I only speak for myself

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Subject: Re: sec : U Re: MPI\_Plot Was: Something else  
Posted by [davidf](#) on Thu, 29 Mar 2001 17:05:53 GMT  
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Dave Greenwood (greenwoodde@ornl.gov) writes:

> Well - almost anyway ;-). Actually, I think the problem is more likely  
> to be related to my 8-bit display than to VMS. When I click on the  
> axis color box, I get a complaint about a missing SADDLE BROWN color  
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> then change the data color, the axes (and color boxes) revert back to  
> green.  
>  
> Nevertheless, "nifty" seems an appropriate comment.

Yes, colors are a bit of a problem on 8-bit displays,  
for a couple of reasons. One was just boneheaded programming,  
and forgetting to check everything on an 8-bit display.

(Your dear programmer had just assumed all 8-bit displays had been sold to third-world countries years ago. He completely forgot about government agencies.) Anyway, \*that\* problem has been solved in the version I put up just minutes ago.

The other problem is more fundamental. This program combines both direct and object graphics, which is a disaster on 8-bit displays. The problem is that the one hardware color table is used in two completely different ways by the two graphics systems. If you have a direct graphics window open and you put up a window with object graphics in it, the direct graphics window goes crazy, and visa versa. Of course, you don't see any of this on a 24-bit display, since there window colors are not directly connected to the colors in the hardware color table.

Two years ago, I wouldn't have even thought about writing a program that combined direct and object graphics. These days, you can \*almost\* get away with it. A year from now, I doubt it will even be an issue.

The other problem also has to do with changing colors in color displays. My Pickcolorname and FSC\_Color programs normally have 88 colors they know by "name". But, these colors often need to be loaded into the color table to "do things" with them. Even though I'm only mucking with the color table temporarily, and I plan to restore it, this will cause graphics windows that use those 88 color indices to get a little funny. So, on 8-bit displays I use only 16 colors in these two programs, hoping to limit the damage. Unfortunately, I had picked default colors for MPI\_PLOT that were not among these 16 (duh!). That's fixed now, too.

Many thanks for all the comments. I think it is getting there. :-)

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.  
Fanning Software Consulting

Phone: 970-221-0438 E-Mail: [davidf@dfanning.com](mailto:davidf@dfanning.com)  
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Subject: Re: sec : U Re: MPI\_Plot Was: Something else  
Posted by [davidf](#) on Fri, 27 Apr 2001 00:03:03 GMT

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Dave Greenwood ([greenwoodde@ornl.gov](mailto:greenwoodde@ornl.gov)) writes:

> Well - almost anyway ;-) Actually, I think the problem is more likely  
> to be related to my 8-bit display than to VMS. When I click on the  
> axis color box, I get a complaint about a missing SADDLE BROWN color  
> and the axes turn white (ie disappear). When I select a new color,  
> the axis reappear with that color but all 3 color boxes in the "Plot  
> options" widget turn the axis color. I can continue to manipulate the  
> colors independently, except that the 3 boxes always show the axis color.

Uh, well, all fixed in the 1.0.2.3.8 version. :-)

Cheers,

David

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Fanning Software Consulting  
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