

---

Subject: Re: All I get is gray scale

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Thu, 31 Jan 2002 21:54:16 GMT

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

---

Gary Hodges(gary.hodgesREMOVE@cires.colorado.edu) writes:

> I've read through several historical "color" threads and even bought the book  
> (IDL Programming Techniques), but I'm still only able to plot gray scale.  
> I've just followed the "Drawing Line Plots in Color" on page 25 of the  
> Fanning book without success. The exact commands are (time and curve  
> are already defined):  
>  
> IDL> TVLCT, [70,255,0], [70,255,255], [70,0,0], 1  
> IDL> Plot, time, curve, Color=2, Background=1  
>  
> This produces a black plot window. To see anything I have to increase the  
> color value to ~50, with higher values producing progressively less gray  
> plots. I gather this goes against what I'm trying to do with the above TVLCT  
> command, which is I understand things, to assign three RGB colors to indexes  
> 1, 2 and 3.  
>  
> I have also tried "IDL> Device, Decomposed=0" trick without success.

Humm. I find this hard to believe. :-)

Did you try this \*before\* the two commands above?

I presume you did.

Try this. Start IDL, open a window (use the Window command),  
the send us the contents of a Help, /Device command.  
Something is not right in Denmark.

Cheers,

David

> Curiously, if I move the plot window on the desktop I get a horizontal pink  
> and pink bar stretching across the screen.

Yes, quite curious. I have no idea what it might  
mean.

Cheers,

David

--

David W. Fanning, Ph.D.

---

Subject: Re: All I get is gray scale  
Posted by [Ralf Flicker](#) on Thu, 31 Jan 2002 21:55:00 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

gary.hodgesREMOVE@cires.colorado.edu wrote:

>  
> I've read through several historical "color" threads and even bought the book  
> (IDL Programming Techniques), but I'm still only able to plot gray scale.  
> I've just followed the "Drawing Line Plots in Color" on page 25 of the  
> Fanning book without success. The exact commands are (time and curve  
> are already defined):  
>  
> IDL> TVLCT, [70,255,0], [70,255,255], [70,0,0], 1  
> IDL> Plot, time, curve, Color=2, Background=1  
>  
> This produces a black plot window. To see anything I have to increase the  
> color value to ~50, with higher values producing progressively less gray  
> plots. I gather this goes against what I'm trying to do with the above TVLCT  
> command, which is I understand things, to assign three RGB colors to indexes  
> 1, 2 and 3.  
>  
> I have also tried "IDL> Device, Decomposed=0" trick without success.

I always have this problem after a new installation. You might need to add true\_color=24 or pseudo\_color=8 to your device assignment, depending upon what depth your screen is set to. Do a xdpiinfo to check. HTH.

ralf

---

---

Subject: Re: All I get is gray scale  
Posted by [gary.hodgesREMOVE](#) on Thu, 31 Jan 2002 22:57:52 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

David Fanning <david@dfanning.com> wrote:

: Gary Hodges(gary.hodgesREMOVE@cires.colorado.edu) writes:

:> I've read through several historical "color" threads and even bought the book  
:> (IDL Programming Techniques), but I'm still only able to plot gray scale.  
:> I've just followed the "Drawing Line Plots in Color" on page 25 of the

:> Fanning book without success. The exact commands are (time and curve  
:> are already defined):  
:>  
:> IDL> TVLCT, [70,255,0], [70,255,255], [70,0,0], 1  
:> IDL> Plot, time, curve, Color=2, Background=1  
:>  
:> This produces a black plot window. To see anything I have to increase the  
:> color value to ~50, with higher values producing progressively less gray  
:> plots. I gather this goes against what I'm trying to do with the above TVLCT  
:> command, which is I understand things, to assign three RGB colors to indexes  
:> 1, 2 and 3.  
:>  
:> I have also tried "IDL> Device, Decomposed=0" trick without success.

: Humm. I find this hard to believe. :-)

Me too!

: Did you try this \*before\* the two commands above?  
: I presume you did.

Sure. I started with "Creating Line Plots" on page 20 even though I have a  
pretty good handle on that. I generated Figure 1, then skipped over to  
"Creating Your Own Plot Symbols." When the plot symbols didn't come out in  
color, I went to the next section to try and get my line to plot in color.

: Try this. Start IDL, open a window (use the Window command),  
: the send us the contents of a Help, /Device command.  
: Something is not right in Denmark.

IDL> help, /Device

Available Graphics Devices: CGM HP LJ NULL PCL PRINTER PS REGIS TEK X Z

Current graphics device: X

Server: X11.0, The XFree86 Project, Inc, Release 40100000

Display Depth, Size: 24 bits, (1600,1200)

Visual Class: DirectColor (5)

Bits Per RGB: 8 (8/8/8)

Physical Color Map Entries (Used / Total): 256 / 256

Colormap: Private, 16777216 colors. Translation table: Bypassed

Graphics pixels: Combined, Dither Method: Ordered

Write Mask: 16777215 (decimal) ffffff (hex)

Graphics Function: 3 (copy)

Current Font: <default>, Current TrueType Font: <default>

Default Backing Store: Req from Server.

Window Status: -----

id typ( x, y, backing store) id typ( x, y, backing store)

0: Win( 640, 512, Req from Server)

:> Curiously, if I move the plot window on the desktop I get a horizontal pink  
:> and pink bar stretching across the screen.

: Yes, quite curious. I have no idea what it might mean.

I think this is probably a Linux/X issue, and not IDL. I tried adding the  
TRUE\_COLOR=24 that was suggested by Ralf, and while it didn't change much, if  
I move the plot window on the screen the plot appears in color. That is,  
while the plot window is being moved, the colorful plot appears. Along with  
that pink/pink horizontal bar.

Cheers,  
Gary

---

Subject: Re: All I get is gray scale  
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Thu, 31 Jan 2002 23:29:27 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

Gary Hodges (gary.hodgesREMOVE@cires.colorado.edu) writes:

```
> IDL> help, /Device
> Available Graphics Devices: CGM HP LJ NULL PCL PRINTER PS REGIS TEK X Z
> Current graphics device: X
>   Server: X11.0, The XFree86 Project, Inc, Release 40100000
>   Display Depth, Size: 24 bits, (1600,1200)
>   Visual Class: DirectColor (5)
```

Yes, something is not right. I'd slip a

```
DEVICE, TRUE_COLOR=24
```

into an IDL start-up file. I don't think you  
want a Direct Color visual. :-(

Be sure you issue this command *\*before\** you open  
any graphics windows in the IDL session. That is  
why a startup file is best.

Cheers,

David

--

David W. Fanning, Ph.D.  
Fanning Software Consulting  
Phone: 970-221-0438, E-mail: [david@dfanning.com](mailto:david@dfanning.com)  
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>

---

Subject: Re: All I get is gray scale

Posted by [gary.hodgesREMOVE](#) on Thu, 31 Jan 2002 23:56:15 GMT

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

---

David Fanning <david@dfanning.com> wrote:

: Yes, something is not right. I'd slip a

: DEVICE, TRUE\_COLOR=24

: into an IDL start-up file. I don't think you

: want a Direct Color visual. :-(

: Be sure you issue this command \*before\* you open

: any graphics windows in the IDL session. That is

: why a startup file is best.

As suggested, I created a startup file with the TRUE\_COLOR setting and everything works fine now. IDL is an amazing language in that it has such great power at making a person feel so stupid.

Thanks,  
Gary

---

---

Subject: Re: All I get is gray scale

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Fri, 01 Feb 2002 00:35:05 GMT

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

---

Gary Hodges (gary.hodgesREMOVE@cires.colorado.edu) writes:

> IDL is an amazing language in that it has such  
> great power at making a person feel so stupid.

Oh, you get used to it. :-)

Cheers,

David

--

David W. Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting

Phone: 970-221-0438, E-mail: david@dfanning.com

---

Subject: Re: All I get is gray scale  
Posted by [Craig Markwardt](#) on Fri, 01 Feb 2002 10:13:16 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

David Fanning <david@dfanning.com> writes:  
> Gary Hodges (gary.hodgesREMOVE@cires.colorado.edu) writes:  
>  
>> IDL is an amazing language in that it has such  
>> great power at making a person feel so stupid.  
>  
> Oh, you get used to it. :-)

The power, the power, right? :-)

--

-----  
Craig B. Markwardt, Ph.D.      EMAIL: [craigmnet@cow.physics.wisc.edu](mailto:craigmnet@cow.physics.wisc.edu)  
Astrophysics, IDL, Finance, Derivatives | Remove "net" for better response  
-----

---