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Subject: Getting the current color table

Posted by [Nuno Oliveira](#) on Tue, 11 Nov 2003 14:37:52 GMT

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Hi, perhaps you can help me here.

Is there a way that I (in the case, the program) can know which is the current color table?

The program provides the function XLOADCT in which the user can change the color table. And I would like to know which one is in use. I have a feeling that that has to be somewhere, :). I tried to see if there is any parameter in XLOADCT and LOACT that provides me the number of the color table in the use. I believe that information is somewhere, but where? I looked also in the graphics system variables but I don't find it. Seems to have everything but the index of the color table in use.

Cheers, N.

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Subject: Re: Getting the current color table

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Tue, 06 Dec 2005 18:54:59 GMT

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inaki.ugarte@gmail.com writes:

- > How do I get the color table number used by the last call to LOADCT?
- > Is there any recent development in this previously asked question?

No, it has only been a month since you asked. Too soon for a new IDL release. :-)

The answer is still "no". If you want to know, you have to keep track of it. :-)

Cheers,

David

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David Fanning, Ph.D.  
Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.  
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>

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Subject: Re: Getting the current color table  
Posted by [inaki.ugarte](#) on Tue, 06 Dec 2005 19:22:58 GMT  
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Well, it wasn't me and the date of the email was 2003, but thanks for replying. I thought things might have changed since.  
I'll keep track of it.

Cheers,  
Inaki

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Subject: Re: Getting the current color table  
Posted by [Mark Hadfield](#) on Tue, 06 Dec 2005 20:35:14 GMT  
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inaki.ugarte@gmail.com wrote:

> Well, it wasn't me and the date of the email was 2003, but thanks for  
> replying. I thought things might have changed since.  
> I'll keep track of it.

Don't hold your breath. The point is that since the last call to LOADCT, the colour table may have been further changed by calls to TVLCT. So the \*number\* of the last-loaded colour table is not necessarily meaningful, while the RGB \*values\* that make up the current colour table (as returned by TVLCT, /GET) is.

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Mark Hadfield        "Kei puwaha te tai nei, Hoea tahi tatou"  
[m.hadfield@niwa.co.nz](mailto:m.hadfield@niwa.co.nz)  
National Institute for Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA)

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Subject: Re: Getting the current color table  
Posted by [JD Smith](#) on Tue, 06 Dec 2005 21:55:19 GMT  
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On Tue, 06 Dec 2005 10:44:05 -0800, inaki.ugarte wrote:

> Hi,

> is there any recent development in this previously asked question? How do  
> I get the color table number used by the last call to LOADCT? I would  
> prefer to do it in a general way, without having to call external  
> routines.  
> Cheers,  
> Inaki

I think at some point many years ago this bugged me enough that I wrote a tool called cload which stores the color table, and the color min/max/gamma as well, in a custom system variable. I don't use it anymore, but it might be of interest. If someone else uses LOADCT in the meantime, you'd be out of luck.

```
;; load with loadct, but set the !ctabl system variable too.
pro cload, table_number, NO_SET=ns,_REF_EXTRA=e
  if n_elements(table_number) ne 0 then begin
    loadct,table_number,/SILENT,_EXTRA=e
    !ctabl.cmap=table_number
    if NOT keyword_set(ns) then begin
      !ctabl.high=1.
      !ctabl.low=0.
      !ctabl.gamma=1.
    endif
  endif else loadct,_EXTRA=e
end
```

you have to setup that sysvar first:

```
pro cdef,_EXTRA=e
  defsysv,'!ctabl',Exists=exi
  if exi eq 1 then return
  ;; we need to define it...
  ;; make and delete window to get the *actual* number of colors used
  window,1,xsize=1,ysize=1,/PIXMAP,_EXTRA=e
  wdelete
  defsysv,'!ctabl',{!ctabl,cmap:0,low:0.,high:1.,gamma:1.0}
  return
end
```

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