



>  
> :-)  
>  
> Basically, what I want is that the color for the data value 0 should be  
> the same for all the output images. That is, if I use a Blue-Red color  
> table, then the 0 data value should always be green. The main problem  
> is because the minimum and maximum value keeps on changing for  
> different arrays. If for the first array the min value is -30 and max  
> is 50, for the second array it might be -50 and +75, and so on.

Are you SURE that is what you want? Differential scaling on the positive and negative sides of your data, and differential scaling on all data sets!? Wouldn't you want to \*compare\* the data at some point?

I don't know. It's your data analysis. But this is simply a mapping problem. Scale negative values into 100 values. Scale positive values into 100 values. Use a color table that has 200 values. Label it with YTICKV (since the scale is no longer linear). Just don't include my name in the acknowledgements, please. :-)

Cheers,

David

--

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

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Subject: Re: colorbar to display the 0 in the middle  
Posted by [ph le sager](#) on Fri, 10 Feb 2006 11:48:28 GMT  
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Do you want ALL values or only 0 to be always represented by the same color?

If you want all, you will need to go with David's answer and always use the same range in the bar, whatever the data range.

If you want only the 0-level with the same color, you have to be sure that, for each of your filled contour plot, you have the same color loaded for the level 0. That means you need to have a contour level equal to 0, and always assign the same color from the same table to this 0-level.

Here is a little program that provides a solution. The color in the middle of the original colortable is assigned to the 0-level, if you have a 0-level (you need to correctly define RANGE and NFILL -and

that's it-), set the keyword /CENTERED, and use SHIFT to pass to colorbar. Try the examples, you may change ct to a valid colortable # (IDL does not come with nice diverging color scheme).

```
;+
; This program is to get the contour LEVELS and their COLOR INDICES,
; according to the NUMBER of filled contours, and the RANGE to
; consider. The two latest are the inputs:
;
;
; INPUTS
;   nfill: number of contour-colors.
;
;   range: this fltarr(2) gives the limits of the
;   colorbar. Range[0] is the first contour level.
Range[1]-step
;   is the last contour.
;
; INPUT KEYWORD
;   center: to center the color table on level=0. This is very
;   useful for diverging data. If nfill and range are such
;   that there is no levels=0 , then the
;   center of the table is aligned with the first value
;   above 0.
;
;
; OUTPUT KEYWORDS
;   ccolors: set to variable that will hold contour color indices
;   levels: set to variable that will hold contour levels
;   shift: set to variable that will hold index shift for colorbar
;
;
; EFFECT
;   A limited number of colors is loaded from the color table, starting
;   at index 4 by default (this can be changed with keyword BOTTOM,
;   which is passed to LoadCT). You can load any other color in indices
;   0 to 3. Indices 255 (default plotting) may be untouched and free for
;   modification, but only if you do not ask for too much color!!
;
;   It is possible to center the color table on contour-level=0. This
;   is convenient for diverging data (see examples).
;   In this case, a SHIFT value is computed for input to COLORBAR
;   (from David Fanning) to ensure that
;   contour levels and the colorbar match each other.
;
;
;
```

```

; LIMITATION
; Typical usage is shown in examples below. The idea is to choose the
; range and nfill such that we can have integer contours. For example,
; nfill=4 and range=[0,4]. The number of color, nfill, can be
increased,
; but "should" be a multiple of (range[1]-range[0]). See example #3.
;
; The limit on colors number (nfill) is 252 by default [ 256-bottom
; in general case], but it can be less if keyword CENTERED is set,
; because additional colors that are not needed for contours are set.
; A warning message is displayed in case the limit is exceeded.
;
;
;
; EXAMPLES:
; Add POSITION, and compare the following with a set of data between
[-2.,4.]:
; [ Note that divisions (colorbar keyword, default=6) should be set to
; a small divisor of nfill for lisibility. Here default works ]
;
;
;
; EXAMPLE (1):
;   nfill=6 & range=[-2.,4.] ; inputs
;
;   contour_definition, nfill, range , 41, ccolors=cc, levels=lev
;   contour, data, c_colors=cc, levels=lev
;   colorbar, ncolors=nfill, range=range, bottom=4 ; (default bottom
;                                                     here)
;
;
;
; EXAMPLE (2):
;   nfill=6 & range=[-2.,4.] ; inputs
;
;   contour_definition, nfill, range, /centered, 41, ccolors=cc, $
;   levels=lev, shift=shift
;   contour, data, c_colors=cc, levels=lev
;   colorbar, ncolors=nfill, range=range, bottom=4+shift
;
;
;
; EXAMPLE (3):
;   nfill=120 & range=[-2.,4.] ; inputs
;
;   contour_definition, nfill, range, /centered, 41, ccolors=cc, $
;   levels=lev, shift=shift
;   contour, data, c_colors=cc, levels=lev
;   colorbar, ncolors=nfill, range=range, bottom=4+shift, divisions=3
;
;
;
; Written by Philippe Le Sager, NOA, 2004

```

```
;  
;  
;-
```

```
pro contour_definition, nfill, range, ct, centered=centered,  
bottom=bot, $  
  ccolors=ccolors, levels=levels, shift=shift
```

```
on_error, 2
```

```
  ncolor=nfill  
  shift=0  
  if n_elements(bot) eq 0 then bot=4
```

```
  ; levels  
  step = (range[1] - range[0]) / nfill  
  levels = indgen(nfill) * step + range[0]
```

```
  ; case of centered ct for diverging data  
  if keyword_set(centered) then begin
```

```
    n_above = total( levels ge 0., /integer)  
    n_below = total( levels lt 0., /integer)
```

```
    ncolor = ( n_above > n_below ) * 2
```

```
    if n_above gt n_below then shift = (ncolor-nfill)
```

```
  endif
```

```
  ; check ncolor  
  if fix(ncolor) gt (256-bot) then $  
    ok = dialog_message(['TOO MUCH COLORS for Contour...', 'Results  
are NOT reliable'])
```

```
  ; load ct  
  LoadCT, ct, NColors=ncolor, Bottom=bot, /SILENT
```

```
  ccolors = Indgen(nfill)+bot+shift
```

```
END
```

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Subject: Re: colorbar to display the 0 in the middle  
Posted by [vigeesh](#) on Fri, 10 Feb 2006 15:22:23 GMT  
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> Are you SURE that is what you want? Differential scaling on the positive  
> and negative sides of your data, and differential scaling on all data  
> sets!?

Yes, this is exactly what I want

> Wouldn't you want to \*compare\* the data at some point?

I'm not interested in the whole data.

Just want to see the pattern of 0's in the image, and also to know what  
are the maximum and minimum values at each instant and to look at the  
gradient on both side(positive and negative, seperately), eventhough  
they are not the same.

Anyway, thank you very much

> Just don't include my name in the acknowledgements, please. :-)

Are you sure? :-)

Thank you again.

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Subject: Re: colorbar to display the 0 in the middle  
Posted by [vigeesh](#) on Fri, 10 Feb 2006 15:25:39 GMT  
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---

> Do you want ALL values or only 0 to be always represented by the same  
> color?

As I mentioned I want only 0 to be represented by the same color.

Thank you for the program. I'll try it and let you know if it works.

---

---

Subject: Re: colorbar to display the 0 in the middle  
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Fri, 10 Feb 2006 15:59:30 GMT  
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Vigeesh Nambiar writes:

> As I mentioned I want only 0 to be represented by the same color.  
>  
> Thank you for the program. I'll try it and let you know if it works.

---

After fooling around with this for a few minutes, I suspect you may have to write your own colorbar routine. Mine uses PLOT to draw annotations, and I don't think you can get PLOT to do useful things in non-linear space. :-)

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.

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

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Subject: Re: colorbar to display the 0 in the middle  
Posted by [savoie](#) on Fri, 10 Feb 2006 16:11:10 GMT

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David Fanning <davidf@dfanning.com> writes:

> Vigeesh Nambiar writes:

>

>> As I mentioned I want only 0 to be represented by the same color.

>>

>> Thank you for the program. I'll try it and let you know if it works.

>

> After fooling around with this for a few minutes, I

> suspect you may have to write your own colorbar routine.

> Mine uses PLOT to draw annotations, and I don't think you

> can get PLOT to do useful things in non-linear space. :-)

Wow, you \*really\* don't want to be attached to that do you? :)

--

Matthew Savoie - Scientific Programmer

National Snow and Ice Data Center

(303) 735-0785 <http://nsidc.org>

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Subject: Re: colorbar to display the 0 in the middle  
Posted by [vigeesh](#) on Sun, 12 Feb 2006 06:54:31 GMT

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David Fanning wrote:

- > After fooling around with this for a few minutes, I
- > suspect you may have to write your own colorbar routine.
- > Mine uses PLOT to draw annotations, and I don't think you
- > can get PLOT to do useful things in non-linear space. :-)

Do you think that I can write a colorbar routine that uses two different data sets on the same colorbar, one of which is plotted above 0 and the other below zero with this very little knowledge of IDL programming and data analysis.

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Subject: Re: colorbar to display the 0 in the middle  
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Sun, 12 Feb 2006 15:57:05 GMT  
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Vigeesh Nambiar writes:

- > Do you think that I can write a colorbar routine that uses two
- > different data sets on the same colorbar, one of which is plotted above
- > 0 and the other below zero with this very little knowledge of IDL
- > programming and data analysis.

I don't think it is a lack of IDL knowledge that is holding you back right now.

Creating the color bar is trivial. It is scaling the data properly that is the difficult part. And although you have convinced me this is what YOU want, I'm just not sure the rest of the scientific community is ready for this kind of innovation. :-)

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.  
Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.  
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Subject: RE: colorbar to display the 0 in the middle  
Posted by [larsonej](#) on Sun, 30 Sep 2012 23:22:50 GMT  
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I have a very simple question that I am having trouble finding an answer to. It is related to this post however. I have a contour map with defined contours in log scale. that go from -4 to 4. I want



to make a colorbar to go with it. However, putting the min range = -4 and the max range = 4 and setting /log or /ylog gives me a colorbar that stays positive. Any thoughts? Is there an easy way to do this, or do I have to create a positive and negative colorbar next to each other?

Erik

--<http://compgroups.net/comp.lang.idl-pvwave/colorbar-to-display-the-0-in-the-middle/1103047>

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Subject: RE: colorbar to display the 0 in the middle

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Sun, 30 Sep 2012 23:47:28 GMT

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larsonej writes:

> I have a very simple question that I am having trouble finding an answer to. It is related to this post however. I have a contour map with defined contours in log scale. that go from -4 to 4. I want to make a colorbar to go with it. However, putting the min range = -4 and the max range = 4 and setting /log or /ylog gives me a colorbar that stays positive. Any thoughts? Is there an easy way to do this, or do I have to create a positive and negative colorbar next to each other?

>

I suppose you could do this:

IDL> cgcolorbar, range=[1./1e4,1e4], /xlog

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.

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

Seppure ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

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