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Subject: Byte-Scaling Tiff Stacks

Posted by [Magdalena83](#) on Thu, 20 Jul 2006 14:54:07 GMT

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I used readtiffstack.pro to read in a stack of tiffs, but I think IDL cycles through the color tables several times because it isn't in 8-bit format, producing a weird image. I have tried using

```
-->plot_image, sigrange(bytscl(image_name(*,*,0)))
```

to just view the first frame after being byte-scaled, and also I have tried

```
-->scaledimage=bytscl(image_name)
```

```
plot_image, scaledimage(*,*,0)
```

but bytscl seems to do nothing.

What can I do to get my images properly byte-scaled? These are just black and white images. Thanks

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Subject: Re: Byte-Scaling Tiff Stacks

Posted by [btt](#) on Fri, 21 Jul 2006 13:47:31 GMT

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Magdalena83 wrote:

```
> I used readtiffstack.pro to read in a stack of tiffs, but I think IDL
> cycles through the color tables several times because it isn't in 8-bit
> format, producing a weird image. I have tried using
> -->plot_image, sigrange(bytscl(image_name(*,*,0)))
> to just view the first frame after being byte-scaled, and also I have
> tried
> -->scaledimage=bytscl(image_name)
> plot_image, scaledimage(*,*,0)
> but bytscl seems to do nothing.
>
> What can I do to get my images properly byte-scaled? These are just
> black and white images. Thanks
>
```

Hello,

You have thrown a lot of things out here - many of which I don't follow.

Could you post to the news group the following...

```
print, SIZE(image_name)
print, MIN(image_name)
print, MAX(image_name)
DEVICE, GET_DECOMPOSED = thisDecomp
print, thisDecomp
```

Also, what do you mean by "black and white images"? Do you really mean greyscale or do you mean bilevel (like 0 and 1 or 0 and 255)?

Cheers,  
Ben

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Subject: Re: Byte-Scaling Tiff Stacks  
Posted by [Magdalena83](#) on Fri, 21 Jul 2006 18:36:05 GMT  
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Thanks for replying; here are my answers for your inquiries:

> Could you post to the news group the following...

>

> print, SIZE(image\_name)

3 512 170 492 1 42823680

print, MIN(image\_name)

0

> print, MAX(image\_name)

255

> DEVICE, GET\_DECOMPOSED = thisDecomp

> print, thisDecomp

0

>

> Also, what do you mean by "black and white images"? Do you really mean

> greyscale or do you mean bilevel (like 0 and 1 or 0 and 255)?

Sorry, I meant 16-bit grayscale images.

IDL can read them fine if I convert the tiffs to 8-bits in ImageJ beforehand, but I am worried that I will lose too much info by doing this. I believe that byte-scaling should fix the problem, but "bytsc1" isn't working.

Basically, I am looking for the best way to read in stacks of 16-bit tiff images so that I can perform alignment procedures on them and then FFT certain pixels to search for oscillations in intensity.

The data was originally .fits format, but I flattened and dark-subtracted them in ImageJ, which can't write .fits files. Thus, I now have a stack of 2500 .tif frames ready to be aligned, but IDL doesn't read them correctly.

Thanks for any advice you can give.

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Subject: Re: Byte-Scaling Tiff Stacks  
Posted by [btt](#) on Fri, 21 Jul 2006 19:34:12 GMT

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Magdalena83 wrote:

```
> Thanks for replying; here are my answers for your inquiries:
>> Could you post to the news group the following...
>>
>> print, SIZE(image_name)
> 3   512   170   492   1       42823680
> print, MIN(image_name)
> 0
>> print, MAX(image_name)
> 255
>> DEVICE, GET_DECOMPOSED = thisDecomp
>> print, thisDecomp
> 0
>> Also, what do you mean by "black and white images"? Do you really mean
>> greyscale or do you mean bilevel (like 0 and 1 or 0 and 255)?
> Sorry, I meant 16-bit grayscale images.
>
> IDL can read them fine if I convert the tiffs to 8-bits in ImageJ
> beforehand, but I am worried that I will lose too much info by doing
> this. I believe that byte-scaling should fix the problem, but "bytsc1"
> isn't working.
>
> Basically, I am looking for the best way to read in stacks of 16-bit
> tiff images so that I can perform alignment procedures on them and then
> FFT certain pixels to search for oscillations in intensity.
>
> The data was originally .fits format, but I flattened and dark-subtracted
> them in ImageJ, which can't write .fits files. Thus, I now have a stack
> of 2500 .tif frames ready to be aligned, but IDL doesn't read them
> correctly.
> Thanks for any advice you can give.
>
```

Hello again,

Well, BYTSCL really isn't what you are looking for. In basic usage the BYTSCL looks for the min and max range of the input data and linearly scales these (along with all the other values) to stretch from 0B to 255B. Your input data appears to already be in that range, so the isn't anything that BYTSCL can do with the data.

If you want to scale the data into some other range (like 16 bit signed -32,768 to +32,767) then you might want to use something like ....

[http://www.dfanning.com/programs/scale\\_vector.pro](http://www.dfanning.com/programs/scale_vector.pro)

which lets you specify the top and bottom values for the intensity range

you want.

Ben

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