
Subject: Re: Color background with PLOT
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Sat, 18 Nov 2006 17:32:18 GMT
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Matt Harner writes:

- > I'd like to have a color background on a plot using direct graphics.
- > Instead of the built in background using the BACKGROUND keyword to
- > PLOT, I'd like the background to only be behind the plotted data, not
- > the entire window (axis, ticks, title, etc). The only way I have found
- > to do this is to draw a colored box with POLYFILL in the area that I
- > desire, but then the axis tick marks are under the polygon. Is there
- > any way to do this while still maintaining the plot tick marks?

If you position your plot with the POSITION keyword, then you can draw your background polygon first into that position, then draw your plot with the NOERASE keyword set. (You might have to erase the window first with the ERASE command. This would be a good time to get the area outside the polygon the color you want, since you can use the COLOR keyword here as well.)

Direct graphics commands just put pixels on top of pixels, so sometimes you have to "layer" your graphics commands to achieve the results you want. The NOERASE keyword is a great help when you are re-drawing axis tick marks and the like. :-)

```
Erase, COLOR=FSC_COLOR('ivory')
p = [0.15, 0.15, 0.9, 0.9]
PolyFill, [p[0],p[0],p[2],p[2],p[0]], $
          [p[1],p[3],p[3],p[1],p[1]], $
          COLOR=FSC_COLOR('sky blue'), /NORMAL
Plot, findgen(11), COLOR=FSC_COLOR('red'), $
    POSITION=p, /NOERASE
```

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.
Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>
Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

Subject: Re: Color background with PLOT

Posted by [Matt Harner](#) on Sat, 18 Nov 2006 20:02:48 GMT

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Thanks Dave - This is exactly what I needed.

Matt

Subject: Re: Color background with PLOT

Posted by [Jeff Hester](#) on Sun, 19 Nov 2006 01:00:23 GMT

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David Fanning wrote:

> Matt Harner writes:

>

>

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```
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> p = [0.15, 0.15, 0.9, 0.9]
> PolyFill, [p[0],p[0],p[2],p[2],p[0]], $
>           [p[1],p[3],p[3],p[1],p[1]], $
>           COLOR=FSC_COLOR('sky blue'), /NORMAL
> Plot, findgen(11), COLOR=FSC_COLOR('red'), $
>     POSITION=p, /NOERASE
```

>

> Cheers,
>
> David

Or you can be exquisitely inelegant and draw your axes with
plot,/nodata, do the polyfill using data coordinates, then do your plot
with plot,/noerase.

For various reasons (like inertia) I mostly use direct graphics, so
frequently redo things in a plotting sequence to get the layering right.

Cheers,
Jeff
