
Subject: Re: Philosophical Scaling Question
Posted by [Foldy Lajos](#) on Mon, 04 Dec 2006 16:25:20 GMT
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On Mon, 4 Dec 2006, David Fanning wrote:

```
> Folks,
>
> With no answers to my weekend questions about logarithmic
> color bars I'm flying blind this morning. And I seem to be
> running into theoretical difficulties. Can anyone help?
>
> Suppose I had a color table (color table 33 comes to mind)
> where each color vector had a min of 0 and a max of 255.
>
> IDL> Loadct, 33, /Silent
> IDL> TVLCT, r, g, b, /Get
> IDL> MinMax, r
>    0 255
> IDL> MinMax, g
>    0 255
> IDL> MinMax, b
>    0 255
>
> And suppose I also have an image that is scaled in
> the same way:
>
> IDL> image = Loaddata(7)
> IDL> MinMax, image
>    0 255
>
> And finally, suppose I have a way to scale such data
> sets in a logarithmic way, say a function LOGSCL.
>
> IDL> .compile LOGSCL
> Compiled module: LOGSCL.
>
> My hypothesis is that there are two ways to display this
> data "logarithmically". I can leave the color table vectors
> alone, and scale the image data. Or, I can leave the image
> alone and scale the color vectors. Either way should result
> in exactly the same display.
>
> The problem is, it doesn't. :-(
>
> Window, XSize=400, YSize=350, 0
> Loadct, 33, /Silent
> TVImage, image
```

>
> Window, XSize=400, YSize=350, 1
> Loadct, 33, /Silent
> TVImage, LogScl(image)
>
> Window, XSize=400, YSize=350, 2
> Loadct, 33, /Silent
> TVLCT, r, g, b, /Get
> TVLCT, LogScl(r), LogScl(g), LogScl(b)
> TVImage, image
>
> Does anyone have a good idea for why not?
>
> Cheers,
>
> David
>
> P.S. And please don't tell me there is something wrong
> with LOGSCL, as this is *not* the answer I want to
> hear. :-(
>
> --
> 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.")
>

Probably $\log(0)=-\infty$ plays a role in your experiment.
Does LOGSCL handle it?

regards,
lajos

Subject: Re: Philosophical Scaling Question
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Mon, 04 Dec 2006 16:29:05 GMT
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Lajos writes:

> Probably $\log(0)=-\infty$ plays a role in your experiment.
> Does LOGSCL handle it?

Yes, LogScl handles this properly.

I'm still very confused.

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

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Subject: Re: Philosophical Scaling Question

Posted by [Paolo Grigis](#) on Mon, 04 Dec 2006 16:48:04 GMT

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Well, as I see it, you are scaling the wrong quantity:
it is not the **values** of r,g,b that should be scaled,
but their **indices**... try:

```
ind=bindgen(256)
TVLCT, r[LogScl(ind)], g[LogScl(ind)], b[LogScl(ind)]
```

instead.

Ciao,
Paolo

David Fanning wrote:

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>
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> color bars I'm flying blind this morning. And I seem to be
> running into theoretical difficulties. Can anyone help?
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> TVLCT, r, g, b, /Get
> TVLCT, LogScl(r), LogScl(g), LogScl(b)
> TVImage, image
>
> Does anyone have a good idea for why not?
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> Cheers,
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> David
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> P.S. And please don't tell me there is something wrong
> with LOGSCL, as this is *not* the answer I want to
> hear. :-(
>

Subject: Re: Philosophical Scaling Question
Posted by [Brian Larsen](#) on Mon, 04 Dec 2006 16:51:22 GMT
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This is a good question.

to ask another question... why when you add colorbar after each of the tvimage calls the colorbar is the same in windows 1 and 2?

Maybe this is my lack of understanding of what logscl does.

Brian

```
Loadct, 33, /Silent
TVLCT, r, g, b, /Get
pmm, r
pmm, g
pmm, b
```

```
image = Loaddata(7)
pmm, image
```

```
Window, XSize=400, YSize=350, 0
Loadct, 33, /Silent
TVImage, image
colorbar
```

```
Window, XSize=400, YSize=350, 1
Loadct, 33, /Silent
TVImage, LogScl(image)
colorbar
```

```
Window, XSize=400, YSize=350, 2
Loadct, 33, /Silent
TVLCT, r, g, b, /Get
TVLCT, logscl(r), logscl(g), logscl(b)
tvimage, image
colorbar
```

David Fanning wrote:

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>
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> color bars I'm flying blind this morning. And I seem to be
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>
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Subject: Re: Philosophical Scaling Question
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Mon, 04 Dec 2006 16:58:54 GMT
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Paolo Grigis writes:

> Well, as I see it, you are scaling the wrong quantity:
> it is not the *values* of r,g,b that should be scaled,
> but their *indices*... try:
>
> ind=bindgen(256)
> TVLCT, r[LogScl(ind)], g[LogScl(ind)], b[LogScl(ind)]

Yes, I just came to that conclusion myself. This works
as expected. Thank you!

Now the question remains: How would you make a
logarithmic color bar in a general way that would
accommodate various log scalings? I believe I could
do it if I were also displaying the image, but I
have grave doubts about it being possible to do it
generally.

Cheers,

David

--

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Subject: Re: Philosophical Scaling Question

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Mon, 04 Dec 2006 17:02:17 GMT

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Brian Larsen writes:

- > to ask another question... why when you add colobar after each of the
- > twimage calls the colorbar is the same in windows 1 and 2?

Actually, I think they are slightly different. I checked this, too. It is easier to see if you set the EXPONENT keyword to 8 in the LOGSCL function. There just aren't enough "bins" in a 256 element vector to see great variety unless the log scaling is pretty drastic.

Cheers,

David

--

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Subject: Re: Philosophical Scaling Question

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Mon, 04 Dec 2006 17:04:58 GMT

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David Fanning writes:

- > Actually, I think they are slightly different. I checked
- > this, too. It is easier to see if you set the EXPONENT
- > keyword to 8 in the LOGSCL function. There just aren't
- > enough "bins" in a 256 element vector to see great variety
- > unless the log scaling is pretty drastic.

By the way, I checked this with CINDEX, which gives you a more detailed look at the current color table than COLORBAR.

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

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Subject: Re: Philosophical Scaling Question
Posted by [Brian Larsen](#) on Mon, 04 Dec 2006 17:12:12 GMT
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> Now the question remains: How would you make a
> logarithmic color bar in a general way that would
> accommodate various log scalings? I believe I could
> do it if I were also displaying the image, but I
> have grave doubts about it being possible to do it
> generally.

I think I agree with this statement but for most all of (making an assumption there I guess) just having it plot in decades as opposed to linear is good enough. In that case I think this thread may have solved this.

maybe give the user some options to pass onto logscl but have the defaults just as were used here...

-Brian

Subject: Re: Philosophical Scaling Question
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Mon, 04 Dec 2006 18:00:31 GMT
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Brian Larsen writes:

> I think I agree with this statement but for most all of (making an
> assumption there I guess) just having it plot in decades as opposed to
> linear is good enough. In that case I think this thread may have
> solved this.
>
> maybe give the user some options to pass onto logscl but have the
> defaults just as were used here...

Well, *exactly*. I've thought all along the request for a "logarithmic color bar" didn't make much sense. Because if this is all you want, COLORBAR already does this.

```
LoadCT, 33
image = LoadData(7)
TVLCT, r, g, b, /GET
data = Scale_Vector(image, 1, 1000) ; Data in log scale.
pos = [0.1, 0.1, 0.9, 0.7]
TVImage, LogScl(data), Position=pos, /Keep, /Erase
index = Bindgen(256)
```

```
TVLCT, r[LogScl(index)], g[LogScl(index)], b[LogScl(index)]
Colorbar, Range=[1,1000], XLOG=1, Divisions=3, $
Position=[pos[0], 0.87, pos[2], 0.93], Minor=5
```

You can choose the logarithmic scale to use. Use LOGSCL for a true log scaling. Choose GMASCL for a power-law scaling. Or, even choose an inverse hyperbolic sine scaling with ASINHSCL:

http://www.dfanning.com/ip_tips/xstretch.html

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

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Subject: Re: Philosophical Scaling Question

Posted by [Brian Larsen](#) on Mon, 04 Dec 2006 18:24:15 GMT

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```
> LoadCT, 33
> image = LoadData(7)
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> Colorbar, Range=[1,1000], XLOG=1, Divisions=3, $
> Position=[pos[0], 0.87, pos[2], 0.93], Minor=5
>
```

Ah ha, this exactly what I wanted colorbar to do!! The reason I had never been able to get it done is that was a lot of work (and work I didn't know how to do), it seems like a flag to colorbar or tvlct or something that was /logscl would do the trick. Really the issue was my unfamiliarity with logscl, tvlct, and tvimage and how to put it all together.

Cheers,

Brian

Subject: Re: Philosophical Scaling Question
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Mon, 04 Dec 2006 18:27:22 GMT
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Brian Larsen writes:

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> never been able to get it done is that was a lot of work (and work I
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> something that was /logscl would do the trick. Really the issue was my
> unfamiliarity with logscl, tvlct, and tvimage and how to put it all
> together.

I'll put you on the list of people who want to buy the new book. :-)

Cheers,

David

--

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Subject: Re: Philosophical Scaling Question
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Mon, 04 Dec 2006 18:39:55 GMT
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Brian Larsen writes:

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> never been able to get it done is that was a lot of work (and work I
> didn't know how to do), it seems like a flag to colorbar or tvlct or
> something that was /logscl would do the trick. Really the issue was my
> unfamiliarity with logscl, tvlct, and tvimage and how to put it all
> together.

Alas, the problem is for every simple case, there are an infinite number of more complex cases. And as soon as someone like me distributes software, I hear from EVERYONE who wants to do something complex. :-(

I can't keep up. So I try to provide tools that do simple things (which I can support), and which can be combined in complex ways (which I can't support, generally).

Note the difference between this philosophy and the

thinking behind iTools, for example. Using my tools an "ah ha" moment can be experienced in less than 10 lines of code (as you just discovered). Using iTools, your "ah ha" moment can be a long way off (as I discover just about every time I try to use one of those darn things).

Cheers,

David

--

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Subject: Re: Philosophical Scaling Question

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Mon, 04 Dec 2006 20:43:03 GMT

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Brian Larsen writes:

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>> TVLCT, r[LogScl(index)], g[LogScl(index)], b[LogScl(index)]
>> Colorbar, Range=[1,1000], XLOG=1, Divisions=3, $
>>   Position=[pos[0], 0.87, pos[2], 0.93], Minor=5
>>
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> didn't know how to do), it seems like a flag to colorbar or tvlct or
> something that was /logscl would do the trick. Really the issue was my
> unfamiliarity with logscl, tvlct, and tvimage and how to put it all
> together.
```

Don't get too excited about this yet. It looks beautiful.
I'm just not sure it is correct. :-)

I'm trying to write an article about this, and I keep running into complications. It is a lot more difficult

than I expected it to be.

Cheers,

David

--

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