
Subject: Re: strange behaviour of bar_plot
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Thu, 22 Mar 2007 16:09:02 GMT
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paulartcoelho@gmail.com writes:

- > first time posting. i'm running IDL on Linux and i have a strange
- > behavior of bar_plot procedure. first time in a session it runs ok.
- > second time, colours are changed (i don't set any colour in
- > particular)

If you don't set any colors in particular, then you
can't be surprised when they change. :-)

Inside your program try loading some colors and using
those color indices as your colors. There are various
ways to do this (see the COLOR TIPS section in the IDL Tips
section of my web page for lots of examples), but
suppose you want 15 colors (you are drawing 15 bars).
You might do something like this:

```
LOADCT, 33, NCOLORS=15, BOTTOM=1  
colorIndices = Indgen(15)+1
```

Then, when you call your BAR_PLOT:

```
BAR_PLOT, data, Colors=colorIndices
```

- > and although the graph is plotted i end up with a message
- > '% Program caused arithmetic error: Floating illegal operand'. Only
- > restarting IDL make it back to normal behavior (.reset isn't enough).

This is typically a warning and may or may not be something to
worry about. You should find out. Set !EXCEPT=2 and run your
program again. This time it will stop with an error. Read the
error message to find out what line in your program is causing
the error and do the usual debugging thing to find out what in
the world is going on there!? Likely suspects are a value that
is getting very near zero, a value that *is* zero, etc. A couple
of PRINT statements might help. Usually you are making some assumptions
about your data that simply aren't true. This is a good time--
well before the presentation to your boss--to learn about that, too.

- > i'd like to mention that i'm an IDL beginner as well.

That's alright. We are *all* beginners here. :-)

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: strange behaviour of bar_plot

Posted by [paulartcoelho](#) on Fri, 23 Mar 2007 10:29:07 GMT

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Thank you David.

Now it's running smoothly, with the colors array properly defined I don't see the warning anymore. Anyway i left the !EXCEPT=2 command in the beginning of my code, "just in case"... for the further procedures. :)

Cheers

Paula

Subject: Re: strange behaviour of bar_plot

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Fri, 23 Mar 2007 14:57:05 GMT

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paulartcoelho@gmail.com writes:

> Anyway i left the !EXCEPT=2 command in
> the beginning of my code, "just in case"... for the further
> procedures. :)

This is probably not such a great idea, unless you intend to get a Ph.D. in writing esoteric code to check for floating underflow problems:

http://www.dfanning.com/math_tips/underflow.html

This is a *global* variable, which means it will affect ALL of your programs. I'd set it back to the default and leave it there unless you need it specifically. :-)

Cheers,

David

--

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Subject: Re: strange behaviour of bar_plot
Posted by [paulartcoelho](#) on Tue, 27 Mar 2007 14:26:36 GMT
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got it. thx :).
