
Subject: Discrete Color Bars

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Mon, 16 Mar 2009 04:17:54 GMT

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Folks,

Colorbar is a nice program, very useful, etc. But it comes up short when you need a color legend with just a handful of colors. You have to have fairly specialized knowledge to get the underlying Plot command to do what you want it to do. And then you almost always have the problem that the colorbar annotations do not line up with the actual colors.

The problem has come home to roost one time too many when I started to need limited color bars on a regular basis. Too much fooling around!

So I sat down today and wrote what I wished I had written years ago: a discrete color bar program, named DCBar. Annotations are centered under the colors, and the annotations can be rotated if you need more space. The color bar can be displayed either horizontally or vertically, and you can specify the colors you want to use as color names, color indices into the current color table, or as 24-bit integers that can be decomposed into RGB colors. The program works with the other suite of color programs found in the Coyote Library, and will need some of them to work properly.

You can learn more about the program and see examples in this article:

http://www.dfanning.com/color_tips/discretecb.html

The program itself is provided without a paid subscription on my web page. ;-)

<http://www.dfanning.com/programs/dcbar.pro>

Donations, of course, are always appreciated and matched by Coyote before being passed on to worthy organizations devoted to helping those who need the help.

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: Discrete Color Bars
Posted by [claydodo](#) on Thu, 23 Apr 2009 02:05:44 GMT
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On Mar 16, 12:17 pm, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:

> Folks,
>
> Colorbar is a nice program, very useful, etc. But it comes
> up short when you need a color legend with just a handful
> of colors. You have to have fairly specialized knowledge
> to get the underlying Plot command to do what you want it
> to do. And then you almost always have the problem that
> the colorbar annotations do not line up with the actual
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> Cheers,
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> 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.")

Thanks, David.

I suggest to add an option that can make the labels NOT centered in the middle of the bins, but aligned to the border of them. This would be good for showing value ranges.

e.g. to make a bar like this:

```
[ | | | ]  
0 10 20 30 40
```

Just active this feature when (nElements(labels) EQ ncolors + 1) would be good.

Subject: Re: Discrete Color Bars

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Thu, 23 Apr 2009 05:06:30 GMT

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claydodo writes:

> I suggest to add an option that can make the labels NOT centered in
> the middle of the bins, but aligned to the border of them. This would
> be good for showing value ranges.
>
> e.g. to make a bar like this:
> [| | |]
> 0 10 20 30 40
>
> Just active this feature when (nElements(labels) EQ ncolors + 1)
> would be good.

Well, Colorbar always seems to handle this situation pretty well. :-)

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: Discrete Color Bars

Posted by [claydodo](#) on Thu, 23 Apr 2009 08:06:04 GMT

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On Apr 23, 1:06 pm, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:

> claydodo writes:

>> I suggest to add an option that can make the labels NOT centered in
>> the middle of the bins, but aligned to the border of them. This would
>> be good for showing value ranges.

>

>> e.g. to make a bar like this:

>> [| | |]

>> 0 10 20 30 40

>

>> Just active this feature when (nElements(labels) EQ ncolors + 1)

>> would be good.

>

> Well, Colorbar always seems to handle this situation

> pretty well. :-)

>

> 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.")

Ah, I forgot the keyword DIVISION...

Thanks David.
