
Subject: Color problem with contours

Posted by [robintw](#) on Wed, 08 Jul 2009 08:49:16 GMT

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Hi,

I'm trying to plot a circular (polar) contour plot using the map plotting commands. I've attached my code below. I don't really understand much about colours in IDL, but I found that it was being displayed as white text on a black background. After a bit of playing I found that adding the lines under the comment "Load colors into colortable" made it display with a white background and black text.

However, this seems to add an extra line at the bottom of the colortable, which means that very low values of my contours plot as white (which makes it look as if they're not there, as the background is white).

As I said, I don't really quite get IDL colors, even though I've read various bits in books about them. I've tried playing with the "bottom" keywords to various routines, but that doesn't really seem to help. I've also tried playing with FSC_COLOR (which I'm using successfully elsewhere in my program), but that just seemed to confuse things entirely.

Ideally, what I'd like is to have a white background, with black text and lines, and then with the colors for the contours plotting correctly. I'm sure this must be possible, but I'm not sure how.

Any help would be much appreciated,

Robin

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```
PRO MAP_PLOT_DATA, azimuths, zeniths, dns, title
```

```
; Set positions for drawing the plot and the colourbar
```

```
draw_position = [.10, .07, .80, .90]
```

```
cbar_position = [.85, .07, .88, .90]
```

```
; Set the map projection to orthographic, looking down from the  
north pole
```

```
; The REVERSE=1 and the third numeric parameter (180) ensure that N,  
E, S and W are at the appropriate locations
```

```
MAP_SET, /ORTHOGRAPHIC, 90, 0, 180, REVERSE=1, /ISOTROPIC,  
title=title, position=draw_position, color=1
```

```
; Load colours into colortable
```

```
device, decomposed=0
```

```
loadct, 13
TVLCT, 0, 0, 0, 1      ; Drawing colour
TVLCT, 255, 255, 255, 0 ; Background colour

; Calculate 100 levels for the contouring
range = MAX(dns) - MIN(dns)
levels = indgen(100) * (range/100)

; Plot the contours from the irregular data
contour, dns, azimuths, zeniths, /irregular, /overplot,
levels=levels, /cell_fill, position=draw_position, color=1

; Plot the grid over the top of the data
map_grid, /grid, londel=45, latdel=20, color=1,
position=draw_position

colorbar, /vertical, /right, range=[min(dns), max(dns)],
position=cbar_position, title="Digital Number", color=1
END
```
