
Subject: Re: Why postscript colors are same as screen?
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Mon, 10 May 2010 11:58:44 GMT
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Mrunmayee writes:

```
> I have an array, say data[311,550]. It contains only 0's and 1's and I
> am trying to display it. When I use
> IDL> tvscl, data
> I get output on the screen with 0's painted with black and 1's with
> white. Exactly what I want. When I do
> IDL> set_plot,'ps'
> IDL> tvscl, data
> IDL> device,/close & set_plot,'x'
> I get output - again 0's are painted black and 1's are painted white.
> I thought, the default color table is reversed when we plot in
> postscript. Which is why plot is balck-background-white-foreground on
> screen but reversed in postscript. But that's not what I am getting
> here. Am I missing something here? When it comes to images, I am very
> very unskilled.
```

The PostScript color table isn't reversed. It only
acts as if it were reversed in certain circumstances,
of which this isn't one of them.

Cheers,

David

P.S. In case you were wondering, the PostScript device
is designed as a test. If the novice IDL programmer
can overcome its inconsistencies to produce a plot that
is even just a reasonable facsimile to what they expected
to get, the programming gods will allow you to proceed
to the next level of the game, which is understanding
the colors used in filled contour plots. :-)

--

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: Why postscript colors are same as screen?

Posted by [JM\[1\]](#) on Mon, 10 May 2010 13:03:19 GMT

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Isn't it just the !P.Color system variable (used for drawing) that gets changed?

```
IDL> print, !P.Color
      16777215
IDL> SET_PLOT, 'PS'
IDL> print, !P.Color
      0
```

The rationale for this being that default background colour for a plot window happens to be black, and the usual colour for paper happens to be white.

-John Mardaljevic

PS. The programming gods must be smiling on me: my PS output looks pretty much like it does in X-windows. Actually better than in X-windows since the PDF[1] is of course vector graphics and any bitmaps are shown at the correct (i.e. my) resolution rather than the screens.

[1] I convert the PS directly to PDF using lossless compression and junk the PS immediately. Ah, the joys of using a PDF-savvy OS, i.e. MAC OS X.

Subject: Re: Why postscript colors are same as screen?
Posted by [Mrunmayee](#) on Mon, 10 May 2010 13:30:44 GMT
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Oh! I didn't even bother to wonder about this! I mean, I knew !p.color was changed, but somehow I extended it to color table. So I tried reversing the color table 0 which gives desired o/p (at least on screen).

And programming Gods? Oh, they HAVE tested me on postscript and sent me to hell multiple times.

On May 10, 6:03 pm, JM <j...@dmu.ac.uk> wrote:

```
> Isn't it just the !P.Color system variable (used for drawing) that
> gets changed?
>
> IDL> print, !P.Color
>      16777215
> IDL> SET_PLOT, 'PS'
> IDL> print, !P.Color
```

> 0
>
> The rationale for this being that default background colour for a plot
> window happens to be black, and the usual colour for paper happens to
> be white.
>
> -John Mardaljevic
>
> PS. The programming gods must be smiling on me: my PS output looks
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