
Subject: Re: Red and Green Colors Swapped when Printing from Mac
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Thu, 02 Jun 2011 23:57:49 GMT
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Mostafa writes:

> I am using IDL 8.1 on MacOSX 10.6.7. When trying to print a plot using
> IDL Graphics, I noticed that the red and blue color components are
> swapped on the printout. This happens for BARPLOT and CONTOUR.
> However, the COLORBAR associated with the contour prints out
> correctly. Also printing the window of IMAGE function also prints the
> correct colors.
>
> Anyone seen this problem and knows what causes it?

I have two suggestions.

1. Print only on Windows printers.
2. Switch the red and blue color cartridges on the printer you are using.

Microsoft gets the whole color thing sort of ass backwards for some reason. It wouldn't surprise me to find this kind of error in a print routine. And, especially, when printing from a Mac, which seems to go out of its way to do things in the anti-Windows way.

Maybe I'm getting old, but the whole UNIX/Windows, Republican/Democrat thing is starting to get under my skin a little bit. Almost worse than having children living in the house. :-(

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.
Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.idlcoyote.com/>
Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

Subject: Re: Red and Green Colors Swapped when Printing from Mac
Posted by [Mostafa](#) on Fri, 03 Jun 2011 15:25:43 GMT

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Thank you David for the suggestions.

I test printed from Widows and it sure did print well. Instead of switching the cartridges, I tried on the Mac to grab the color table using LOADCT and reversed the RGB order then redrew the same contour on another window using that RGB table. The printout came well with the original contour colors.

I think I will stick to Mac and use this workaround and hopefully someday they will fix this problem.

Thanks again

Mostafa

Subject: Re: Red and Green Colors Swapped when Printing from Mac
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Fri, 03 Jun 2011 15:37:19 GMT
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Mostafa writes:

> Thank you David for the suggestions.

Well, these were Coyote's suggestions. It's the first time, ever, one of them has been helpful!

> I test printed from Widows and it sure did print well. Instead of
> switching the cartridges, I tried on the Mac to grab the color table
> using LOADCT and reversed the RGB order then redrew the same contour
> on another window using that RGB table. The printout came well with
> the original contour colors.

Oh, my goodness! Does anyone know if this is a UNIX problem, or applies only to the Mac version?

Cheers,

David

--

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Subject: Re: Red and Green Colors Swapped when Printing from Mac
Posted by [Matt Haffner](#) on Fri, 03 Jun 2011 16:44:14 GMT
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On Jun 3, 10:37 am, David Fanning <n...@idlcoyote.com> wrote:

> Mostafa writes:
>> Thank you David for the suggestions.
>
> Well, these were Coyote's suggestions. It's the first time,
> ever, one of them has been helpful!
>
>> I test printed from Widows and it sure did print well. Instead of
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>> on another window using that RGB table. The printout came well with
>> the original contour colors.
>
> Oh, my goodness! Does anyone know if this is a
> UNIX problem, or applies only to the Mac version?

I've only used Mac IDL and have never seen this in DG or NG. Maybe the original poster has some code that shows the problem?

- Matt

Subject: Re: Red and Green Colors Swapped when Printing from Mac
Posted by [Mostafa](#) on Fri, 03 Jun 2011 17:10:35 GMT
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On Jun 3, 10:44 am, Matt Haffner <matt.haff...@gmail.com> wrote:

>
> I've only used Mac IDL and have never seen this in DG or NG. Maybe the
> original poster has some code that shows the problem?
>
> - Matt

Certainly. I have used the sample code in the help page for CONTOUR function and added a colorbar and print statement to it:

```
file = FILEPATH('convec.dat', SUBDIR=['examples', 'data'])
z = READ_BINARY(file, DATA_DIMS=[248,248])
index = [30,60,90,120,150,220,255]
c = CONTOUR(z, /FILL, ASPECT_RATIO=1, RGB_TABLE=39, RGB_INDICES=index,
C_VALUE=index)
b = COLORBAR(TARGET=c)
c.PRINT
```

On the graphics window, the plot is filled with blue colors in the outer contours and red/orange in the inner. The printout shows the outer contours in red colors and the inner in blue. However, the colorbar prints correctly.

I hope it is not just my Mac nor me :)

Thanks

Subject: Re: Red and Green Colors Swapped when Printing from Mac
Posted by [Matt Haffner](#) on Fri, 03 Jun 2011 19:59:00 GMT

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On Jun 3, 12:10 pm, Mostafa <moselk...@gmail.com> wrote:

> On the graphics window, the plot is filled with blue colors in the
> outer contours and red/orange in the inner. The printout shows the
> outer contours in red colors and the inner in blue. However, the
> colorbar prints correctly.

>

> I hope it is not just my Mac nor me :)

>

> Thanks

I get output that is the same as the screen printing directly to two different color printers (Dell & Lexmark) when using the print button on the toolbar of a graphic using the workbench. This seems to go right to the OS X print system (dialogs pop up, etc.).

The c.print procedure on the other hand does seem to traverse a different code path. It looks like it's going through the PRINTER device. I can't get it to go to any of my printers (using DIALOG_PRINTERSETUP) without an error (CUPS reports "No %%BoundingBox: comment in header!" on every job). If I have it go to a file instead, the .eps is grayscale, as long despised by searching through this group. PRINTER device settings don't seem to make a difference (e.g., TRUE, INDEX).

Likely the color issues are related to what "Printer Device" you have selected as your default printer in DIALOG_PRINTERSETUP. From scanning the printer settings files in \$IDL_DIR/resource/xprinter/ppd/ nothing's been updated there since *1992*. Perhaps finding a new ppd for your printer and dropping it in there will help, but I haven't tried that myself yet.

Using the toolbutton in an X11 graphic window (e.g., if you run IDL from the command line and not the workbench) uses PRINTER and will

result in this same problem, I believe.

Your best bet is to save the graphic as a PDF and print the file. An extra line of code, but an order of magnitude less headache... hint... hint... ITT...

- Matt
