Subject: Using IDL 8.1 Colorbar to Compare Images
Posted by David Fanning on Sun, 18 Sep 2011 18:44:12 GMT

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Folks,

It has only taken me 3-4 days of almost constant work
to understand how to use the IDL 8.1 Colorbar() function
to compare two images with different data ranges. I note
that the documentation is silent (well, it doesn't exist!)
on how to do this.

Nevertheless, the situation is not as bleak as I thought
it was yesterday, when I thought this was completely
impossible. The secret to the solution was contained
in the surprising discovery that I made yesterday: the
Colorbar() function behaves differently with byte data
than it does with data of any other type.

(For all I know, it behaves differently with Contour data,
too, which I will be turning my attention to next, to see
if I can make sense of any of the work I did last week on
the Contour function.)

Anyway, while I still believe this Colorbar design is
almost certain to confuse the casual user and (much worse!)
give them incorrect results (for God's sake don't publish
anything until you have read this article!!), I now believe
that if you are extremely careful, are willing to go to
some effort, and understand exactly what you are doing, you
might be able to use the Colorbar function to get acceptable
results. (Assuming, of course, you aren't that particular,
and God knows most of us are scientists here, so...)

You can read about my discoveries in this article:

  http://www.idlcoyote.com/ng_tips/cbdesign.php

Cheers,

David

P.S. If you find this information useful and would care
to make a donation, it would be gratefully accepted. I
am still waiting on a check from Ethiopia, which I am
beginning to wonder if I will ever see, and I should
be working rather than doing this nonsense. :-)

http://www.idlcoyote.com/store

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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.")