
Subject: Significant Update of cgImage

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Sun, 04 Dec 2011 17:58:47 GMT

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Folks,

I wanted to alert you to a couple of significant feature updates to cgImage.

As I work on my map projection book, I have been using a lot of GeoTiff images. These images are easy to navigate and georegister, and I have developed software that can read a GeoTiff file and display the image with map annotations, etc. All of that works nicely.

The problem is that many of these Tiff images are low contrast, have missing data values in them, etc. This is the problem that is addressed in this update of cgImage.

I have modified cgImage so that if you are displaying a 2D image array (this does NOT apply to 24-bit color images!) you now have the ability to scale or stretch these images eight different ways. Basically, you now have the stretching capability of XStretch directly in cgImage. What this means is that not only can you do a straight linear scaling of the data before display (the purpose of the old SCALE keyword), but you can also do Log, Gamma, and Gaussian scaling, do histogram clipping in various ways, etc.

For example, many of these images look best when a two percent histogram clipping is used (e.g. ClipScl). This is the same default clipping that ENVI uses. You can affect such a clip like this:

```
IDL> cgImage, image2d, Stretch="CLIP"
```

Possible values for the STRETCH keyword are: LINEAR, CLIP, GAMMA, LOG, ASINH, SQUAREROOT, EQUALIZATION, GAUSSIAN, and MODIS. Alternatively, you can use index numbers in place of these names. In other words, the command above can also be written like this:

```
IDL> cgImage, image2d, Stretch=2
```

The old SCALE keyword simply chooses a LINEAR stretch. Additional keywords are added that will set the parameters

for the different stretches available.

Another problem with many GeoTiff images is that they have missing data in them. So `cgImage` has also been modified with three additional keywords to allow you to handle this missing data appropriately. These keywords are:

`Missing_Value` - Used to specify the missing data value in the image.

`Missing_Index` - Specify the missing index in the output image.

`Missing_Color` - Specify color of the missing data in output image.

Suppose, for example, missing data is indicated by the value -32767 and you would like to display this missing data in a white color using color index 255 (the default missing color index). Then you could set up and display your image like this:

```
IDL> cgLoadct, 33, NColors=254
IDL> cgImage, image2d, Missing_Value=-32767, Missing_Color='white', $
    Stretch="LINEAR"
```

The missing data values are now set to `!Values.F_NAN` before the scaling is done. The scaling is done into the values 0 to 254. Then the missing data indices are set equal to 255, the missing value index. The resulting image shows the missing values in the color you specify.

I want to mention one other change. I often want to display these images in graphics windows having the same aspect ratio as the image itself. A new `DISPLAY` keyword to `cgImage` will create such a graphics window for me and display the image in that graphics window. If the `DISPLAY` keyword is used with the `WINDOW` keyword, and new `cgWindow` will be created. Otherwise the graphics window will be created with `cgDisplay`.

```
IDL> cgImage, image2d, Missing_Value=-32767, Missing_Color='white', $
    Stretch="LINEAR", /Display, /Window
```

If a `cgWindow` is opened in this way, the aspect ratio of the window is confined to the aspect ratio of the image as the window is resized.

A number of other routines were slightly modified to work smoothly with new functionality in `cgImage`. This would be a good time to update your Coyote Library:

http://www.idlcoyote.com/programs/zip_files/coyoteprograms.zip

You can read about the new keywords in the updated `cgImage`

documentation:

<http://www.idlcoyote.com/idldoc/cg/cgimage.html>

Cheers,

David

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Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.idlcoyote.com/>

Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")
