
Subject: Re: Easy colours?

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Fri, 16 Nov 2012 00:44:00 GMT

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markjamie@gmail.com writes:

> I often find myself needing to plot graphs (in direct or new graphics) for an unknown number of data series. To differentiate between them in the plot I colour each line / symbols. Since most of the time I have less than 10 series I usually just define an array of 10 specific colours and select from this on the plot command. However, this method has problems if you breach the number of pre-defined colours.

>

> Ideally, I'd like to be able to load a colour table and then have an easy way to select 'x' equally spaced colours across the colour table.

>

> For example, if my colour table went from blue-yellow-pink-green-red and I had 5 data series, I would like to be able to access each colour using a fractional number specifying how far across the colour table

>

> E.g.

> Loadct,39

> Plot, Series1, color=mycolour(0)

> OPlot, Series2, color= mycolour(0.25)

> OPlot, series3, color=mycolour(0.5)

> OPlot, series4, color=mycolour(0.75)

> OPlot, series5, color=mycolour(1)

>

> I've never found a way to do this in IDL - perhaps I'm missing something really simple...

```
Loadct, 39, N_COLORS=NumberInSeries, BOTTOM=1
```

```
mycolour = Bindgen(NumberInSeries)+1
```

You might prefer to use `cgLoadCT` instead, since it has a `CLIP` keyword that is useful for trimming off colors at one or both ends of the color table before selecting the equally spaced colors.

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.

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

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

Subject: Re: Easy colours?

Posted by [Michael Galloy](#) on Fri, 16 Nov 2012 04:58:49 GMT

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On 11/15/12 5:44 PM, David Fanning wrote:

> markjamie@gmail.com writes:

>

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> David

>

Also, note that the "qualitative" (numbers 41 - 48) Color Brewer color tables were designed for this type of task. They were added in IDL 8.2.1.

41 CB-Accent (8 colors)

42 CB-Dark2 (8 colors)

43 CB-Paired (12 colors)

44 CB-Pastel1 (9 colors)
45 CB-Pastel2 (8 colors)
46 CB-Set1 (9 colors)
47 CB-Set2 (8 colors)
48 CB-Set3 (12 colors)

Mike

--

Michael Galloy

www.michaelgalloy.com

Modern IDL: A Guide to IDL Programming (<http://modernidl.idldev.com>)

Research Mathematician

Tech-X Corporation

Subject: Re: Easy colours?

Posted by [markjamie](#) on Tue, 20 Nov 2012 23:25:00 GMT

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Thanks - that coding worked a treat !
