
Subject: Re: colors and plot direct graphics function
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Fri, 14 Dec 2012 23:57:45 GMT
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bing999 writes:

> I switched from idl 7 to 8.2 recently, and start using direct graphics
> for plotting purposes.
>
> To plot in colors in idl 7, I used to do:
> loadct,39
> plot,x,y,color=250
> for a red line.
>
> With direct graphics I can do:
>
> p=plot(x,y,AXIS_STYLE=0,\$
> XRANGE=[0,30],YRANGE=[0,30],color='red')
>
> But is there a way to load a color table and use a single number value
> (e.g. 250 for red) for colors instead of a string with the plot
> function?
>
> I find it convenient to use that when you want to overplot many curves
> of different colors in a for loop for instance.
>
> I couldn't find this tip in the IDL help...

It appears you have actually switched to function graphics,
which use the object graphics system, not the direct graphics
system.

If you wanted to stay with direct graphics, and still
have nearly all the advantages of a modern graphics
system, you could try Coyote Graphics:

http://www.idlcoyote.com/graphics_tips/coyote_graphics.php

With Coyote Graphics, you would do this to get an equivalent plot:

```
LoadCT, 39  
cgPlot, cgDemoData(1), Color='250', XStyle=5, YStyle=5, /Window
```

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

Subject: Re: colors and plot direct graphics function

Posted by chris_torrence@NOSPAM on Sat, 15 Dec 2012 02:28:41 GMT

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On Friday, December 14, 2012 4:31:50 PM UTC-7, bing999 wrote:

```
> Hi,
>
>
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>
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>
>
>
> Thanks!

Hi bing999,

There are a couple of different ways. If you want all the colors to come from the same color table, then you could use `rgb_table` and `vert_colors`:

```
p = plot(randomu(seed,100), rgb_table=39, vert_colors=240)
```

If you just wanted to be able to choose colors using an index, you could use the `!color` system variable, like this:

```
for i=1,10 do p = plot(randomu(seed,100), color=!color.(i), /overplot)
```

Either way will work fine. Probably the first way gives you the most control, since you can pick say every 20th color from a color table.

Just as an aside, be sure to check out the new Color Brewer color tables that we added to IDL 8.2.1:

<http://www.exelisvis.com/docs/LoadingDefaultColorTables.html>

Cheers,
Chris
ExelisVIS
