
Subject: Re: on the background color of cgplot
Posted by [simona bellavista](#) on Sun, 26 May 2013 18:58:37 GMT
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Den söndagen den 26:e maj 2013 kl. 20:36:46 UTC+2 skrev simona bellavista:

```
> if(!version.os_family eq 'unix') then device, true_color=24
```

Does your cluster run unix?

Subject: Re: on the background color of cgplot
Posted by [simona bellavista](#) on Sun, 26 May 2013 19:04:42 GMT
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it is a linux cluster

On Sunday, May 26, 2013 8:58:37 PM UTC+2, Mats Löfdahl wrote:

```
> Den söndagen den 26:e maj 2013 kl. 20:36:46 UTC+2 skrev simona bellavista:
```

```
>
```

```
>
```

```
>
```

```
>> if(!version.os_family eq 'unix') then device, true_color=24
```

```
>
```

```
>
```

```
>
```

```
> Does your cluster run unix?
```

Subject: Re: on the background color of cgplot
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Sun, 26 May 2013 20:56:57 GMT
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simona bellavista writes:

```
> I have a peculiar problem with cgplot, the background is red and the points that are supposed to be black are cyan. This only happen when I connect to the computer cluster via vnc and use cgplot. If I use 'plot' instead of 'cgplot', I correctly get a black on white figure.
```

```
> I noticed that if I put explicitly background=cgcolor('white') in the cgplot, the background is correctly white. While if I put color=cgcolor('black'), the points are black but the axes are still cyan. I would like to set the background and the color once at the beginning before calling cgplot. Is this possible?
```

This sounds to me like the cluster machine is using 16-bit color, rather than 24-bit color. Could you log onto the cluster and run IDL without running your initializing script? From inside of IDL, I'd like to know the results of this command:

IDL> Help, /Device

I suspect you are unsuccessful in putting IDL into 24-bit mode on this cluster machine. Maybe because an IDL graphics window has already been opened by the time your initializing script is run. On UNIX, once a window is opened, you cannot change the depth of the visual class that is selected.

I'd also be curious what cgPlot would do if you set yourself up in decomposed color mode (Decomposed=1, which is what I recommend you do if you want to use Coyote Graphics routines).

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.

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

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

Subject: Re: on the background color of cgplot
Posted by [simona bellavista](#) on Mon, 27 May 2013 14:30:08 GMT
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>
> This sounds to me like the cluster machine is using 16-bit color, rather
>
> than 24-bit color. Could you log onto the cluster and run IDL without
>
> running your initializing script? From inside of IDL, I'd like to know
>
> the results of this command:
>
>
>
> IDL> Help, /Device
>

Available Graphics Devices: CGM HP LJ NULL PCL PRINTER PS REGIS TEK X Z

Current graphics device: X

Server: X11.0, The X.Org Foundation, Release 70101000

Display Depth, Size: 16 bits, (1024,768)
Visual Class: TrueColor (4)
Bits Per RGB: 8 (5/6/5)
Physical Color Map Entries (Emulated / Actual): 256 / 64
Colormap: Private, 65536 colors. Translation table: Enabled
Graphics pixels: Decomposed, Dither Method: Ordered
Write Mask: 65535 (decimal) ffff (hex)
Graphics Function: 3 (copy)
Current Font: <default>, Current TrueType Font: <default>
Default Backing Store: Req from Server.

In fact now that you ask, I notice that idl issues the following warning:

```
% Unsupported X Windows visual (class: TrueColor, depth: 24).  
Substituting default (class: TrueColor, Depth: 16).
```

```
> I suspect you are unsuccessful in putting IDL into 24-bit mode on this  
>  
> cluster machine. Maybe because an IDL graphics window has already been  
>  
> opened by the time your initializing script is run. On UNIX, once a  
>  
> window is opened, you cannot change the depth of the visual class that  
>  
> is selected.
```

Actually the offending line in my script are:

```
!p.background=white  
!p.color =black
```

(that I forgot in my previous post, sorry, my fault!!)

The peculiar think is that if I remove these lines, everything is OK and both plot and cgplot give white on black graphics.

If I insert the above lines I get this problem with cgplot. But if I write

```
cgplot, dindgen(10), background=white, color=black
```

I get black on white (but cyan axes).

```
>  
>  
> I'd also be curious what cgPlot would do if you set yourself up in  
>  
> decomposed color mode (Decomposed=1, which is what I recommend you do if  
>
```

> you want to use Coyote Graphics routines).
>

I get cyan on red with cgplot and black on red with plot

Subject: Re: on the background color of cgplot
Posted by [Phillip Bitzer](#) on Mon, 27 May 2013 14:31:59 GMT
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On Sunday, May 26, 2013 1:36:46 PM UTC-5, simona bellavista wrote:

> I noticed that if I put explicitly background=cgcolor('white') in the cgplot, the background is correctly white. While if I put color=cgcolor('black'), the points are black but the axes are still cyan. I would like to set the background and the color once at the beginning before calling cgplot. Is this possible?

Not sure if it's causing your specific problem but be careful. Use this:
IDL> cgPLOT, dist(10), COLOR='black'

and *not*
IDL> cgPLOT, dist(10), COLOR=cgCOLOR('black')

http://www.idlcoyote.com/cg_tips/extracolors.php

Subject: Re: on the background color of cgplot
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Mon, 27 May 2013 14:45:33 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

simona bellavista writes:

> In fact now that you ask, I notice that idl issues the following warning:
>
> % Unsupported X Windows visual (class: TrueColor, depth: 24).
> Substituting default (class: TrueColor, Depth: 16).

Here is your problem! You will get screwed up colors if you try to specify colors with 24-bit values, as all Coyote Graphics routines do. I don't know why your machine can't do 24-bit color (no 24-bit graphics card?), but not much I can do about it. Sorry.

Cheers,

David

--

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

Subject: Re: on the background color of cgplot
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Mon, 27 May 2013 14:48:46 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

David Fanning writes:

> Here is your problem! You will get screwed up colors if you try to
> specify colors with 24-bit values, as all Coyote Graphics routines do. I
> don't know why your machine can't do 24-bit color (no 24-bit graphics
> card?), but not much I can do about it. Sorry.

You could probably get by setting this machine up to use an 8-bit pseudocolor visual class. Coyote Graphics routines can work in this environment, although it is never ideal.

Cheers,

David

--

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

Subject: Re: on the background color of cgplot
Posted by [simona bellavista](#) on Mon, 27 May 2013 15:05:01 GMT
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On Monday, May 27, 2013 4:48:46 PM UTC+2, David Fanning wrote:

> You could probably get by setting this machine up to use an 8-bit
>
> pseudocolor visual class. Coyote Graphics routines can work in this

>
> environment, although it is never ideal.
>
I put device, pseudo_color=8 in the start-up file

% Unsupported X Windows visual (class: PseudoColor, depth: 8).
Substituting default (class: TrueColor, Depth: 16).

So, no solution?

Subject: Re: on the background color of cgplot
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Mon, 27 May 2013 15:14:34 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

simona bellavista writes:

> I put device, pseudo_color=8 in the start-up file
>
> % Unsupported X Windows visual (class: PseudoColor, depth: 8).
> Substituting default (class: TrueColor, Depth: 16).
>
> So, no solution?

I hear machines are pretty cheap these days. :-)

Cheers,

David

P.S. This could be just a configuration issue, too. You would have to consult with someone who knows something about the subject. That is, not me. :-)

--

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

Subject: Re: on the background color of cgplot
Posted by [Lajos Foldy](#) on Mon, 27 May 2013 15:19:11 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On Monday, May 27, 2013 5:05:01 PM UTC+2, simona bellavista wrote:

- > % Unsupported X Windows visual (class: PseudoColor, depth: 8).
- > Substituting default (class: TrueColor, Depth: 16).
- >
- > So, no solution?

You are using a VNC connection, so try some VNC server/client switches, eg vncviewer -truecolor or -owncmap, -depth 32 or -depth 24 with truecolor, etc. Also, you can use -depth 8 or 32 on the server side, too. Experimental computer science :-)

regards,
Lajos

Subject: Re: on the background color of cgplot
Posted by [simona bellavista](#) on Mon, 27 May 2013 15:33:50 GMT
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On Monday, May 27, 2013 5:19:11 PM UTC+2, fawltyl...@gmail.com wrote:

- > On Monday, May 27, 2013 5:05:01 PM UTC+2, simona bellavista wrote:
- >
- >
- >
- >> % Unsupported X Windows visual (class: PseudoColor, depth: 8).
- >
- >> Substituting default (class: TrueColor, Depth: 16).
- >
- >>
- >
- >> So, no solution?
- >
- >
- >
- > You are using a VNC connection, so try some VNC server/client switches, eg
- >
- > vncviewer -truecolor or -owncmap, -depth 32 or -depth 24 with truecolor, etc.
- >
- > Also, you can use -depth 8 or 32 on the server side, too. Experimental computer science :-)
- >
- >
- >
- > regards,
- >
- > Lajos

I guess that if my graphic card is 16-bit I cannot select a different pixel depth (when I try to do so starting vncserver Xvnc fails). How can I know about the properties of my graphic card?

Subject: Re: on the background color of cgplot
Posted by [Lajos Foldy](#) on Mon, 27 May 2013 16:24:23 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On Monday, May 27, 2013 5:33:50 PM UTC+2, simona bellavista wrote:

> I guess that if my graphic card is 16-bit I cannot select a different pixel depth (when I try to do so starting vncserver Xvnc fails). How can I know about the properties of my graphic card?

What graphic card do you have on the server? (try lspci if you don't know).

I have just tried to set up VNC with tightvnc on a 15 years old ATI Rage 128 Pro, "vncserver -depth 32 :1" works as expected.

regards,
Lajos

Subject: Re: on the background color of cgplot
Posted by [simona bellavista](#) on Mon, 27 May 2013 16:57:07 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

> What graphic card do you have on the server? (try lspci if you don't know).

I had already tried lspci, but Command not found

> I have just tried to set up VNC with tightvnc on a 15 years old ATI Rage 128 Pro, "vncserver -depth 32 :1" works as expected.

I tried again and it works, I did something stupid earlier.

and surprise, surprise ... true_color=24 also works and no weird colors in cgplot (yeah!)

Thank you a lot, Still many things to learn :D
