
Subject: Screen color (x device) on mac
Posted by [laura.hike](#) on Fri, 18 Oct 2013 23:54:02 GMT
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Hi,

I know this is a trivial question, but I can't find the answer anywhere. I'm running IDL 8.2 from the command line on a Mac. It's been forever since I made live screen plots on a Mac, and the color keeps coming up white on black. I've tried

Device, Decomposed=0

and loading several different color tables (and then starting new windows), but it always comes out the same. I could just make a PS plot using a pro file, but the live plots are better while in testing mode.

Thanks

Subject: Re: Screen color (x device) on mac
Posted by [Heinz Stege](#) on Sat, 19 Oct 2013 02:38:57 GMT
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On Fri, 18 Oct 2013 16:54:02 -0700 (PDT), Lucas J. wrote:

> Hi,
>

> I know this is a trivial question, but I can't find the answer anywhere. I'm running IDL 8.2 from the command line on a Mac. It's been forever since I made live screen plots on a Mac, and the color keeps coming up white on black.
> [...]

I added the following commands to the startup file on my Windows computer:

```
!p.background=!d.n_colors-1 ; white background  
!p.color=0 ; default color = black
```

This works fine. I think, it should work for a Mac too.

Cheers, Heinz

Subject: Re: Screen color (x device) on mac
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Sat, 19 Oct 2013 22:00:18 GMT
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Heinz Stege writes:

```
> I added the following commands to the startup file on my Windows
> computer:
>
> !p.background=!d.n_colors-1 ; white background
> !p.color=0 ; default color = black
>
> This works fine. I think, it should work for a Mac too.
```

Oh, my gosh, don't do that! You'll never understand colors if you do that! :-)

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: Screen color (x device) on mac

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Sun, 20 Oct 2013 16:58:07 GMT

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Lucas J. writes:

```
> I know this is a trivial question, but I can't find the answer anywhere. I'm running IDL 8.2 from
> the command line on a Mac. It's been forever since I made live screen plots on a Mac, and the
> color keeps coming up white on black. I've tried
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> Device, Decomposed=0
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> and loading several different color tables (and then starting new windows), but it always comes
> out the same. I could just make a PS plot using a pro file, but the live plots are better while in
> testing mode.
```

The simplest answer is to use Coyote Graphics to do your plotting. Then you screen output will be identical to your PostScript output. In fact, you will be able to create PostScript output (and from that high-quality raster output) trivially (usually by simply using the OUTPUT keyword). You can see examples of 60 some IDL plots using this technique here:

<http://www.idlcoyote.com/gallery/index.html>

You can learn more about Coyote Graphics here:

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

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.

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

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