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Subject: Colors for the Color Blind

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Fri, 16 Jan 2015 23:42:06 GMT

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Folks,

Paul Krummel has convinced me that even the color blind need to use colors when they engage in data visualization. To help them out, Paul has suggested a dozen specific colors and two additional color tables that he finds helpful in this regard. You will find a discussion of this topic here:

<http://www.sron.nl/~pault/>

I have added the 12 colors in the last line of Figure 3 in the reference above. I have named the colors in the most unimaginative way as CG1...CG12. You can find these colors in `cgColor`. And you can see the colors in the last column of `cgPickColorName`:

```
void = cgPickColorName()
```

I have also added two color tables to the `fsc_brewer.tbl` file. These are not strictly Brewer color tables, but I had already added a couple of other useful color tables to that file and I saw no reason to establish a new precedent. Paul called these color table "sunset" and "rainbow". Since there is already a rainbow color table in IDL, I have named this color table "cgRainbow."

The easiest way to update is to get a new version of the Coyote Library:

[http://www.idlcoyote.com/programs/zip\\_files/coyoteprograms.zip](http://www.idlcoyote.com/programs/zip_files/coyoteprograms.zip)

Or, you can update the following files:

```
http://www.idlcoyote.com/programs/fsc_brewer.tbl
http://www.idlcoyote.com/programs/cgcolor.pro
http://www.idlcoyote.com/programs/cgpickcolorname.pro
http://www.idlcoyote.com/programs/cgloadct.pro
```

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.")

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Subject: Re: Colors for the Color Blind

Posted by [Jim Pendleton](#) on Sat, 17 Jan 2015 05:00:29 GMT

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On Friday, January 16, 2015 at 4:42:12 PM UTC-7, David Fanning wrote:

> Folks,  
>  
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>  
> 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.")

Or you could get all of us who suffer this affliction a pair of these glasses!

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2015/01/13/color-blindness-correcting-glasses\\_n\\_6446094.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2015/01/13/color-blindness-correcting-glasses_n_6446094.html)

Sometimes problems are best solved with hardware. Not often, but sometimes.

Jim P.

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