
Subject: reversing background color in maps
Posted by [T Bowers](#) on Fri, 19 Feb 1999 08:00:00 GMT
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OK, guys and gals...

I'm trying to create a plot here that has a world map overplotted with my data positions. I can do that OK. My problem is that it plots as white on a black background. I need to reverse this and have a white background. For simplicity, I'm using the tek_color ct. I thought, hmmm... I'll just swap the black and white entries in the ct, and I'll be set. Right? Like this...

```
;//Save original color table  
tvlct, old_r,old_g,old_b, /get
```

```
;//Set up colors for plotting  
tek_color  
BLACK = 0  
WHITE = 1  
RED = 2  
GREEN = 3  
BLUE = 4  
ORANGE = 8  
;//Reverse BLACK/WHITE  
tvlct, 255,255,255,0  
tvlct, 0,0,0,1  
WHITE = 0  
BLACK = 1
```

When I run it like this, I do get a white background but the box labels (from map_grid,/box) are gone and I get the lat lon grid lines in black even tho I didn't want grid lines at all (/grid not set in map_set). Anybody know of a way to get this workin' correctly??

```
print, !version  
{ x86 Win32 Windows 5.0.2 Jul 23 1997}  
I'm kinda in the process of upgrading to 5.2, so please let me know if  
this works as wanted in 5.2.
```

Thanks alot,
t bowers

Here's pretty much what the plotting stuff looks like if ya wanna know.

```
;//Find all unique lons/lats in data  
lon = (dataArray[lonIndex,*])[UNIQ(dataArray[lonIndex,*],  
SORT(dataArray[lonIndex,*]))]  
lat = (dataArray[latIndex,*])[UNIQ(dataArray[latIndex,*],
```

```

SORT(dataArray[latIndex,*]))]

; //Append current lon/lat to lon/lat array list. I'll plot these arrays
(lons/lats) as data positions
lons = [lons,lon]
lats = [lats,lat]

; //Set up a margin that's a certain % of lat lon delta.
; // e.g 0.15 = margin extending 15% beyond bounds of data
margin = 0.15

; //I'll use these in upcoming call to map_set
minLon = min(lons,max=maxLon)
minLat = min(lats,max=maxLat)
lonMargin = (maxLon - minLon) * margin
latMargin = (maxLat - minLat) * margin
midLon = median(lons, /even)
midLat = median(lats, /even)

; //Set up map centered on data and extending margin % beyond data positions
map_set, midLat, midLon, $
/TRANSVERSE_MERCATOR, $
/ISOTROPIC, $
xmargin=[3,3], $
ymargin=[2,2], $
limit=[(minLat - latMargin), (minLon - lonMargin), $
(maxLat + latMargin), (maxLon + lonMargin)]

; //Make it look good with /box
map_grid, /box

; //Overlay coasts, etc.
map_continents, /coasts, color=GREEN, /hires
map_continents, /rivers, color=BLUE, /hires
map_continents, /countries, /USA, color=ORANGE, /hires

; //Overplot the data positions
oplot, lons, lats, psym=3, color = RED

; //Restore original color table
tvlct, old_r,old_g,old_b

--
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```

Subject: Re: reversing background color in maps
Posted by [wmc](#) on Mon, 22 Feb 1999 08:00:00 GMT
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T Bowers <tbowers@nrlssc.navy.mil> wrote:

> ...I need to reverse this and have a white background.

> tvlct, 255,255,255,0

> tvlct, 0,0,0,1

> WHITE = 0

> BLACK = 1

> When I run it like this, I do get a white background but the box labels
> (from map_grid,/box) are gone and I get the lat lon grid lines in black
> even tho I didn't want grid lines at all (/grid not set in map_set).

As I understand it, IDL plots background using index !p.background
and foreground with !p.color. These are normally 0 and 255, and are
normally black and white respectively. If you just make index 0 into
white, then !p.background and !p.color point to the same colour.

So: I think you can just interchange !p.background and !p.color, or if
you want to follow your scheme, do tvlct,0,0,0,!p.color & black=!p.color

-W.

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