
Subject: Re: can't change colortable in current window (linux bpp24)

Posted by [J.D. Smith](#) on Fri, 16 Jul 1999 07:00:00 GMT

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Liam Gumley wrote:

>

> "J.D. Smith" wrote:

>> Sadly, the most popular X servers for Linux (XFree86) do not support

>> overlays... I.E. they can't do PseudoColor when running in TrueColor

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> That's interesting. I based my comments on my experience with SGI, which

> allows PseudoColor or TrueColor modes to be used when you have 24-bit

> hardware. I guess that to use IDL PseudoColor mode, you'd need to

> restart your X server in 8-bit mode. Could you remind us of the syntax?

> In addition, are there any other Linux X servers which do provide this

> capability?

>

startx -- -bpp 32

or, if you're using xdm, you'll need to edit your "Xservers" file to
contain -bpp 32.

I believe Xi graphics makes a product called AccelX which purports to do
overlays. I've never seen that for myself, but they claim it's true
(<http://www.xigraphics.com/>). Let me know if you find anything out.

JD

--

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304 Space Sciences Bldg. [*] FAX: (607) 255-5875
Ithaca, NY 14853 [*]

Subject: Re: can't change colortable in current window (linux bpp24)

Posted by [David R. Klassen](#) on Fri, 16 Jul 1999 07:00:00 GMT

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To control which mode your X server begins in under Linux:

startx -- -bpp #

Where # is the number of bits per pixel you wish. All of
this is assuming you have defined the particular color-depth
in your XF86Config file.

Liam Gumley wrote:

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> Cheers,
> Liam.
>
> --
> Liam E. Gumley
> Space Science and Engineering Center, UW-Madison
> <http://cimss.ssec.wisc.edu/~gumley>

--
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Subject: Re: can't change colortable in current window (linux bpp24)
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Liam E. Gumley
Space Science and Engineering Center, UW-Madison
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Posted by [J.D. Smith](#) on Fri, 16 Jul 1999 07:00:00 GMT
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Liam Gumley wrote:

>
> Olivier ARCHER wrote:
>> when i load a color table with loadct *after* opening a window, nothing
>> happen. here a piece of code producing the error:
>>
>> device,decompose=0
>> window,/free && tv,dist(400) ;; picture in B/W
>> loadct,4 ;; this have no effect in the current
>> window (no error messages)
>> window,/free && tv,dist(400) ;; picture in color; loadct effect...
>>
>> this fail on a linux rh6 , with dpyinfo saying that my X serveur is
>> TrueColor, with 24 plane depth
>> this work on solaris(creator 3D graphics card) , with dpyinfo saying
>> that my X serveur support various combination of class/depth.
>
> Olivier,
>
> The behavior you describe is actually a *feature* of 24-bit TrueColor
> mode in IDL. You can certainly do a lot of neat stuff in 24-bit mode, as
> described David's excellent articles. A quick way around this problem in
> 24-bit mode is to always load the color table just before displaying the
> image, e.g.
>
> loadct, 4
> tvscl, dist(256)
>
> However if you really *want* all of your graphics displays to update
> automatically any time you change the color table (using LOADCT,
> XLOADCT, or TVLCT), *and* you don't mind the limitations of 8-bit
> PseudoColor mode in IDL, then type the following commands just after
> starting a new IDL session:

```
>
> device, pseudo=8, decomposed=0, retain=2 ; select PseudoColor mode
> window, /free, /pixmap ; lock this mode by opening a window
> wdelete, !d.window
>
```

Sadly, the most popular X servers for Linux (XFree86) do not support overlays... I.E. they can't do PseudoColor when running in TrueColor mode. Version 4.0 will add this feature, but it is far from ready.

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Subject: Re: can't change colortable in current window (linux bpp24)

Posted by [Liam Gumley](#) on Fri, 16 Jul 1999 07:00:00 GMT

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Olivier ARCHER wrote:

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loadct, 4
tvsc1, dist(256)
```

However if you really **want** all of your graphics displays to update automatically any time you change the color table (using LOADCT, XLOADCT, or TVLCT), **and** you don't mind the limitations of 8-bit PseudoColor mode in IDL, then type the following commands just after starting a new IDL session:

```
device, pseudo=8, decomposed=0, retain=2 ; select PseudoColor mode
window, /free, /pixmap ; lock this mode by opening a window
wdelete, !d.window
```

PseudoColor mode will then be locked in for the rest of the IDL session (you can't change modes once you've created a graphics window). To check that you actually got PseudoColor mode:

```
device, get_visual_name=mode
print, mode
```

If you want to change back to TrueColor mode in future IDL sessions, replace 'pseudo=8' with 'true=24'. These commands are best placed in an IDL startup file. Type

? startup

in IDL to find out how to use a startup file.

Cheers,
Liam.

--

Liam E. Gumley
Space Science and Engineering Center, UW-Madison
<http://cimss.ssec.wisc.edu/~gumley>

Subject: Re: can't change colortable in current window (linux bpp24)

Posted by [davidf](#) on Fri, 16 Jul 1999 07:00:00 GMT

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Olivier ARCHER (oarcher@ifremer.fr) writes:

> when i load a color table with loadct **after** opening a window, nothing
> happen.

Oh, good, a problem I **can** solve today! :-)

Sorry, Olivier, it just ain't gonna happen the way you want it to in 24-bit color. Here is a couple of articles

that point out some of your alternatives:

http://www.dfanning.com/tips/identical_graphics.html

<http://www.dfanning.com/tips/colors24.html>

http://www.dfanning.com/tips/using_xcolors.html

Cheers,

David

--

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Fanning Software Consulting

Phone: 970-221-0438 E-Mail: davidf@dfanning.com

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

Toll-Free IDL Book Orders: 1-888-461-0155
