

# Scientific colour maps

DOI 10.5281/zenodo.1243863

[www.fabiocrameri.ch/colourmaps](http://www.fabiocrameri.ch/colourmaps)

## Authors & Contributors

---

- **Fabio Crameri** - *Colour map* - [contact](#)
- **Grace Shephard** - *Conversion to .cpt files and more* - [contact](#)
- **Clint Conrad** - *Wider compatibility of .cpt files* - [contact](#)
- **Casper Pranger** - *Mathematica compatibility* - [contact](#)
- **Alexis Plunder** - *Wider compatibility of .xml files* - [contact](#)

## Acknowledgement

---

Please acknowledge the free use of the colour map.

e.g., "The perceptually-uniform colour map **berlin** is used in this study to prevent visual distortion of the data (Crameri 2018a,b)."

*Crameri, Fabio. (2018, May 8). Scientific colour maps (Version 3.0.0). Zenodo.  
<http://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.1243863>*

*Crameri, F. (2018b, in open review), Geodynamic diagnostics, scientific visualisation and StagLab 3.0, Geosci. Model Dev. Discuss., doi:10.5194/gmd-2017-328*

## Instructions

---

### Using the .mat Format (MatLab)

Load the colour map into MatLab, either by adding the .mat file to the MatLab search path and using the command:

```
load('berlin.mat');
```

or by specifying the full file path to the .mat file:

```
load('~\work\Colormaps\berlin.mat');
```

Then use it, for example, with:

```
figure(1)
colormap(berlin)
colorbar
```

## Using the .cpt Format (GMT)

The file `berlin.cpt` can be resampled for a given z-value range with the Generic Mapping Tools (GMT; <http://gmt.soest.hawaii.edu/>) command "makecpt".

For example to resample for an array from -2000 to 2000 in 100 increments you could generate a new file with:

```
$makecpt -Cberlin.cpt -T-2000/2000/100 > berlin_resampled.cpt
```

## Using the .ct Format (VisIt)

The file `berlin.ct` can be imported to VisIt by placing the `.ct` file in the `.visit` directory, which can be found on macOS under e.g.,:

```
/Applications/VisIt.app/Contents/Resources/ ...
... 2.12.3/darwin-x86_64/resources/colortables
```

The colour map should appear in the built-in list after VisIt has been restarted.

## Using the .mat Format (Mathematica)

```
ColorMapSuitePath = "/Path/To/ColourMapSuite/";

ColorMapSuite[name_String] := ColorMapSuite[name, -1]
ColorMapSuite[name_String, e1_] := With[{
  list =
    Transpose@{Subdivide[0, 1, 255],
      RGBColor @@@
      First@Import[
        ColorMapSuitePath <> "/" <> name <> "/" <> name <> ".mat"]}
},
Blend[list, {##}][[e1]]] &
]
```

The function call `ColorMapSuite["name", i = -1]` returns a lambda function whose `i`th argument is used to define color (see the Manual for `ColorFunction` for details). `"name"` should be replaced with the name (in quotes) of the color scheme, e.g. `"berlin"`. Be sure to set the variable

`ColorMapSuitePath` to the path where your ColorMapSuite is installed.

General rules are:

- 1D plots of 1D functions/data: no (default) argument  $i$  suffices
- 2D plots of 2D functions/data: no (default) argument  $i$  suffices
- 3D plots of 2D functions/data: use  $i = 3$
- 3D plots of 3D functions/data: use  $i = 4$  (results might be worse than default Mathematica color functions, possibly due to lack of surface normal mapping)

```
ContourPlot[Sin[x] Sin[y], {x, 0, 2 Pi},  
{y, 0, 2 Pi}, ColorFunction -> ColorMapSuite["berlin"]]
```

## License

---

This colour map is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License](#)

Copyright (c) 2017, Fabio Crameri All rights reserved.

Redistribution and use in source and binary forms, with or without modification, are permitted provided that the following conditions are met:

- Redistributions of source code must retain the above copyright notice, this list of conditions and the following disclaimer.
- Redistributions in binary form must reproduce the above copyright notice, this list of conditions and the following disclaimer in the documentation and/or other materials provided with the distribution

THIS SOFTWARE IS PROVIDED BY THE COPYRIGHT HOLDERS AND CONTRIBUTORS "AS IS" AND ANY EXPRESS OR IMPLIED WARRANTIES, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE ARE DISCLAIMED. IN NO EVENT SHALL THE COPYRIGHT OWNER OR CONTRIBUTORS BE LIABLE FOR ANY DIRECT, INDIRECT, INCIDENTAL, SPECIAL, EXEMPLARY, OR CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES (INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, PROCUREMENT OF SUBSTITUTE GOODS OR SERVICES; LOSS OF USE, DATA, OR PROFITS; OR BUSINESS INTERRUPTION) HOWEVER CAUSED AND ON ANY THEORY OF LIABILITY, WHETHER IN CONTRACT, STRICT LIABILITY, OR TORT (INCLUDING NEGLIGENCE OR OTHERWISE) ARISING IN ANY WAY OUT OF THE USE OF THIS SOFTWARE, EVEN IF ADVISED OF THE POSSIBILITY OF SUCH DAMAGE.

