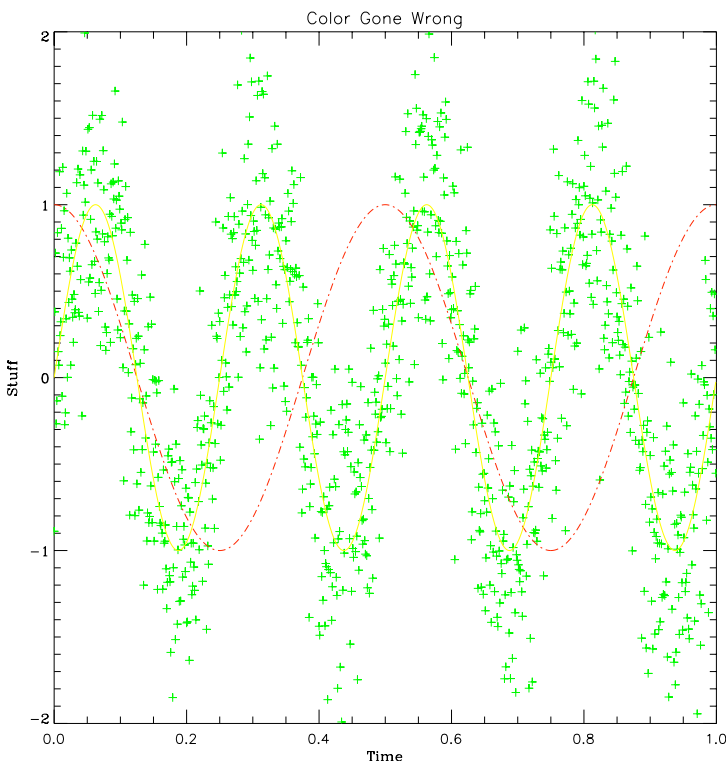




the **GIMP** for Astronomers

As a simple, but pretty useful exercise, try to “fix” the poorly colored idl plot in “idl_example.ps”:



← Not good! Fix it!

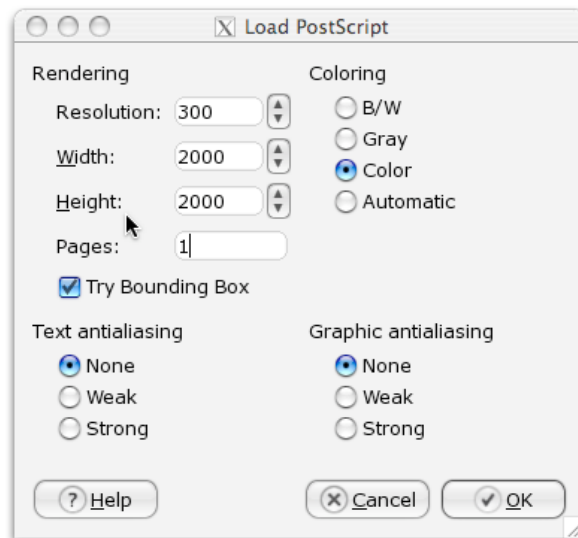
In particular, change the thin yellow best fit line’s color (make it blue or something...), then change the color of the data points (give them a darker green). To explore further, try changing the thickness of the yellow best fit line.

Cheat sheet:

1. To do this you’ll first need to import the postscript file into the GIMP. Be sure to turn off text and graphic antialiasing. With these options on, the GIMP will try to smooth the vector postscript image during the rasterization process to limit ugly jagged edges. This is done by mixing the solid line color with the color of the background (in this case, the yellow best fit line will be slightly mixed with the white background). This makes it difficult to select the line cleanly.

Be sure, also, to render the postscript at high resolution. The idea here is to change the colors to make the image suitable for display in a presentation, the best thing to do is import the postscript at high resolution, make any adjustments, then scale the image down.

I find that these settings work quite well:



2. Use the “select by color” tool, and the “paintbucket fill” tool to change the colors of the best fit lines and the crosses.

3. To make the best fit line thicker, use the “select by color” tool to select the line, then make the selection larger by using the “grow...” function in the “select” menu.