

Chapter 13

Working with Color

The default color for an entire equation can be set via its Equation Inspector. In addition, a custom color can be set, via drag-and-drop, for any selected element or group of elements within the equation.

- **Note**

For much of this chapter, you'll need to make use of the standard NeXT **Colors** panel. To activate the Colors panel, simply pick **Tools ±> Colors...** from EquationBuilder's main menu:

ColorsPanel.tiff ↵

With the Colors panel, an extremely broad range of colors can be selected for use throughout the NEXTSTEP environment. Please refer to the documentation supplied with NEXTSTEP to learn more about working with

the standard NeXT Colors panel.

Equation-level color

To change the **Default Color** for an equation, bring up the Equation Inspector by picking **Tools** → **Inspector...**, or, alternatively, **Command-1**:

EquationInspector.tiff ↵

You'll notice that the Equation Inspector sports a color well in its lower-left corner. Simply drag-and-drop a new color either from the Colors panel or from another color well, within EqB or another application, to the color well on the Equation Inspector. Every element in the equation that uses the default color will then change to reflect that new color.

- **Note**

The thick border around a color well activates the color well for use in *continuous* mode. That is, clicking on a color well's border (so that the border inverts) tells NEXTSTEP to automatically update that color well anytime a new color is chosen on the Colors panel.

Remember that EquationBuilder automatically updates the default color for

the selected equation whenever the color in the **Default Color** color well changes. This can be advantageous for viewing color changes to the entire equation when using the Colors panel: it can also be highly confusing for the entire equation to unexpectedly change color because you forgot to turn off continuous updating.

Be sure to deactivate color wells when you are no longer actively making changes.

Note that you can also preset a default color for new equations through the **Default Color** color well on the Preferences panel. (For more information about the Preferences panel, see Chapter 18.)

Element-level color

A custom color can also be set, via direct drag-and-drop, for any selected element or group of elements. To supply a custom color, first select the element or group of elements you wish to change and then drag-and-drop a color swatch either from the Colors panel or any other visible color well onto the selection.

For example, imagine that a presentation calls for highlighting both the partial derivative with respect to t and its argument in the following sample equation:

paste.eps ↵

One interesting approach would be to change the default color of the equation to 50% gray and then supply the partial derivative and its argument with a custom color, say black. By modifying both the default color and the color of the highlighted term, subsequent changes to the equation as a whole will continue to reflect the default color, leaving the elements bearing the custom color undisturbed.

To complete this example, first change the default color for the equation to 50% gray by selecting and dragging the appropriate color from the Colors panel to the Equation Inspector's **Default Color** color well as described above. The entire equation should change to reflect the new default color:

879545_paste.eps ↵

Next, select the partial derivative and its argument and then drag a distinguishable color, say black, onto the selection. You'll notice that when you bring the color swatch over the selection, the arrow cursor inverts, indicating that an action will occur:

SettingCustomColor.tiff ↵

In our case, releasing the mouse button drops the custom color onto the selection, finishing our equation:

123199_paste.eps ↵