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Subject: Re: Looking for symbols library (psym=8)  
Posted by [Brian Jackel](#) on Thu, 22 Jan 1998 08:00:00 GMT  
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Brian D. Schieber wrote:

>  
> Does anyone know where I could get a pre-made set of IDL symbol  
> defs to extend the sym= keyword for plots? Basically I'm looking  
> for a predefined set of symbols for the psym=8 (USERSYM) option in  
> PLOT

Here's something called USERSYMBOL.PRO which you might find useful. It has about a dozen symbols, and allows for changing size and orientation. Let me know if the attachment doesn't work (new newsreader) and I'll mail it to you directly.

--  
Brian Jackel  
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```
;Brian Jackel University of Western Ontario  
;Bug reports cheerfully accepted  
;jackel@canlon.physics.uwo.ca  
;+  
; NAME:      UserSymbol  
;  
; PURPOSE:   Make neat little user defined symbols  
;  
; CATEGORY:  Plotting/Graphics  
;  
; CALLING SEQUENCE:  UserSymbol,symbol_name  
;  
; INPUTS:  
;   Symbol_name  a string containing the name of the desired symbol.  
;               Some possible options are Square, Triangle, Circle,  
;               Hexagon, BigX, Clover, Spiral, Star...  
;  
; KEYWORD PARAMETERS:  
;   SIZE  Symbol size  (default=1)  
;   LIST  if set, puts the list of available symbol names  
;         in the input parameter Symbol_Name  
;   HELP  if set, returns this documentation header  
;  
; and also the keywords which apply to USERSYM  
;   THICK Line thickness (default=1)  
;   FILL  Fill symbol? (default=0=no)  
;   COLOR Symbol color
```

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;
; SIDE EFFECTS:      Calls USERSYM to load the new symbol
;
;
; MODIFICATION HISTORY:  Brian Jackel  August 10 1992
;                        University of Western Ontario
;
;
; Bjj June 2 1994      Fixed up the handling of no clear match.
;-
pro USERSYMBOL,symbol_name,SIZE_OF_SYMBOL=size_of_symbol, $
    ORIENTATION=orientation,    $
    LIST=list,HELP=help,_EXTRA=_extra

ON_ERROR,2

IF KEYWORD_SET(HELP) THEN BEGIN
    DOC_LIBRARY,'USERSYMBOL'
    RETURN
ENDIF

symbol_list= ['DIAMOND','PENTAGON','CLOVER','PACMAN','SPIRAL','BIGX']
symbol_list= [symbol_list,'CIRCLE','SQUARE','TRIANGLE','STAR','HEXAGON']

IF KEYWORD_SET(LIST) THEN BEGIN
    symbol_name= symbol_list
    return          ;return a list of the available symbols
ENDIF

IF not KEYWORD_SET(SIZE_OF_SYMBOL) THEN symsize=!p.symsize ELSE symsize=
(size_of_symbol > 0.01) < 100.0
IF (symsize EQ 0) THEN symsize= 1.0  ;because !p.symsize is sometimes zero

symbol= STRUPCASE( STRCOMPRESS(symbol_name,/REMOVE_ALL) )

CASE symbol OF
'DIAMOND': BEGIN
    x= [0.0,0.8,0.0,-0.8,0.0]
    y= [1.2,0.0,-1.2,0.0,1.2]
    END
'PENTAGON':BEGIN
    theta= findgen(6)/5 * 360.0 * !dior
    x= sin(theta)
    y= cos(theta)
    END
'CLOVER': BEGIN
    theta= findgen(41)/40.0 * 360.0 * !dior
    r= ABS(1.0 *symsize* sin(2.0*theta))
    x= r * sin(theta)

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    y= r * cos(theta)
END
'PACMAN': BEGIN
    theta= (- findgen(41)/50.0*360.0 + 35.0 )!*dtor
    x= [0.0, sin(theta), 0.0]
    y= [0.0, cos(theta) ,0.0]
END
'SPIRAL': BEGIN
    theta= findgen(41)/40.0 * 720.0 * !dtor
    r= theta / MAX(theta)
    x= r * sin(theta)
    y= r * cos(theta)
END
'BIGX': BEGIN
    x= 0.34 * [0,2,3,3,1, 3, 3, 2, 0,-2,-3,-3,-1,-3,-3,-2,0]
    y= 0.34 * [1,3,3,2,0,-2,-3,-3,-1,-3,-3,-2, 0, 2, 3, 3,1]
END
'CIRCLE': BEGIN
    n= 17.0
    theta= findgen(n)/(n-1.0) * 360.0 * !dtor
    x= sin(theta)
    y= cos(theta)
END
'SQUARE': BEGIN
    theta= (findgen(5)/4.0 * 360.0 + 45.0 )!*dtor
    x= sin(theta)
    y= cos(theta)
END
'TRIANGLE':BEGIN
    theta= [0,120,240,360]*!dtor
    x= sin(theta)
    y= cos(theta)
END
'STAR': BEGIN
    theta= [0,36, 72,108, 144,180, 216,252, 288,324,0]*!dtor
    r= [1.0,0.4, 1.0,0.4, 1.0,0.4, 1.0,0.4, 1.0,0.4,1.0]
    x= r *sin(theta)
    y= r *cos(theta)
END
'HEXAGON': BEGIN
    theta= [0,60,120,180,240,300,360]*!dtor
    x= sin(theta)
    y= cos(theta)
END
'SPIRAL2': BEGIN
    n=49
    theta= 2.0!*pi*FINDGEN(n)/((n-1)/2.0)
    r= FINDGEN(n)/(n-1)

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        x= r*SIN(theta)
        y= r*COS(theta)
    END
ELSE: BEGIN
    MESSAGE,'Unrecognized symbol name, searching for match',/INFORMATIONAL
    hits= STRPOS( symbol_list, symbol )
    w= WHERE(hits NE -1)
    IF (w(0) NE -1) THEN BEGIN ;at least one substring match, use
        hit_names= symbol_list(w(0))
        FOR i=1,n_elements(w)-1 DO hit_names= hit_names + $
            ' ' + symbol_list(w(i))
        MESSAGE,'...possible matches: '+hit_names,/INFORMATIONAL
        MESSAGE,'...will use the first (or only) one',/INFORMATIONAL
        symbol_name= symbol_list(w(0)) ;recursion to help us out
        USERSYMBOL,symbol_name,_EXTRA=_extra
    ENDIF ELSE BEGIN
        MESSAGE,'...no quick match. Try USERSYMBOL,list,/LIST',/INFORMATIONAL
    ENDELSE
    return ;either with a guessed symbol, or a list of them
    END
ENDCASE

```

;Introduce scaling to the symbol size, if requested

```

;
IF (symsize NE 1.0) THEN BEGIN
    x= x * symsize
    y= y * symsize
ENDIF

```

;Rotate the symbol, if requested

```

;
IF KEYWORD_SET(ORIENTATION) THEN BEGIN
    r= SQRT(x^2 + y^2)
    theta= ATAN(y,x)
    theta= theta + orientation!*dior
    x= r * COS(theta)
    y= r * SIN(theta)
ENDIF

```

;Use the library routine USERSYM to set up the symbol

```

;
    USERSYM,x,y,_EXTRA=_extra

```

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    RETURN
END

```

## File Attachments

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1) [usersymb.pro](#), downloaded 109 times

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