
Subject: Re: oplot in normal coordinates?

Posted by [davidf](#) on Tue, 13 Jul 1999 07:00:00 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Martin LUETHI GL A8.1 2-4092 (luthi@aura.ethz.ch) writes:

> Just another problem with plotting: is it possible to oplot in normal
> coordinates?

No.

> plot, [0],[0],xrange=[-1,1],yrange=[-1,1]
> oplot,[0.5],[0.5],psym=2,/normal
>
> plots the symbol at (0.5,0.5) in data coordinates instead of somewhere around
> (0,0), which would be the appropriate place in normal coordinates. Am I
> overlooking something?

In IDL, at least, the OPLOT command doesn't allow the use of the NORMAL keyword. But even if it did, it would probably just ignore it in exactly the same way the PLOT command ignores it. In other words, these three commands produce identical results.

```
PLOT, Findgen(11), /Data  
PLOT, Findgen(11), /Normal  
PLOT, Findgen(11), /Device
```

But what else would you expect? A plot is a plot. It sets up scaling factors that tell you how to display something in the display window. It is these scaling factors (e.g., !X.S) that OPLOT pays attention to.

If you really want to put a plot symbol in the middle of the display, I would use the PLOTS command:

```
PlotS, 0.5, 0.5, PSym=2, /Normal
```

PLOTS ignores PLOT system variables and does exactly what you tell it to, in whatever coordinate system you choose to use.

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.
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
