Subject: PlotS and symbol characteristics
Posted by btt on Tue, 13 Nov 2001 20:01:40 GMT
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Hello,

I have a simple 'how come' question that someone with some understanding of IDL history and/or innards might be able to answer. I have lived with the 'jus cuz' answer just fine; but once in a while a question like this makes me stop and think (can you smell the smoke?)

My question is regarding the treatment of symbol chacteristics when calling the PLOTS command. The COLOR keyword can be specified as a vector in a call to PLOTS but no other characteristics maybe a vector. Thus to have symbol size (SYMSIZE) or other characteristics linked to some kind of data attribute requires a loop.

```
    ;scale symbols from 1 to 2 based on Y data
mySymSize = 1.0 + (Y  - Min(Y))/(Max(Y) - Min(Y))
Plot, X,Y, /NoData
For i = 0, n do PlotS, X[i], Y[i], symSize = mySymSize[i], ...
```

So, how come? Is this simply a missing feature in the implementation of PLOTS or is there something else that limits PLOTS that makes it impossible?

(I'm sending a feature request in, although I have a foggy memory of doing this a couple of IDL versions ago. From what I gather reading earlier comments here, updates to the direct graphics system may have a low priority at RSI. But what the heck, we just got double precision in DG!)

Thanks for any thoughts on this,

Ben

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