Folks,

I've found myself with time on my hands as the
Thanksgiving holiday approaches, so--naturally--
I'm writing IDL programs. (Sigh...)

I decided to finally finish "productizing" my
MPI_PLOT program, since it was obvious to me
no one was interested in the underlying objects
that MPI_Plot was designed to show off. So I thought,
what the heck, I'll just make that the show-off
program.

So, it finally works the way it is suppose to
work. (Or at least it will as soon as one or
two people download it and report the bugs to
me.) The main change in it was the ability
to overplot into the window properly. You can
now add as many overplot lines as you like.
The main attraction of the program, of course,
is that you can configure the 60 or so different
plot and axis parameters interactively and see
the update in effect immediately, without mucking
around with hundreds of keywords.

(There is currently no way to annotate the
plot, although there should be, eventually.
Who knows, if the company goes home early
tomorrow, and I have energy left after the
turkey, and I can't play tennis...)

The program works like this:

```
IDL> MPI_Plot, data, Color='Saddle Brown', DataColor='Navy'
IDL> MPI_Plot, moredata, Color='Red', LineStyle=2, /Overplot
```

Colors are specified by name and should work for
both 8-bit and 24-bit devices. There are 17 different
symbols you can use, rather than the half dozen offered
by IDL.

This program was originally commissioned by the Max-Plank
Institute and is offered to users free with their kind
permission. It relies on a number of programs from

my Coyote Library. But you can get everything you need
by downloading this file:

   http://www.dfanning.com/programs/mpi_plot.zip

You can learn more about the program (and see other
new programs) by going here:

   http://www.dfanning.com/documents/programs.html

Happy Thanksgiving!

David

P.S. The first person that mentions this program is
a "turkey" will go on my black list. I mean it!

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Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: http://www.dfanning.com/
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