
Subject: Re: need more plotting symbols please

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Mon, 02 Oct 2006 17:23:30 GMT

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don.woodraska@gmail.com writes:

> It's not a problem, just a preference. Being a mac person, I expect
> things to just work, especially when the intent is clear. I love the
> function as it stands, but I like having the flexibility to be lazy and
> not worry about it.

Well, the problem is that when you write new programs you have to be careful not to improve things too much. That is to say, if you change the interface, even if you are changing a LOUSY interface, you better have a VERY good reason for doing so. (If you need examples, consider just about anything from a Microsoft Windows program).

For example, if you were writing the PLOT command over again, you would not make the dependent data the first positional parameter if there was one parameter and the second positional parameter if there were two parameters. You would write the arguments as people tended to use them. But if you write a wrapper to the PLOT command, you would be foolish to change the way the PLOT command does things or you would confuse *everyone*. (The LIMIT keyword to MAP_SET, in which the order is [y,x] instead of the usual [x,y] is another example. I don't think I have *ever* written the LIMIT correctly in one go.)

So, in this case, I prefer to allow the user to place the minus sign outside the symbol number because that's how IDL does it. I'd confuse myself if I tried something else. :-)

> I also just realized that we're sacrificing the histogram-like psym=10
> option. I may remap that symbol to another number.

Oh, right. I didn't think of that. I'll fix that myself. I've screwed up index 8, too. Humm. I should have spent a few more minutes thinking about this, it looks like. :-)

I'll have something new later today.

Cheers,

David

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

Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")
