
Subject: Re: oplot with colours

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Fri, 31 Jul 2009 04:07:25 GMT

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b.a writes:

- > 1) In my program, I need to plot several data on the same draw window.
- > I know that oplot does this but even for the first curve, I don't want
- > to use plot. Is there anyway that I ignore having plot for the first
- > one and then using oplot?

You don't have to draw a plot. But you do have to have some way of setting up the data coordinate system, so you have something to overplot *on*. Do you have an alternative method?

You can, of course, draw a plot in which nothing appears. This, basically, just sets up the data coordinate system for you:

```
Plot, [0,1], /NoData, YSTYLE=4, XSTYLE=4, XRange=[0,10], YRange=[0,1]
```

- > 2) For each curve, I want to have different colour and on the draw
- > window, I need to show that each colour represents which curve.

Well, you need a legend. You can probably find one ready-built in the IDL software libraries that can be found on the Internet, or you can just build your own legend with a combination of PLOTS and XYOUTS commands.

```
Plots, [0.1, 0.2], [0.85, 0.85], /Normal, Color=FSC_Color('red')
XYOUTS, 0.21, 0.84, /Normal, 'Red indicates danger'
Plots, [0.1, 0.2], [0.80, 0.80], /Normal, Color=FSC_Color('blue')
XYOUTS, 0.21, 0.79, /Normal, 'Blue indicates safety'
```

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.")
