Subject: Re: FSC_PLOT defaults
Posted by David Fanning on Tue, 21 Dec 2010 15:19:00 GMT
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Wayne Landsman writes:

> I'm old-fashioned enough to think that black on white does
> not show up as clearly on the screen, but I did not have a
> similar problem with the black on white of function graphics.
>
> The reason is that
>
> IDL> o = plot(indgen(10))
>
> is more comparable to something like
>
> IDL> fsc_plot,indgen(10),thick=2,xthick=2,ythick=2,charsize = 2, $
> xticklen = !P.ticklen*2, yticklen=!p.ticklen*2
>
> to give the lines extra thickness (and clarity).
>
> Maybe it would be worth having a similar default display for
> FSC_PLOT (at the expense of having different defaults than PLOT).

OK, I've implemented this for FSC_Plot, but I'm not sure about
it. It's, uh, pretty bold. :-(

Maybe it grows on you. :-)

Anyway, I thought I would put it out there for people to play
with and test. If we decide we like it, we can make the change
permanent. You can find the test program here:

  http://www.dfanning.com/misc/fsc_plot_test.pro

You would run it like this:

  IDL> FSC_Plot_Test, findgen(11)

I have different defaults for the display and for PostScript. I try
to use the ratio of display*1.7 for PostScript defaults. I think this
works well, but appreciate your input with these defaults, too.

My biggest problem is preserving the ability to use system variables
to set plot properties. This is especially a problem with things like
tick length. These can be set with !P.Ticklen as well as !X.Ticklen
and !Y.Ticklen. So, if I am going to set a default tick length, I have
to make sure none of those other variables are set, etc.

Anyway, the more I look at this plot this morning, the more I like it.
So maybe this is the way to go. Let me know what you think! :-)

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.")
