
Subject: FSC_PLOT defaults

Posted by [wlandsman](#) on Mon, 20 Dec 2010 22:24:06 GMT

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I am updating the plotting routines in the IDL Astronomy library (e.g. AL_LEGEND, TVCIRCLE, PLOTERROR in <http://idlastro.gsfc.nasa.gov/>) to use the new Coyote routines FSC_PLOT, and FSC_COLOR(), and for example to allow colors to be specified by name. It is mostly going well but I do find it jarring going from the white on black of

```
IDL> plot,indgen(10)
```

to the black on white of

```
IDL> fsc_plot,indgen(10)
```

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). Another default I like in the function PLOT() is having exact X,Y ranges (X|Y|Style= 1). --Wayne

P.S. In the astrophysics literature I've been coming across references to the "Coyote Universe" (e.g. <http://arxiv.org/abs/0902.0429>). It turns that this refers to simulations of evolution the universe (since the big bang) using the one of the world fastest supercomputers at Los Alamos. The name of the supercomputer is Coyote, and so the simulations are known as the "Coyote Universe". Somehow this seems like an appropriate name if they are hoping to simulate the quirky nature of our real universe.
