
Subject: Re: Error Bar Thoughts

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Wed, 02 Feb 2011 23:16:33 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Wayne Landsman writes:

>
> On Wednesday, February 2, 2011 12:50:24 PM UTC-5, David Fanning wrote:
>
>> to specify the location of the high and low locations
>> of the bar? As an offset from the data point?
>
> For what it is worth, the ITTVIS supplied procedure PLOTERR specifies the error as an offset from the data point, but the ITTVIS supplied ERRPLOT wants the low and high values. In my own work, errors are nearly always supplied as a offset (e.g. Poisson errors are a square root of the counts). Note that users often want to display X along with Y error bars.
>
> The two most difficult parts of writing my own PLOTERROR (<http://idlastro.gsfc.nasa.gov/ftp/pro/plot/ploterror.pro>) were handling the X/YLOG and NSUM keywords to PLOT. You don't want the entire logarithmic plot to abort because one of the error bars extends to negative numbers, and you want to appropriately reduce the size of the error bars when summing data together. ---Wane

OK, tell me again why I am re-inventing this wheel!?
Or, the Legend wheel, for that matter.

It seems to me that if there are good routines out there like this we ought to be able to just make them work with Coyote Graphics routines. It's pretty simple, really.

It seems to me I should be spending my time inventing a Coyote Seal of Approval that we could attach to good routines that handled colors correctly and could be used in resizable graphics windows. Then everyone could be working on this and I could get back to doing what I do best: drinking lattes. Maybe I could make a web page with pointers to these routines so they are easy to find.

Just a thought. :-)

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.

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

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