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Subject: Re: Error Bar Thoughts

Posted by [wlandsman](#) on Wed, 02 Feb 2011 21:26:33 GMT

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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

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