
Subject: Defining the size of a symbol relative to the range of a plot for plot3d

Posted by [andeh](#) on Mon, 18 Apr 2011 16:58:53 GMT

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Hello,

I'm trying to reproduce what was very simple in xplot3d in plot3d and having all kinds of trouble.

Basically, I am plotting clusters of particles, using a symbol set to a sphere as each spherule. In xplot3d I could simply write:

```
; Define particle positions and radius
x = [-3,-2,-1,0,0,0,0,0,0,1,2,3]
y = [0,0,0,-3,-2,-1,0,1,2,3,0,0]
z = fltarr(n_elements(x))
r = 0.5

range = [min([x,y,z])-r, max([x,y,z])+r]

; Define plotting symbol and scale.
orb = obj_new('orb', COLOR=[40, 40, 40])
orb->Scale, r, r, r
oSymbol = obj_new('IDLgrSymbol', orb)

; Plot
xplot3d, x,y,z, linestyle=6, symbol=oSymbol,
xrange=range,yrange=range,zrange=range
```

With this, because I scale the orb to the radius of my spherule, it plots at the correct size. However, because plot3d appears to scale relative to the height/width of the window, I cannot get the symbol size correct and it's driving me crazy!

New attempt:

```
new_orb = obj_new('orb',color = [40, 40, 40] )
new_orb->scale, r, r, r
p = plot3d(x,y,z,linestyle=6, /isotropic, sym_object=new_orb, sym_size
= 1 )
```

Changing the sym_size and the scaling does not give obvious results... Does anyone know how to set the correct symbol size (i.e. so that the radius of a sphere is set to my variable r)?

Cheers,
Andy
