
Subject: Re: PLOTS versus POLYLINE

Posted by [Brian McNoldy](#) on Wed, 21 Nov 2012 17:15:34 GMT

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On Wednesday, November 21, 2012 10:15:34 AM UTC-5, Mark Piper wrote:

> On Wednesday, November 21, 2012 3:22:14 AM UTC-7, alx wrote:

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>> Le mardi 20 novembre 2012 20:33:14 UTC+1, Brian McNoldy a écrit :

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>>> I have admittedly not tinkered around much yet with IDL's snazzy new graphics capabilities (map, text, polygon, etc), but was going to give it a try and convert a fairly simple program to the new format. In my example, a map is drawn, then various annotations are added, and lots of lines are added to the map (storm tracks). The tracks are in lat/lon coordinates of course, but must be treated carefully (I don't want to just throw the entire vector of coordinates at it at once).

Previously, I accomplished this with PLOTS (and /CONTINUE), and looped over the points, treating them as necessary.

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>>> I can't find a function in the new graphics environment to do something similar, but am probably just missing something obvious. POLYLINE seemed like the correct avenue, but it's not cooperating.

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>>> Any guidance would be much appreciated!
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>> I am not fully experienced in using POLYLINE function. But I guess that you can do what you want by using its GETDATA/SETDATA and CONVERTCOORD methods, as well as the CONNECTIVITY keyword.
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>> Adding, modifying and retrieving graphic components is the power of IDL object graphics.
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>> alx.
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> Thank you, Alain -- I agree, SetData is the key:
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> http://www.exelisvis.com/docs/SetData_Method.html
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> Brian, if you'd be interested, maybe we could work together to make an example that could be included in the Help?
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> mp
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> P.S. (and totally OT) Brian, I saw a few of your recent posts on the Capital Weather Gang blog. Cool! My friend Greg Postel used to blog there, but he recently took a job with The Weather Channel.

Thanks for the feedback.

The image that I'm trying to reproduce within the new graphics environment is one that shows hurricane tracks (in the example here, it's for the full season, but I also have a version that is real-time and updated hourly). The example plot can be found at http://andrew.rsmas.miami.edu/bmcnoldy/tropics/atcf/test/lat_estATL.png, and all of the real-time plots can be found at <http://andrew.rsmas.miami.edu/bmcnoldy/tropics/atcf/>

I'm making them completely with the traditional graphics, which I'm quite familiar with. You can clearly see how each track requires special attention based on the storm's classification and intensity (lots and lots of IF statements!). Definitely not as simple as just plotting a vector of lat/lon pairs.

As far as GetData, SetData, etc, I have never used those. I was hoping there was something similar to the ease of PLOTS. This might be a tricky example to try learning the new graphics environment!

[Mark, that's really neat that you came across my CWG blog posts... small world! As Greg was getting ready to head for TWC, they started looking for a new hurricane blogger, and asked me if I'd be interested. I've been doing it personally for 16 years, so it was an easy adaptation! Incidentally, this map of the 2012 hurricane season tracks will be making an appearance in one of next week's posts!]
