
Subject: Re: Any alternatives of "circle" ('o') symbol using New Graphics?
Posted by [Paul Van Delst\[1\]](#) on Wed, 30 Jul 2014 16:38:20 GMT
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On 07/30/14 03:16, stpjhj@gmail.com wrote:

> Hello,
>
> I've been using DG for a couple of years, but recently I began to use
> NG.
>
> Today, I needed to save a scatter plot of 20K data points in eps
> format. I marked each point with circular symbol, 'o'. IDL generated
> 54MB eps file in about 5 to 10 minutes. I soon realised that this is
> due to the fact that each circular symbol has too many vertices, and
> if I change symbol into '+' it would yield a simple small 1.4MB eps
> file instantly.
>
> So, would there be any alternative circular symbol that I can use
> like "p=plot(..., sym_object=foo(),...)" that does not make my plot
> file as large as a high-def music video?
>
> Thanks in advance.

What about a really thick dot?

E.g.

```
IDL> x=randomu(seed,20000)
IDL> y=randomu(seed,20000)
IDL> p=plot(x,y,linestyle='none',symbol='dot',sym_thick=4)
IDL> p.save,'test.eps'
IDL> $ls -l test.eps
-rw-r--r--. 1 wd20pd wd4 2532131 Jul 30 12:34 test.eps
```

Using a circle produces a 4-5x larger file:

```
IDL> p=plot(x,y,linestyle='none',symbol='circle')
IDL> p.save,'test.eps'
IDL> $ls -l test.eps
-rw-r--r--. 1 wd20pd wd4 11658936 Jul 30 12:34 test.eps
```

But use of + still wins for size:

```
IDL> p=plot(x,y,linestyle='none',symbol='+')
IDL> p.save,'test.eps'
IDL> $ls -l test.eps
-rw-r--r--. 1 wd20pd wd4 1506428 Jul 30 12:34 test.eps
```

cheers,

paulv
