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Subject: plotting a tropical cyclone symbol

Posted by [Brian McNoldy](#) on Wed, 14 Jun 2017 16:26:57 GMT

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Something that several users of this language would likely find useful is the tropical cyclone symbol (basically a circle with two spiral arms sticking out).

In Hershey fonts, one variety exists: in the Miscellaneous font set, it is the "<" character (<https://www.harrisgeospatial.com/docs/html/images/font20.gif>). With the TEXT function, it can be created using:

```
t=text(x,y,"<",font_name="Hershey 20")
```

However, that symbol has variants that would be extremely useful if they were available. If the symbol is filled in, it represents a hurricane; if it's unfilled, it represents a tropical storm. But the same two symbols should exist for the southern hemisphere too; the unfilled or filled symbol would be flipped upside-down.

These four symbols would be excellent to have in IDL... All four symbols are already available in NCL:

<https://www.ncl.ucar.edu/Document/Graphics/Images/font35.png> ("k" and "m")

<https://www.ncl.ucar.edu/Document/Graphics/Images/font37.png> ("p" and "s")

Anyone have any insights into this?

Thank you!!

Brian

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