Subject: Re: plotting a tropical cyclone symbol
Posted by Kenneth Bowman on Tue, 27 Jun 2017 15:10:20 GMT
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On Wednesday, June 14, 2017 at 1:23:43 PM UTC-5, Brian McNoldy wrote:

> Thanks for the suggestion, but I do not have or know of a TTF file with those characters/symbols. They are pretty hard to come by, but since NCL offers all of them, it would make sense that IDL would want to remain competitive.

You can draw an arbitrary filled or unfilled symbol using USERSYM and plot it with PLOTS.

We used it to create the outline of an airplane for animations of flight tracks (including rotating the direction of the plane).

This creates a filled or unfilled circular plotting symbol for when you need a finite-sized dot (as opposed to PSYM = 3).

Unfortunately you can only have on e USERSYM at at time, so you will have to redefine the symbol when switching between filled and unfilled.

Ken

```
PRO USERSYM_CIRCLE, FILL = fill, NPOINT = npoints

;+
; Name:
;  USERSYM_CIRCLE
; Purpose:
;  Define a circular plotting symbol using USERSYM.
; Calling sequence:
;  USERSYM_CIRCLE
; Inputs:
;  None
; Output:
;  Changes definition of user-defined symbol (PSYM = 8).
; Keywords:
;  FILL : If set, make the symbol filled
; Author and history:
;  K. Bowman.  2006-07-11
;-

COMPILE_OPT IDL2                ;Set compile options

IF (N_ELEMENTS(npoints) EQ 0) THEN npoints = 17

USERSYM, 0.5*COS(2.0*!PI*FINDGEN(npoints)/npoints), $     ;Create circular plotting symbol
  0.5*SIN(2.0*!PI*FINDGEN(npoints)/npoints), $
```

FILL = fill

END