
Subject: Re: ANNOUNCE: plotconfig

Posted by [Richard G. French](#) on Sun, 21 Nov 1999 08:00:00 GMT

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> P.S. And, please, in the future give poor Robert a couple
> more days to bask in the glory before peppering him
> with suggestions. You have no idea how intimidating it is
> to see your e-mail piling up with immediate suggestions
> for how the code you sweated over for days can be
> improved. It doesn't help, of course, (I speak from
> experience here) that most of the suggestions are for
> improvements that (in retrospect) should have been
> completely obvious to any thinking person writing
> the code in the first place. :-(

>
>

My apologies, Robert! In my enthusiasm for the possibilities of changing your routine, I was not intending to be critical of what you have done. I'm still a hunter-gatherer - I hunt for code that does more or less what I want, and gather bits and pieces of it together. I may take a year or too for me to move up the ladder to 'expert'. Thanks again for your hard work!

Dick

Subject: Re: ANNOUNCE: plotconfig

Posted by [davidf](#) on Sun, 21 Nov 1999 08:00:00 GMT

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Richard G. French (rfrench@wellesley.edu) writes:

> I'm listing these suggestions in case some of you experts out
> there will tell me that there is a better way to do it, before I take
> the time to try to do it myself!

No, no. Do it yourself. That's the way you *become* an expert!

Cheers,

David

P.S. And, please, in the future give poor Robert a couple more days to bask in the glory before peppering him with suggestions. You have no idea how intimidating it is to see your e-mail piling up with immediate suggestions for how the code you sweated over for days can be improved. It doesn't help, of course, (I speak from experience here) that most of the suggestions are for

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--

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Toll-Free IDL Book Orders: 1-888-461-0155

Subject: Re: ANNOUNCE: plotconfig
Posted by [Richard G. French](#) on Sun, 21 Nov 1999 08:00:00 GMT
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"Robert S. Mallozzi" wrote:

>
> Hi all,
>
Ideas -

I was thinking of adding some keywords to this program so that you could pass it the actual array of data points that you want on your own plot, and be able to set xrange, yrange, and nsum so that you can see how the axes will actually work on your own data. I was also going to add the xstyle and ystyle options to the plot configuration window. Finally, I thought that it would be nice to set the window aspect ratio so that you could have a portrait, square, or landscape orientation.

I recall that someone long ago may have posted another kind of widget-based plot routine that did some of these things, and I bet it would not be that much work to put it into object widget mode. Like everyone else, the time is not there at the moment, but it sure looks like it would be a nice way to set up plots!

I'm listing these suggestions in case some of you experts out there will tell me that there is a better way to do it, before I take the time to try to do it myself!

Dick

Subject: Re: ANNOUNCE: plotconfig
Posted by [Richard G. French](#) on Sun, 21 Nov 1999 08:00:00 GMT
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"Robert S. Mallozzi" wrote:

>

- > Hi all,
- >
- > I wrote an object widget tool to interactively
- > configure plot parameters (line style, thickness, etc).

Now, THAT is nifty! I can see lots of possibilities for this for my work. I'm often fiddling with the best plot format for things, and then once I have figured it out, I want to hard-wire it into some code for final processing - when I construct figures for publications, I want to be able to run an IDL procedure that is completely non-interactive, and will be guaranteed to reproduce the plot that I made last time around. This has always been a problem with the object graphics mode for me - I can do things interactively, but at the end, I don't have a script that lets me reproduce the results precisely.

My plan is to unpack your plot_config structure and turn it into a code fragment that I can put into my final programs. This will be a snap. I may even use your program as my first journey into object programming, where I will add a few more of the keywords that I tend to vary quite often for plots. I'd bet that others are going to do the same thing.

Thanks for your very useful contribution!
Dick French
Astronomy Dept, Welleley College

Subject: Re: ANNOUNCE: plotconfig
Posted by [davidf](#) on Sun, 21 Nov 1999 08:00:00 GMT
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Robert S. Mallozzi (robert.mallozzi@msfc.nasa.gov) writes:

- > I wrote an object widget tool to interactively
- > configure plot parameters (line style, thickness, etc).
- > It's easy to use - just set the parameters and pass
- > them to PLOT via the _EXTRA keyword:
- >
- > `config = plotConfig ()`
- > `PLOT, INDGEN (10), _EXTRA = config`
- >
- > ; Or you can just configure and plot in one command
- > `PLOT, INDGEN (10), _EXTRA = plotConfig ()`

Now here we go! Is it just my imagination, or do we really have some nice programs being offered here in the past couple of weeks. Way to go folks! Pretty

soon we won't need RSI to do *any* of our IDL programming
for us. :-)

Cheers,

David

--

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