
Subject: Time on My Hands

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Wed, 21 Nov 2001 18:59:23 GMT

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Folks,

I've found myself with time on my hands as the Thanksgiving holiday approaches, so--naturally-- I'm writing IDL programs. (Sigh...)

I decided to finally finish "productizing" my MPI_PLOT program, since it was obvious to me no one was interested in the underlying objects that MPI_Plot was designed to show off. So I thought, what the heck, I'll just make that the show-off program.

So, it finally works the way it is suppose to work. (Or at least it will as soon as one or two people download it and report the bugs to me.) The main change in it was the ability to overplot into the window properly. You can now add as many overplot lines as you like. The main attraction of the program, of course, is that you can configure the 60 or so different plot and axis parameters interactively and see the update in effect immediately, without mucking around with hundreds of keywords.

(There is currently no way to annotate the plot, although there should be, eventually. Who knows, if the company goes home early tomorrow, and I have energy left after the turkey, and I can't play tennis...)

The program works like this:

```
IDL> MPI_Plot, data, Color='Saddle Brown', DataColor='Navy'  
IDL> MPI_Plot, moredata, Color='Red', LineStyle=2, /Overplot
```

Colors are specified by name and should work for both 8-bit and 24-bit devices. There are 17 different symbols you can use, rather than the half dozen offered by IDL.

This program was originally commissioned by the Max-Planck Institute and is offered to users free with their kind permission. It relies on a number of programs from

my Coyote Library. But you can get everything you need by downloading this file:

http://www.dfanning.com/programs/mpi_plot.zip

You can learn more about the program (and see other new programs) by going here:

<http://www.dfanning.com/documents/programs.html>

Happy Thanksgiving!

David

P.S. The first person that mentions this program is a "turkey" will go on my black list. I mean it!

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David W. Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting

Phone: 970-221-0438, E-mail: david@dfanning.com

Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>

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