
Subject: Re: Has USERSYM been defined?

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Tue, 05 Mar 2002 18:24:03 GMT

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Wayne Landsman (landsman@mpb.gsfc.nasa.gov) writes:

> I think the answer to the following question is "no" but it is worth a
> shot.
>
> Is there any way to determine if a user-defined plotting symbol has
> been created using USERSYM for plotting with PSYM=8? (I suppose it
> might also be nice if one could determine what the user-defined symbol
> actually is, i.e. fetch the X,Y vectors that were input to USERSYM, but
> I don't need that now.)
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> I want to have my plotting program use the current USERSYM definition
> for PSYM=8 if it exists, but to create a default symbol if no current
> USERSYM definition exists.

My impression is that the whole USERSYM business is
a hold-over from the way graphics were done in the 70's.
I'd bet a lot of money the answer is "no". (Or, even
more likely, "hell no".)

Cheers,

David

--

David W. Fanning, Ph.D.

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

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Subject: Re: Has USERSYM been defined?

Posted by [Mark Hadfield](#) on Tue, 05 Mar 2002 20:47:30 GMT

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"David Fanning" <david@dfanning.com> wrote in message
news:MPG.16eebb31cf80510798982f@news.frii.com...

> Wayne Landsman (landsman@mpb.gsfc.nasa.gov) writes:

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Indeed.

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How much money, David?

How about plotting a test dataset inside a CATCH handler and trapping
the error? Attempting to display a user symbol that is not yet defined
results (in IDL 5.5) in an error with name 'IDL_M_PLOT_NOUSERSYM'

Mark Hadfield
m.hadfield@niwa.co.nz Ka puwaha et tai nei
http://katipo.niwa.co.nz/~hadfield Hoesa tatou
National Institute for Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA)

Subject: Re: Has USERSYM been defined?

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Tue, 05 Mar 2002 21:01:17 GMT

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Mark Hadfield (m.hadfield@niwa.co.nz) writes:

> How about plotting a test dataset inside a CATCH handler and trapping
> the error? Attempting to display a user symbol that is not yet defined
> results (in IDL 5.5) in an error with name 'IDL_M_PLOT_NOUSERSYM'

Yeah, then you could use your pattern matching software (you
might have to write this yourself, but I'm sure it can be done
in IDL) to find out what symbol it was, and there you would have it.

> How much money, David?

Oh, gosh. Since it involves a computer, I'd be willing
to risk as much as a dollar. Guess that's about four
of yours, Mark. :-)

Cheers,

David

--

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Subject: Re: Has USERSYM been defined?

Posted by [Liam E. Gumley](#) on Tue, 05 Mar 2002 21:26:26 GMT

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Mark Hadfield wrote:

```
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> news:MPG.16eebb31cf80510798982f@news.frii.com...
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> the error? Attempting to display a user symbol that is not yet defined
> results (in IDL 5.5) in an error with name 'IDL_M_PLOT_NOUSERSYM'
```

The following function returns 1B (true) if the argument (a symbol number) can be plotted, and 0B otherwise:

```
FUNCTION SYMBOL_DEFINED, PSYM
```

```
current_device = !d.name
```

```
catch, status
```

```
if (status ne 0) then begin
```

```
    set_plot, current_device
```

```
    return, 0B
```

```
endif
```

```
set_plot, 'NULL'
```

```
plots, 0, 0, psym=psym, /device
```

```
set_plot, current_device
```

```
return, 1B
```

```
END
```

```
IDL> print, symbol_defined(7)
```

```
1
```

```
IDL> print, symbol_defined(8)
```

```
0
```

```
IDL> x = [-6, 0, 6, 0, -6]
```

```
IDL> y = [0, 6, 0, -6, 0]
```

```
IDL> usersym, x, y
```

```
IDL> print, symbol_defined(8)
```

```
1
```

Cheers,

Liam.

Practical IDL Programming

<http://www.gumley.com/>

Subject: Re: Has USERSYM been defined?

Posted by [R.Bauer](#) on Wed, 06 Mar 2002 12:40:07 GMT

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Wayne Landsman wrote:

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> for PSYM=8 if it exists, but to create a default symbol if no current

> USERSYM definition exists.

>
> Thanks, --Wayne Landsman landsman@mpb.gsfc.nasa.gov

We have solved this problem indirect by defining new number codes
for usersyms.

http://www.fz-juelich.de/icg/icg-i/idl_icglib/idl_source/idl_html/dbase/download/icgsym_n.tar.gz

icgsym_n,/symhelp ; shows all symbols

All usersyms are defined in this routines. e.g. 208 is a filled circle

If now a number gt 7 ne 10 is used it is a user defined symbol.

regards
Reimar

--
Reimar Bauer

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email: R.Bauer@fz-juelich.de

a IDL library at ForschungsZentrum Juelich
[http://www.fz-juelich.de/icg/icg1/idl_icglib/idl_lib_intro.h tml](http://www.fz-juelich.de/icg/icg1/idl_icglib/idl_lib_intro.html)

=====
