
Subject: Re: Line-Mouse widget tool

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Thu, 24 Mar 2005 15:50:14 GMT

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Howard S. Cohl writes:

- > I would like to build or use a simple pre-developed tool which
- > would draw a plot with data points in a certain set of x-y
- > (possibly completely different) axes with specific units set by
- > the user and is able to interactively draw a "moveable" lines
- > on that plot with mouse clicks and notify the user of the positions
- > in the data-space of the endpoints of the lines. This widget tool
- > should then allow the user to slightly alter the positions of
- > the endpoints of the drawn lines and to tell the user specifically
- > (to within a user specified number of decimal places) where in
- > the data space the endpoints are currently located, in real time.
- > I would like this tool to be able to work with two separate lines,
- > but I guess one would be enough if only that was possible.
- >
- > It would basically allow me to more easily determine positions
- > in a data space which I have been having to do interactively
- > which takes a long time. Any ideas anybody?

Well, as it happens, my Catalyst Library has this functionality built into it. It would take perhaps an hour to throw this type of application together, I think. Call me if you are interested. It wouldn't be free, but it wouldn't be expensive, either. :-)

You can learn more about the Catalyst Library [here](#) and download an example program. The Arrow annotation tool (on the last tab) does what you want. Right click on an arrow after you draw it, and choose "Other Properties". Now you can observe the arrow endpoints as you draw the arrow and its endpoints in the window. This arrow uses a normalized coordinate system, but any object in the Catalyst Library can use whatever coordinate system you like. All we have to do is attach the arrow to the coordinate system of your plot.

<http://www.dfanning.com/tips/catlib.html>

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.
Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.

Subject: Re: Line-Mouse widget tool
Posted by [Howie\[1\]](#) on Thu, 24 Mar 2005 16:04:56 GMT
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On Thu, 24 Mar 2005 15:30:15 +0000, Howard S. Cohl wrote:

- > I would like to build or use a simple pre-developed tool which
- > would draw a plot with data points in a certain set of x-y
- > (possibly completely different) axes with specific units set by
- > the user and is able to interactively draw a "moveable" lines
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- >
- > It would basically allow me to more easliy determine positions
- > in a data space which I have been having to do interactively
- > which takes a long time. Any ideas anybody?
- >
- > cheers, Howie

Oh, one more thing, if it's not too difficult, is to build into the widget the capability to use curved line segments (splines, or polynomials perhaps) as well as straight lines and be able to output either the equation of the curve or output a the numerical set of N values for the curved line segment.

Subject: Re: Line-Mouse widget tool
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Thu, 24 Mar 2005 16:11:03 GMT
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Howard S. Cohl writes:

- > Oh, one more thing, if it's not too difficult, is to build into the
- > widget the capability to use curved line segments (splines, or polynomials
- > perhaps) as well as straight lines and be able to output either the
- > equation of the curve or output a the numerical set of N values for the
- > curved line segment.

Oh, well, a little more than an hour, then. :-)

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.

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

Subject: Re: Line-Mouse widget tool

Posted by [Robert Barnett](#) on Tue, 29 Mar 2005 22:42:59 GMT

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David,

I render a direct graphics plot onto a widget_draw.

How do you transform a mouse click event which is specified in pixels to

data-space when using direct graphics? I can compute it from the xmargin, ymargin, xtick_get, ytick_get, xsize and ysize. But, surely there must be an easier way?

Here is an excerpt from my code:

```
; ev - The event struct
```

```
; draw_id - The Widget_Draw
```

```
; return_keywords - Keywords returned from plot
```

```
xcharsize = 6.0
```

```
ycharsize = 10.0
```

```
geometry = widget_info(self.draw_id, /geometry)
```

```
; Calculate the corresponding x,y value coordinate on the plot
```

```
evx = ev.x - xmargin[0] * xcharsize
```

```
evy = ev.y - ymargin[0] * ycharsize
```

```
evwidth = geometry.xsize - total(xmargin) * xcharsize
```

```
evheight = geometry.ysize - total(ymargin) * ycharsize
```

```
xtickget = *return_keywords.xtick_get
```

```
ytickget = *return_keywords.ytick_get
```

```
xmaxtick = N_ELEMENTS(xtickget) - 1
```

```
ymaxtick = N_ELEMENTS(ytickget) - 1
```

```
x = xtickget[0] + (xtickget[xmaxtick] - xtickget[0]) * evx / evwidth
```

$y = \text{ytickget}[0] + (\text{ytickget}[\text{ymaxtick}] - \text{ytickget}[0]) * \text{evy} / \text{evheight}$

return, [x, y]

David Fanning wrote:

> Howard S. Cohl writes:

>

>

>> Oh, one more thing, if it's not too difficult, is to build into the
>> widget the capability to use curved line segments (splines, or polynomials
>> perhaps) as well as straight lines and be able to output either the
>> equation of the curve or output a the numerical set of N values for the
>> curved line segment.

>>

>

> Oh, well, a little more than an hour, then. :-)

>

> Cheers,

>

> David

>

>

--

nrb@

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