
Subject: usersym keywords -- why?

Posted by [Christopher Thom](#) on Mon, 10 Nov 2008 23:04:17 GMT

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Hi all,

Debugging some code today, I discovered what I would consider to be strange behaviour. Although...maybe this is a "feature". Consider the following:

```
usersym, [ -1, 0, 1, -1 ], [ 1, -1, 1, 1 ], thick = 20  
plot, findgen(10), ps=8, thick = 2
```

Is there any reason why usersym accepts thickness and color keywords? And, more importantly, why the keywords passed to plot/oplot don't over-ride them?

I was using some symbols from the awesome symcat() library [thanks david!] when I discovered this. The only workaround I could come up with was to extend symcat() to accept and pass _extra keywords to usersym...which now gives me the even more confusing:

```
plot, findgen(10), ps = symcat(11, thick = 20), thick = 2
```

If anyone can see a sane or (better!) elegant solution to the thickness madness I've been having all afternoon, I'd love to hear of it.

cheers
chris

Subject: Re: usersym keywords -- why?

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Tue, 11 Nov 2008 15:20:05 GMT

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David Fanning writes:

```
> Thus, I can't get them inside my program. But, that said,  
> I can understand some of Chris's confusion, because the  
> THICK keyword only applies to symbols I can create with  
> USERSYM. (Any symbol where I have to "lift the pen" to  
> draw cannot be created in USERSYM, such as a plus sign  
> or an asterisk.)
```

I guess I could draw a plus sign and an asterisk without lifting my pen, but not today. Too tedious and I have other work to do. Extra credit for anyone who works that out for me. :-)

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.

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

Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

Subject: Re: usersym keywords -- why?

Posted by [R.Bauer](#) on Tue, 11 Nov 2008 16:09:21 GMT

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David Fanning schrieb:

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>

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> lifting my pen, but not today. Too tedious and I have
> other work to do. Extra credit for anyone who works that
> out for me. :-)

>

> Cheers,

>

> David

Hi David

from our icgsym_define_symbols routine

there are some more complex symbols done also by x_digisym
which i can show later.

cheers

Reimar

```

1: BEGIN                                ;Plus sign
  yarr = [0, 0, 0, -1, 1] * psize
  xarr = [1, -1, 0, 0, 0] * psize
  fill = 0
END
2: BEGIN                                ;cross-plus
  yarr = [-1, 1, 0, 1, -1,0,1,-1,0,0,0] * psize
  xarr = [-1, 1, 0, -1, 1,0,0,0,0,1,-1] * psize
  fill = 0
END
3: BEGIN                                ;point
  yarr = [0,0] * psize
  xarr = [0,0] * psize
  fill = 0
END
4: BEGIN                                ;Diamond
  yarr = [0, -1, 0, 1, 0] * psize
  xarr = [1, 0, -1, 0, 1] * psize
END
5: BEGIN                                ;Triangle
  xarr = [-1,0,1,-1]*psize
  yarr = [-1,1,-1,-1]*psize
END
6: BEGIN                                ;Square
  yarr = [1, -1, -1, 1, 1] * psize
  xarr = [1, 1, -1, -1, 1] * psize
END
7: BEGIN                                ;Cross
  yarr = [-1, 1, 0, -1, 1] * psize
  xarr = [1, -1, 0, -1, 1] * psize
  fill = 0
END

```

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Subject: Re: usersym keywords -- why?

Posted by [Craig Markwardt](#) on Tue, 11 Nov 2008 18:48:52 GMT

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On Nov 10, 6:04 pm, Christopher Thom <ct...@oddjjob.uchicago.edu>
wrote:

> Hi all,
>
> Debugging some code today, I discovered what I would consider to be
> strange behaviour. Although...maybe this is a "feature". Consider the
> following:
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> Is there any reason why usersym accepts thickness and color keywords? And,
> more importantly, why the keywords passed to plot/oplot don't over-ride
> them?
>

Well for example, sometimes I want a /FILLED symbol, but I don't want
the whole plot to be a giant filled polygon.
