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Subject: Re: Error Bar Thoughts  
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Wed, 02 Feb 2011 17:51:41 GMT  
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David Fanning writes:

> Since I am parallelized in uncertainty

I think my spell checker turned this into a more interesting thought than I had intended. :-)

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.  
Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.  
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.idlcoyote.com/>  
Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

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Subject: Re: Error Bar Thoughts  
Posted by [Robin Wilson](#) on Wed, 02 Feb 2011 18:05:18 GMT  
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Hi David,

I have used error bars a number of times in plots (from various languages) and I'd love to have the option to use either of the formats that you gave. Obviously one could be calculated from the other, but it just makes it easier if you can just give whatever you've got to the routine.

Just my personal opinion of course,

Robin

On 02/02/2011 17:51, David Fanning wrote:

> David Fanning writes:

>

>> Since I am parallelized in uncertainty

>

> I think my spell checker turned this into a more interesting  
> thought than I had intended. :-)

>

> Cheers,  
>  
> David  
>  
>  
>

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Subject: Re: Error Bar Thoughts  
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Wed, 02 Feb 2011 18:15:23 GMT  
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Robin Wilson writes:

> I have used error bars a number of times in plots (from various  
> languages) and I'd love to have the option to use either of the formats  
> that you gave. Obviously one could be calculated from the other, but it  
> just makes it easier if you can just give whatever you've got to the  
> routine.

You know, I just recalled the first rule of software development:  
Don't ever ask the end-user what they want. They want \*everything\*!

You would have thought I had been hanging around software  
companies long enough to know that. :-(

Cheers,

David

--

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Subject: Re: Error Bar Thoughts  
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Wed, 02 Feb 2011 18:32:19 GMT  
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David Fanning writes:

> As an offset from the data point?  
>  
> data = 5

> errlow = 0.1  
> errhigh = 0.2

OK, if errors are passed in as "deltas" from the data point are they always passed in as \*positive\* deltas, as I show above, or is the low error passed in as a \*negative\* value. Is it ever the case that the data point does NOT fall between the high and low error? Is there a convention?

Cheers,

David

--

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Subject: Re: Error Bar Thoughts  
Posted by [Gray](#) on Wed, 02 Feb 2011 19:43:00 GMT  
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On Feb 2, 12:51 pm, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:

> David Fanning writes:  
>> Since I am parallelized in uncertainty  
>  
> I think my spell checker turned this into a more interesting  
> thought than I had intended. :-)  
>  
> Cheers,  
>  
> David  
>  
> --  
> David Fanning, Ph.D.  
> Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.  
> Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.idlcoyote.com/>  
> Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

Wow, so what happened was you split into several parallel instances that each went on to write the program in a different way? Awesome.

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Subject: Re: Error Bar Thoughts

Posted by [Gray](#) on Wed, 02 Feb 2011 19:44:06 GMT

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On Feb 2, 1:32 pm, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:

> David Fanning writes:

>> As an offset from the data point?

>

>> data = 5

>> errlow = 0.1

>> errhigh = 0.2

>

> OK, if errors are passed in as "deltas" from the data point

> are they always passed in as \*positive\* deltas, as I show above,

> or is the low error passed in as a \*negative\* value. Is it

> ever the case that the data point does NOT fall between

> the high and low error? Is there a convention?

>

> Cheers,

>

> David

>

> --

> David Fanning, Ph.D.

> Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.

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

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

David, here's my suggestion. All of these formats are equally valid and are easily converted between. Pick a style and then let the user pass their data in the right way.

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Subject: Re: Error Bar Thoughts

Posted by [Matt\[2\]](#) on Wed, 02 Feb 2011 19:51:37 GMT

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On Feb 2, 12:44 pm, Gray <grayliketheco...@gmail.com> wrote:

> David, here's my suggestion. All of these formats are equally valid

> and are easily converted between. Pick a style and then let the user

> pass their data in the right way.

I second this motion. And I'd prefer actual values rather than offsets, but it's an easy enough operation to be able to figure out.

Cheers

Matt

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Subject: Re: Error Bar Thoughts  
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Wed, 02 Feb 2011 20:14:28 GMT  
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Matt writes:

> I second this motion. And I'd prefer actual values rather than  
> offsets, but it's an easy enough operation to be able to figure out.

Yeah, actual data makes sense to me, too. And it means  
I don't have to fool around too much with philosophical  
discussions about whether up is down or visa versa. Plus,  
it's easy enough it might even happen in the next hour  
or two. :-)

Cheers,

David

--

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