
Subject: How to erase a (function graphics) plot.
Posted by [wlandsman](#) on Mon, 05 Mar 2012 05:27:48 GMT
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I am building a widget application with a widget_window for displaying function graphics plots. By default, function graphics does not erase the old plot in the same window.

```
p1 = plot(indgen(10))  
p2 = plot( sin(indgen(10)),/current)
```

There is a delete method

```
p1.delete
```

but that doesn't delete the axes, which still get jumbled together. There is a close method but that destroys the window, and I'd like to keep reusing the widget_window.

Right now I am erasing the plot by loading a white IMAGE() but I hope there is a better way.

Thanks, --Wayne

Subject: Re: How to erase a (function graphics) plot.
Posted by [Paul Van Delst\[1\]](#) on Wed, 07 Mar 2012 15:55:55 GMT
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On 03/05/12 12:07, David Fanning wrote:

> Mark Piper writes:

>

>> In 8.2, there will be an ::Erase method for NG, analogous to ERASE for

>> DG. (In 8.0& 8.1, I've "erased" plots as Alain has.)

>

> And welcome to the version-specific code writing world! ;-)

Uh, I think that happens when someone sits down and starts using IDL.

Remember handles? Or, to be more contemporary, remember when IDL didn't have lists and hashes?

cheers,

paulv

p.s. I still use the function down below in some older code - the fixed IDL version is explicitly listed. Oi vey.

```

; -----
; Local function to convert BYTE/CHAR values
; to a STRING data type.
;
; Need this because all string netCDF data
; types were returned as BYTE arrays.
;
; For pre IDL v5.3 the returned data type string is "BYTE"
; For IDL v5.3 the returned data type string is "CHAR"
; -----
FUNCTION convert_string, data_type, $
    input_string, $
    NO_CONVERT=no_convert

; Set the IDL version with the bug fix
fixed_IDL_version = 5.3

; If the data type is CHAR, then we have a string. Convert and return.
IF ( STRUPCASE( data_type ) EQ 'CHAR' ) THEN $
    RETURN, STRING( input_string )

; The data type is not CHAR. Maybe it needs converting, maybe not.
IF ( FLOAT( !VERSION.RELEASE ) LT fixed_IDL_version AND $
    STRUPCASE( data_type ) EQ 'BYTE' AND $
    ( NOT KEYWORD_SET( no_convert ) ) ) THEN $
    RETURN, STRING( input_string )

; Don't do anything
RETURN, input_string

END ; FUNCTION convert_string

```

Subject: Re: How to erase a (function graphics) plot.
 Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Wed, 07 Mar 2012 16:03:18 GMT
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Paul van Delst writes:

> Uh, I think that happens when someone sits down and starts using IDL.

Yes, I've pretty much come to the conclusion that *ALL*
 IDL routines require wrappers to make them useful. ;-)

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.")

Subject: Re: How to erase a (function graphics) plot.
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Wed, 07 Mar 2012 16:05:56 GMT
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Paul van Delst writes:

> I still use the function down below in some older code - the fixed IDL version is explicitly listed.

By the way, don't throw these away yet. I ran into
someone earlier this week who was using IDL 5.2.
You just never know!!

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.
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Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

Subject: Re: How to erase a (function graphics) plot.
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Wed, 07 Mar 2012 16:06:48 GMT
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David Fanning writes:

> By the way, don't throw these away yet. I ran into
> someone earlier this week who was using IDL 5.2.

Not Craig, in case you were wondering. :-)

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

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