
Subject: Plot function failing!

Posted by [Med Bennett](#) on Thu, 17 Mar 2016 15:27:28 GMT

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My IDL installation (IDL Version 8.5.1, Microsoft Windows (Win32 x86_64 m64)) is suddenly failing to make plots - it gives me a syntax error where there is none. No plot window is created. It did this for a couple of hours yesterday, and then started working normally again. Any ideas as to why this might be happening?

```
IDL> p=plot(aba_np,aba_ap,symbol='+',linestyle=")
```

```
p=plot(aba_np,aba_ap,symbol='+',linestyle=")
```

^

% Syntax error.

It seems to be failing to load a DLM (XLM?). Sucks as I'm in the middle of a project deadline. Any suggestions appreciated!

Subject: Re: Plot function failing!

Posted by [Med Bennett](#) on Thu, 17 Mar 2016 15:31:14 GMT

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Another example, straight from the documentation:

```
IDL> junk = SIN(2.0*FINDGEN(200)*!PI/25.0)*EXP(-0.02*FINDGEN(200))
```

```
IDL> myPlot = plot(junk)
```

In this case, nothing happens at all - no plot, no plot window, no error message.

Subject: Re: Plot function failing!

Posted by [Jim Pendleton](#) on Thu, 17 Mar 2016 15:40:33 GMT

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On Thursday, March 17, 2016 at 9:31:16 AM UTC-6, Med Bennett wrote:

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>

> IDL> junk = SIN(2.0*FINDGEN(200)*!PI/25.0)*EXP(-0.02*FINDGEN(200))

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I would guess your !path has been compromised.

```
IDL> print, routine_info('plot', /source, /function)
```

```
{ PLOT C:\Program Files\Exelis\IDL85\lib\graphics\plot.pro }
```

Jim P.

Subject: Re: Plot function failing!

Posted by [Med Bennett](#) on Thu, 17 Mar 2016 16:13:21 GMT

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On Thursday, March 17, 2016 at 9:40:35 AM UTC-6, Jim P wrote:

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```
% Attempt to call undefined function: 'PLOT'.
```

```
% Execution halted at: $MAIN$
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I also just uninstalled and reinstalled IDL 8.5.1, still doing the same thing.

Subject: Re: Plot function failing!

Posted by [Med Bennett](#) on Thu, 17 Mar 2016 16:14:37 GMT

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On Thursday, March 17, 2016 at 10:13:24 AM UTC-6, Med Bennett wrote:

> On Thursday, March 17, 2016 at 9:40:35 AM UTC-6, Jim P wrote:

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```

Interestingly, calls to contour() work fine.

Subject: Re: Plot function failing!

Posted by [Jim Pendleton](#) on Thu, 17 Mar 2016 16:25:46 GMT

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On Thursday, March 17, 2016 at 10:14:40 AM UTC-6, Med Bennett wrote:

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Are you making any changes to !path manually, in code? You might want to check your syntax that you're using the correct path separator, for example.

If you're making changes in the Workbench Preferences, make sure they're valid and you haven't deleted the default IDL path.

On your platform, check for the presence of plot.pro. It should be installed. On Windows, by default, it's in C:\Program Files\Exelis\IDL85\lib\graphics\plot.pro, for example.

If the file is present, the implication is !path is mangled.

Try this:

```
IDL> (!path).split(path_sep(/search))
```

You should see a list of almost 50 directories that begins with entries like this:

```
C:\Program Files\Exelis\IDL85\lib\bridges
C:\Program Files\Exelis\IDL85\lib\datatypes
C:\Program Files\Exelis\IDL85\lib\dicomex
C:\Program Files\Exelis\IDL85\lib\e3de
C:\Program Files\Exelis\IDL85\lib\enterprise\ese
C:\Program Files\Exelis\IDL85\lib\graphics
C:\Program Files\Exelis\IDL85\lib\hook
C:\Program Files\Exelis\IDL85\lib\imsl
C:\Program Files\Exelis\IDL85\lib\itools\components
```

Subject: Re: Plot function failing!

Posted by [wlandsman](#) on Thu, 17 Mar 2016 16:26:25 GMT

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plot.pro should be in the \$IDL_DIR/lib/graphics directory.

Make sure that you do have plot.pro in this directory, and then make sure this directory is in your !path

On Thursday, March 17, 2016 at 12:14:40 PM UTC-4, Med Bennett wrote:

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Subject: Re: Plot function failing!

Posted by [Med Bennett](#) on Thu, 17 Mar 2016 16:33:47 GMT

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On Thursday, March 17, 2016 at 10:26:27 AM UTC-6, wlandsman wrote:

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Appears to be fixed! I had a mystery variable in my .sav file called 'plot' that must have been the result of an earlier typo. DOH!!! Thanks and sorry for the bonehead post.

Subject: Re: Plot function failing!
Posted by [Michael Galloy](#) on Thu, 17 Mar 2016 19:46:15 GMT
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On 3/17/16 10:33 AM, Med Bennett wrote:
> Appears to be fixed! I had a mystery variable in my .sav file called
> 'plot' that must have been the result of an earlier typo. DOH!!!
> Thanks and sorry for the bonehead post.

Using "compile_opt strictarr" in every routine you write *and* in your startup file saves a lot of headaches like this.

Mike

--

Michael Galloy
www.michaelgalloy.com
Modern IDL: A Guide to IDL Programming (<http://modernidl.idldev.com>)
