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Subject: Multiple colors in one plot statement  
Posted by [eparvier](#) on Wed, 07 Feb 1996 08:00:00 GMT  
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Does anyone know of a way to get around the limitation that the COLOR keyword for the PLOT command only takes a scalar? I want to plot a bunch of points, with coordinates contained in the vectors X and Y, but I want the color of each of the points to correspond to information contained in another vector Z (same length as X and Y, but scaled in value to match the size of the color table of choice). Using the command:

```
PLOT, X, Y, PSYM=2, COLORS=Z
```

doesn't work because COLORS can only be a scalar. The work-around that I came up with involves having to plot each of the individual elements one-by-one with a series of OPLOT statements, setting the color individually. Is there a separate keyword analogous to the C\_COLORS in CONTOUR or the SHADES keyword in SHADE\_SURF, but for PLOT? Or is there a command or routine that I'm not aware of that will do what I want?

It would also be nice to be able to make each of the arrows created by VELOVECT an arbitrary color described by a separate color array all in one fell swoop instead of using repeated calls to the routine.

Anyone have any ideas?

Thanks,  
Frank

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Subject: Re: Multiple colors in one plot statement  
Posted by [Jackel](#) on Thu, 08 Feb 1996 08:00:00 GMT  
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In article <4fb1p2\$cbp@peabody.colorado.edu> [eparvier@stripe.Colorado.EDU](mailto:eparvier@stripe.Colorado.EDU) (Eparvier Francis) writes:

> Does anyone know of a way to get around the limitation that  
> the COLOR keyword for the PLOT command only takes a scalar?

From the version 4.0.1 help

"The PLOTS procedure plots vectors or points on the current graphics device in either two or three dimensions. The coordinates can be given in data, device, or normalized form using the DATA (the default), DEVICE, or NORMAL keywords.

The COLOR keyword can be set to a scalar or vector value. If it is set to a vector value, the line segment connecting  $(X_i, Y_i)$  to  $(X_{i+1}, Y_{i+1})$  is drawn with a color index of  $COLOR_i + 1$ . In this case, COLOR must have the same number of elements as X and Y."

So you might try making the plot area, then using PLOTS to draw the points.

> It would also be nice to be able to make each of the arrows  
> created by VELOVECT an arbitrary color described by a  
> separate color array all in one fell swoop instead of  
> using repeated calls to the routine.

VELOVECT is a user contributed routine, so the source is available to change, or you could write a wrapper routine (VELOVECTS?) which looped for you.

Brian Jackel  
University of Western Ontario

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Subject: Re: Multiple colors in one plot statement  
Posted by [paul](#) on Thu, 08 Feb 1996 08:00:00 GMT  
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In article <4fb1p2\$cbp@peabody.colorado.edu>, eparvier@stripe.Colorado.EDU (Eparvier Francis) writes:

|> Does anyone know of a way to get around the limitation that  
|> the COLOR keyword for the PLOT command only takes a scalar?  
|> I want to plot a bunch of points, with coordinates contained  
|> in the vectors X and Y, but I want the color of each of the  
|> points to correspond to information contained in another  
|> vector Z (same length as X and Y, but scaled in value to  
|> match the size of the color table of choice).

PLOTS will accept and use a vector valued color.

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