
Subject: Over-plotting problem...

Posted by [Gregory Grason](#) on Wed, 25 Jun 1997 07:00:00 GMT

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Specifically what is a user symbol and why would I need one to over-plot? I've never encountered this error before:

```
% OPLOT: No user symbol defined.
```

-Greg Grason

Subject: Re: Over-plotting problem...

Posted by [Jim O'connor](#) on Fri, 27 Jun 1997 07:00:00 GMT

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Gregory Grason <grason@jhuapl.edu> writes:

```
> Specifically what is a user symbol and why would I need one to
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>
> % OPLOT: No user symbol defined.
>
```

A user symbol (basically a user-supplied polygon) is useful if you want to use a period as a plotting symbol, but want to make the period larger than a vanishingly small dot. You might figure SYMSIZE would work with PSYM=3, the built-in period symbol, but it doesn't. Thus:

```
Wave> x = findgen(100)/99.*2*!Pi*3
Wave> plot,x,sin(x),psym=3,symsize=4
```

does not make large dots. However, if you define a user symbol like this:

```
Wave> r0=1.0 & inc=16
Wave> a=INDGEN(inc) * (!PI * 2 /inc)
Wave> a = [a,a(0)] ;close the symbol
Wave> USERSYM, r0*cos(a),r0*sin(a),/fill ;creates a filled symbol
```

you can now get big dots with this:

```
Wave> plot,x,sin(x),psym=8,symsize=4
```

--

Jim
