

---

Subject: Re: drawing arrows in 3D

Posted by [davidf](#) on Sat, 05 Sep 1998 07:00:00 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

> I need to draw a few arrows on a 3D plot to show directions of  
> single lines etc. The ARROW procedure does only 2d. It would take  
> some effort to make a 3d analog of it. Is there any better, ready  
> solution? I know x,y,z coordinates of beginning and end of the line  
> and draw it with calls to create\_view and plots.

Just draw the arrows with PlotS (it will draw in 3D). You may have to break the line up into segments. Then just draw a little 3D arrowhead with PlotS and put it on one end of the line. The arrowhead could be a little octagon centered on the line and normal to it, just back from the end. Then each vertex of the octagon could be connected to the end point of the line. That should make a nice arrow, I think.

A nice touch would be to make the "slats" of the arrowhead filled polygons. You could get a great 3D look to it. :-)

Good luck,

David

-----  
David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting

E-Mail: [davidf@dfanning.com](mailto:davidf@dfanning.com)

Phone: 970-221-0438, Toll-Free Book Orders: 1-888-461-0155

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

---