
Subject: SUMMARY: oplot - error in plotting to Z buffer only

Posted by [fireman](#) on Fri, 12 Feb 1999 08:00:00 GMT

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THE PROBLEM:

An error sometimes arises when plotting to the Z-buffer:

% PLOT: No valid points, must have at least 2 distinct points

AN EXAMPLE:

IDL> ; first, compile the function CIRCLE at the end of this message

IDL> usersym,circle(0,0,1,20),/fill

IDL> plot,psym=8,yrange=[0,1],-0.01+FIndGen(100)/5000

IDL> set_plot,'z'

IDL> plot,psym=8,yrange=[0,1],-0.01+FIndGen(100)/5000

A SUSPECT:

It seems to have something to do with improper clipping to plot boundaries when using filled user-defined symbols. Setting !P.Clip = 0 prevents the error but doesn't always result in desirable plots.

A WORKAROUND:

IDL> ;After setting plot boundaries with an initial plot,

IDL> clip = where((x gt !x.crangle[0]) and (x lt !x.crangle[1]) \$

IDL> and (y gt !y.crangle[0]) and (y lt !y.crangle[1]))

IDL> oplot, x[clip], y[clip]

THE SOLUTION:

Upgrade to IDL 5.2

CREDITS:

Eduardo Santiago <esm@lanl.gov> for first pointing out the filled
psym/p.clip connection

Dick Jackson <djackson@dfanning.com> for giving a simple example, and for
pointing out that IDL 5.2 has corrected the problem.

Gwyn Fireman <Gwyn.Fireman@gsfc.nasa.gov> (me) for posting the workaround.

Thanks everyone!

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