
Subject: Re: beginners plotting question

Posted by [fireman](#) on Wed, 24 Feb 1999 08:00:00 GMT

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Nan Galbraith (ngalbraith@whoi.edu) wrote:

: I'm plotting a data return timeline. I'm forcing the value of good data
: to 0 and missing data to 9999, then plotting with a range of +/- 1. I'd
: like to mark the start and end of the lines with a symbol of
: some kind, like this:

```
: bin 1 |-----|    |-----|
: bin 2 |-----|
: bin 3 |-----|
```

: Is there a first-difference function? I could use that if I could find it,

Yes - use SHIFT.

Try something like this:

```
IDL> dataflag=[0,0,0,0,1,1,1,0,0,0,0,0] * 9999
```

```
IDL> diff=dataflag-shift(dataflag,1)
```

```
IDL> N=n_elements(dataflag)
```

```
IDL> ends=where(diff ne 0,intervals)
```

```
IDL> ends=[0,ends,N-1] ; assumes you have data at start,stop
```

```
IDL> t=indgen(N)
```

```
IDL> plot,t,dataflag,yrange=[-1,1],/nodata
```

```
IDL> for i=1,n_elements(ends)-1,2 do $
```

```
oplot,t[ends[i-1]:ends[i]],dataflag[ends[i-1]:ends[i]]*0, linestyle=-1
```

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