Data File Format

ASCII (Text or Formatted) Files

Each line of a data file should contain an x-value followed by the corresponding y values for each of the curves. So, each line should have the form

x y1 y2 ... yn

where y1, y2, ..., yn are the y values for the given value of x. There can be an arbitrary number of curves and there is no limit on the total number of points. Commas as well as text material are allowed in the input file, but periods and numerals in text are not allowed. (This allows you to "annotate" your input file, but note well that annotations

cannot contain numerals or periods. Also note that annotations should come after the first line of the file.) If the single character "!" is found on a line, everything on that line following the "!" is ignored. An input file can begin with one or more lines that start with "!". There is one other form of input file that is allowed: if you have only one column of data in your input file, it is assumed to be y values, and the x values are assumed to be the integers 1,2,3,...

Compressed Files

These are ordinary ASCII (text) files that have been run through the Unix "compress" utility. Their format (before compressing) should be that described in the previous section. You can open such a file in nxyplot without uncompressing it first.

DataFormat.Binary;¬Binary Files

A binary data file is assumed to contain first all the x values, then all the y values for the first curve, then all the y values for the second curve, etc. In this case you must tell the nxyplot (space is provided on the panel that pops up when you choose open binary) how many curves are in the file and whether or not there is x data in the file. For very large files, reading binary data can be significantly faster than reading formatted data.