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## PURPOSE

This is the default separator character.

## DESCRIPTION

The ; is the character which automatically terminates the command statement. Thus multiple command statements can be “packed” on a single line. Hence

```
READ ABC. X Y; PLOT Y X; FIT Y = A+B*X  
PLOT RES X; SMOOTH Y; PLOT RES X; HISTOGRAM RES
```

is equivalent to

```
READ ABC. X Y  
PLOT Y X  
FIT Y=A+B*X  
PLOT RES X  
SMOOTH Y  
PLOT RES X  
HISTOGRAM RES
```

In another vein, the joint use of

1. the ; character to terminate a command, and
2. the . command to enter a comment (do not forget the space after the period)

allows the analyst to insert in-line comments, as in

```
READ CALIB. Y X LAB;. READ IN THE DATA  
LINES SOLID SOLID DOT;. DEFINE LINES  
CHARACTERS 1 2 1 2;. DEFINE CHARACTERS  
PLOT Y X LAB;. GENERATE MULTI-TRACE PLOT  
ANOVA Y X LAB;. 2-WAY ANOVA  
PLOT RES X;. PLOT RESIDUALS  
PLOT RES LAB;. PLOT RESIDUALS
```

This capability receives only light usage because DATAPLOT programs are self-documenting due to the English-syntax command structure.

If the analyst wishes to change the terminator character from a semi-colon to some other choice, then use the TERMINATOR CHARACTER command, as in:

```
TERMINATOR CHARACTER #
```

## SYNTAX

None

## EXAMPLES

```
READ CALIB. Y X;PLOT Y X;EXIT  
CHARACTERS X;LINES BLANK;LAG 1 PLOT Y  
FIT Y=A+B*X;PLOT Y PRED VS X;PLOT RES X
```

## NOTE

Be careful that if a text line (e.g., TITLE, LEGEND, LABEL) contains a semi-colon character that you use the TERMINATOR CHARACTER command to change the default terminator character.

## DEFAULT

In the absence of a semi-colon, the usual carriage return terminates the command statement.

## SYNONYMS

None, but the terminator character can be changed to something other than the semi-colon.

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**Keywords**

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## RELATED COMMANDS

.	=	Denotes a comment line.
...	=	Specifies that a command continues onto the next line.
TERMINATOR CHARACTER	=	Change the character that denotes the end of the command.

## APPLICATIONS

Command packing, in-line comments

## IMPLEMENTATION DATE

Pre-1987