; 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.
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