
Subject: multipanel

Posted by [Martin Schultz](#) on Tue, 23 Mar 1999 08:00:00 GMT

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Hi all,

please find below a routine designed to ease one's life with !p.multi. It was inspired by David F's new tvimage routine which "honors" the !p.multi keyword. You can use multipanel.pro to:

- * get the position vector for the next plot to be made (regardless of !p.multi)
- * set up a multi-panel plot specifying either the number of rows and cols or
 - the number of plots per page
- * advance to the next (or to any) panel on the page
- * turn !p.multi off

There are MARGIN and OMARGIN options which accept 1,2 or 4 values in normalized coordinates, and (of course) a /NOERASE keyword. If you set up a page with say 5 panels per page, the screen (or page) will actually be erased after 5 plots although 6 would fit onto the page and "plain" !p.multi would do all 6.

Try it out! It's free ;-)

Martin.

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;-----
; \$Id\$
;+
; NAME:
; MULTIPANEL
;

; PURPOSE:
; This routine provides an easy-to-use interface to
; IDL's !p.multi mechanism and it can be used
; to retrieve the position vector of the next plot
; in line (even if !p.multi is not set). You can
; specify plot margins and a page margin in normalized
; coordinates.
; For multi-panel plots, multipanel works in three
; stages (somewhat similar to XInterAnimate):
; 1) set up a multi-panel page by specifying the number
; of rows and columns or the maximum number of plots
; on the page.
; 2) advance to the next plot position and return that
; position. If the page was filled (i.e. the maximum
; number of plots (advance steps) has been made, it
; will be erased (unless /NOERASE is set).
; 3) turn the multi-panel environment off and reset margin
; values.
; Subsequent PLOT, MAP_SET, etc. commands should use the
; POSITION vector returned from this routine and they should
; use the /NOERASE keyword.

; CATEGORY:
; Plotting tools

; CALLING SEQUENCE:
; Get position of next plot
; MULTIPANEL,position=p

; Setting up multi-panel pots
; MULTIPANEL,[rows=r,col=c | nplots=n] [,options]

; Advance to the next panel (and get its position)
; MULTIPANEL,/advance [.position=p] [,options]

; Reset multi-panel environment to start over at the first panel
; MULTIPANEL,/reset [,options]

; Turn multi-panel environment off (reset !p.multi and some other
; parameters)
; MULTIPANEL,/OFF

; INPUTS:
; Optionally you can give the number of plots (keyword NPLOTS) as
; a parameter instead. Th euse of a parameter will override the
; keyword.

; KEYWORD PARAMETERS:

; General keywords (honored under all circumstances)

; POSITION -> Returns a 4-element vector with the position of
; the next plot in the line. As always this vector contains
[X0,Y0,X1,Y1].

; MARGIN -> specify a margin around the plot in normalized
; coordinates. This keyword does not change any IDL
; system variables and will thus only become "visible"
; if you use the POSITION returned by MULTIPANEL in subsequent plot
; commands.

; MARGIN can either be one value which will be applied to
; all four margins, or a 2-element vector which results in
; equal values for the left and right and equal values for
; the bottom and top margins, or a 4-element vector with
[left,bottom,right,top].

; OMARGIN -> specify a page margin around all panels in normalized
; coordinates. Works like MARGIN.

; Note that you can change the values of MARGIN and OMARGIN after
; you set up your plot page. The values given with MARGIN and OMARGIN
; remain active until you specify a new one or use the /OFF keyword.

; /NOERASE -> This keyword prevents erasing the screen (or page)
; when setting a multi-panel environment or after a page was
; filled. NOERASE is automatically turned ON when the /OFF
; keyword is given.

; Informational keywords:

; FIRSTPANEL -> returns 1 if the current plotting panel is
; the first one on a page

; LASTPANEL -> returns 1 if the current plotting panel is the last
; on a page

; Setting up a multi-panel page:

; ROWS, COLS -> specify the number of rows and columns
; you want on your page. If one is specified, the
; other one must be given as well. Alternatively,
; you can use the NPLOTS keyword.

; NPLOTS -> maximum number of plots on one page. The

number of rows and columns is automatically computed so that the plots "approach a square" and they are returned in the ROWS and COLS keywords. Setting NPLOTS to a ROWS*COLS value is equivalent to using ROWS and COLS. If you specify an "uneven" number (e.g. 5), multipanel,/advance will erase the page after 5 plots instead of 6.

/PORTRAIT -> Normally, ROWS tends to be larger than COLS when NPLOTS is used (e.g. 12 gives 4 rows and 3 cols). Use this keyword to revert this behaviour.

/LANDSCAPE -> Make ROWS larger than COLS if necessary. This is the default. Thi skeyword is actually unnecessary and was introduced for purely aesthetic reasons (symmetry).

Advance to the next plot:

/ADVANCE -> this keyword issues a hidden plot command to find out the position of the next plot to be made. The position is then returned in the POSITION keyword. The value of !P.MULTI[0] is increased afterwards so that you can issue your plot command without explicitly specifying the position or /NOERASE. When the maximum number of plots set with NPLOTS is reached, MULTIPANEL,/ADVANCE will erase the screen and reset the plot position to the upper left corner.

CURPLOT -> use this keyword to advance to a specific plot position on the page. If you specify 0, the screen will be erased. CURPLOT also returns the current plot number. If you don't want to set the plot number but just query it, you must pass an undefined variable (see procedure UNDEFINE.PRO).

Reset the plot position (and erase the screen)

/RESET -> does just this.

Turn multi-panel environment off

/OFF -> Overrides all other keywords. Resets !p.multi to 0.

OUTPUTS:
none.

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; SUBROUTINES:
;   function GET__PLOTPOSITION() issues a dummy plot command
;     and returns the plot position from the !xy.window
;     variables.

; REQUIREMENTS:
;   none. (example uses RECTANGLE.PRO)

; NOTES:
;   Side effect: Opens a window in standard size if none was open
;     before. This happens because the next plot position is
;     determined by issuing a hidden (or dummy) plot command with
;     no visible output.

;   Make sure to use POSITION=P,/NOERASE with all your PLOT, MAP_SET
;   CONTOUR, etc. commands. In fact, you don't _need_ /NOERASE for
;   PLOT, but it guarantees consistent behaviour with MAP_SET etc.)
;   A PLOT command without /NOERASE will advance to the next panel
;   and thereby interfere with MULTIPANEL's plot counter.

;   If you don't use MARGIN and OMARGIN, the values in !XY.margin
;   !XY.omargin will take effect.

;   A common block is used to store the current plot number and
;   margin information. This limits the use to one window at a time
;   (although you can save all parameters elsewhere and supply them
;   to the routine on a window-by-window basis).

; EXAMPLES:
;   ; just retrieve the position of the next plot
;   ; -----
;   ; MULTIPANEL,position=p
;   ; PLOT,findgen(10),color=1,position=p,/noerase
;
;   ; same thing but use a specific margin (2-element form)
;   ; -----
;   ; MULTIPANEL,margin=[0.1,0.05],position=p
;   ; PLOT,findgen(10),color=1,position=p,/noerase
;
;   ; (if you want to see both previous plots together use
;   ; /NOERASE with MULTIPANEL)
;
;   ; multi-panel use:
;   ; -----
;   ; MULTIPANEL,NPlots=5          ; set up for 5 plots
;   for i=0,4 do begin
;     MULTIPANEL,Position=p,margin=0.04 ; get current plot position
;     plot,findgen(10),color=1,position=p,/noerase ; plot
;
```

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; MULTIPANEL,/Advance,/NoErase ; go to next panel
; note that the screen would be erased after the last plot
; without the /NoErase keyword.
; endfor
; now let's draw a frame around everything
; MULTIPANEL,/OFF,omargin=0.01,margin=0.,position=p,/noerase
; Rectangle,p,xvec,yvec           ; <<< uses RECTANGLE.PRO !!
; plots,xvec,yvec,color=1,/norm

; MODIFICATION HISTORY:
; mgs, 19 Mar 1999: VERSION 1.00
; mgs, 22 Mar 1999: - improved documentation, changed OMARGIN
;                   to accept normalized coordinates.
;                   - position now also returned if turned OFF
;                   - added FIRSTPANEL and LASTPANEL keywords
;                   - allow NPLOTS to be specified as parameter
;
;
;-
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; please contact the author to arrange payment.
; Bugs and comments should be directed to mgs@io.harvard.edu
; with subject "IDL routine multipanel"
;----- --

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function get__plotposition,noerase=noerase,advance=advance
COMMON PLOT__MARGINS, activemargin, margingiven, pg_, $
    maxplots, curplot

```

```

; increase current plot number except if noadvance was given
if (keyword_set(advance)) then curplot = ( curplot + 1 ) > 0
if (curplot ge maxplots) then curplot = 0

; set new value of !p.multi[0] according to curplot
; this has to be done in order to achieve the same behaviour
; with map_set as with plot
; note that !p.multi will not be zero at any time, thus the
; next plot will not erase the screen automatically.

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```
maxrc = ( !p.multi[1]*!p.multi[2] ) > 1
```

```

!p.multi[0] = maxrc - curplot
; save this value of !p.multi[0]
save_p0 = !p.multi[0]

; if (not keyword_set(advance)) then !p.multi[0] = !p.multi[0] + 1
; if (!p.multi[0] gt maxplots) then !p.multi[0] = maxrc

; print,'get____ : curplot,!p.multi[0] = ',curplot,!p.multi[0]

; erase screen or page manually if necessary
if (not keyword_set(noerase) AND curplot eq 0) then erase

; create an empty dummy plot and return position
plot,findgen(10),/nodata,xstyle=4,ystyle=4

; reset !p.multi to value it had before dummy plot
!p.multi[0] = save_p0

; get plot window position :
; 1. extract it from the window coordinates
result = [ !x.window[0], !y.window[0], $
           !x.window[1], !y.window[1] ]

; apply margin correction
result = result+activemargin

; shrink to fit into page size
result[[0,2]] = result[[0,2]]*pg_.wx + pg_.ox
result[[1,3]] = result[[1,3]]*pg_.wy + pg_.oy

return, result
end

```

;\$

```

pro multipanel,ParNPlots, $
  rows=rows, cols=cols, margin=margin, omargin=omargin, $
  nplots=nplots, portrait=portrait, landscape=landscape, $
  position=position, $
  advance=advance, $
  reset=reset, noerase=noerase, $
  curplot=tcurplot,firstpanel=firstpanel,lastpanel=lastpanel, $
  off=off

```

```

COMMON PLOT__MARGINS, activemargin, margingiven, pg_, $
    maxplots, curplot

if (n_elements(activemargin) eq 0) then begin
    pg_ = { wx:1., wy:1., ox:0., oy:0. } ; page width and offset
    activemargin = [ 0., 0., 0., 0. ]
    activeomargin = [ 0., 0., 0., 0. ]
    margingiven = 0 ; no user-supplied margin
        ; extra variable , because user may supply
        ; [0,0,0,0] as margin. For omargin, 0. is the
        ; default.
    maxplots = 1
    curplot = 0
endif

; -----
; highest significance is given to the keyword that turns !p.multi off
; -----


if (keyword_set(OFF)) then begin
    !p.multi = 0

    ; reset margin values
    pg_ = { wx:1., wy:1., ox:0., oy:0. } ; page width and offset
    activemargin = [ 0., 0., 0., 0. ]
    margingiven = 0
    maxplots = 1
    curplot = 0

    Advance = 0 ; we don't want to advance any further
    NoErase = 1 ; do not erase previous work
endif

; -----
; now let's deal with keywords that turn !p.multi ON
; we need either rows and cols or nplots
; nplots is given priority since it can then return the computed
; number of rows and columns in the respective variables
; -----


; set default for position
position = [ 0., 0., 1., 1. ]

IsTurnedOn = 0

```

```

if (n_elements(Advance) eq 0) then $ ; trick to find out whether turned off
  Advance = keyword_set(Advance)

if (n_params() gt 0) then nplots = fix(ParNPlots[0])
if (n_elements(nplots) gt 0) then begin
  if (nplots le 0) then begin
    message,'NPLOTS must be positive!',/Continue
    return
  endif

  cols = ( fix( sqrt(nplots[0]-1) ) + 1 ) > 1
  rows = ( fix( (nplots[0]-1)/cols ) + 1 ) > 1

  ; switch rows and cols if portrait is selected
  ; (landscape is ignored and just included for
  ; cosmetic reasons)
  if (keyword_set(portrait)) then begin
    tmp = rows
    rows = cols
    cols = tmp
  endif

  maxplots = nplots > 1

  IsTurnedOn = 1

endif else $
if (n_elements(rows) gt 0 AND n_elements(cols) gt 0) then begin

  maxplots = rows*cols > 1

  IsTurnedOn = 1
endif

if (IsTurnedOn) then begin
  !p.multi = [ 0, cols, rows ]

  ; reset margin values (may be overwritten by explicit margin values)
  pg_ = { wx:1., wy:1., ox:0., oy:0. } ; page width and offset
  activemargin = [ 0., 0., 0., 0. ]
  margingiven = 0
  curplot = 0

  ; prevent advancing to second frame
  Advance = 0
endif

```

```

; -----
; does the user want to reset !p.multi to the first plot?
; -----



IsReset = 0
if (IsTurnedOn eq 0 AND keyword_set(Reset)) then begin
    curplot = 0
    IsReset = 1

    ; prevent advancing to second frame
    Advance = 0
endif

; -----
; get current number of rows and columns from !p.multi
; This is used to limit the margin range and to determine whether
; the maximum number of plots has been reached
; -----


nrows = !p.multi[1] > 1
ncols = !p.multi[2] > 1

; -----
; Handle the margin keywords. If it is a single value, use it for
; all four margins. Two values indicate equal x and equal y margins.
; Four values can be stored directly.
; Invert right and top margin values in activemargin so we just need
; to add it onto position.
; Make sure that left is left, and right is right, etc.
; -----


if (n_elements(omargin) gt 0) then begin
    tmargin = omargin
    if (n_elements(omargin) eq 1) then tmargin = replicate(omargin,4)
    if (n_elements(omargin) eq 2) then tmargin = [ omargin, omargin ]
    if (n_elements(tmargin) ne 4) then begin
        message,'OMARGIN must have 1, 2, or 4 elements!',/Continue
        return
    endif
    tmargin = abs(tmargin)

    ; Limit OMARGIN to a total of 0.9 at most
    ; issue a warning if they exceed a total of 0.5
    if (tmargin[0]+tmargin[2] gt 0.5) then $
        message,'LEFT/RIGHT omargins exceed 0.5!',/INFO
    if (tmargin[0]+tmargin[2] gt 0.9) then $

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tmargin[[0,2]] = 0.25

if (tmargin[1]+tmargin[3] gt 0.5) then $
  message,'LEFT/RIGHT omargins exceed 0.5!',/INFO
if (tmargin[1]+tmargin[3] gt 0.9) then $
  tmargin[[1,3]] = 0.25

; Translate tmargin into "page" parameters of common block
pg_.wx = 1. - (tmargin[0]+tmargin[2])
pg_.wy = 1. - (tmargin[1]+tmargin[3])
pg_.ox = tmargin[0]
pg_.oy = tmargin[1]

endif

if (n_elements(margin) gt 0) then begin
  tmargin = margin
  if (n_elements(margin) eq 1) then tmargin = replicate(margin,4)
  if (n_elements(margin) eq 2) then tmargin = [ margin, margin ]
  if (n_elements(tmargin) ne 4) then begin
    message,'MARGIN must have 1, 2, or 4 elements!',/Continue
    return
  endif
  tmargin = abs(tmargin)

; make sure plot has still wiggle room
; (note that margin is applied to each plot!)
if (nrows*(tmargin[0]+tmargin[2]) ge 1.) then begin
  tmargin[[0,2]] = 0.5/nrows - 0.01
  message,'LEFT/RIGHT margins too large! Set to maximum of' $
    + string(tmargin[0],format='(f8.3)'),/Continue
endif
if (ncols*(tmargin[1]+tmargin[3]) ge 1.) then begin
  tmargin[[1,3]] = 0.5/ncols - 0.01
  message,'BOTTOM/TOP margins too large! Set to maximum of' $
    + string(tmargin[1],format='(f8.3)'),/Continue
endif

; invert right and top values
tmargin[[2,3]] = -tmargin[[2,3]]

; store in common block for later use
activemargin = tmargin
margingiven = 1
endif

```

```

; -----
; Set plot position if specifically requested
; Range checking done automatically in get__plotposition
; -----

if (n_elements(tcurplot) gt 0) then $
    curplot = fix(tcurplot)

; -----
; Return position of next plot
; This automatically advances the plot position unless the
; NoAdvance keyword is set!!
; -----

; set margin values in !x and !y to zero only if a user
; margin was given
if (margingiven) then begin
    !x.margin = [0,0]
    !y.margin = [0,0]
endif

; determine position of next plot
position = get__plotposition(noerase=noerase,Advance=Advance)

; return current plot number
tcurplot = curplot
firstpanel = (curplot eq 0)
lastpanel = (curplot eq (maxplots-1))

return
end

```

File Attachments

-
- 1) [multipanel.pro](#), downloaded 75 times
-