
Subject: multiple Y-axis for 2D plots

Posted by [noymer](#) on Tue, 08 Jun 1999 07:00:00 GMT

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Dear IDL newsgroup,

I am brand new to IDL, but I've been plotting data for a while, and as such I know exactly what I want but not always how to get it. Sorry if what follows is a FAQ; I couldn't find anything.

I have data like this: a year vector (for the X-axis) and two data vectors (for the Y values of two curves). Now, the two data vectors are to be displayed on the same graph, but they have radically different Y-scales. Rather than multiply the smaller by, say 100, I would like to display them each on their own axis. By this, I mean just like the lower left panel of figure 10-12 in the "Using IDL" manual (p.200 in my version), except imagine the first curve being the distribution of temperature (as drawn), and the RH Y-axis not being Celsius, but being mmHg, and then imagine a second curve, giving the distribution of atmospheric pressure for the same locale. The LH Y-axis is for temp; the RH Y-axis is for pressure.

Some people feel that such graphs are unreadable because they don't know without careful inspection of the caption which line goes with the RH-Y-axis and which goes with the LH-Y-axis. They have a point; the way out is to do two separate panels, closely stacked. But I would like to know if this is at least doable.

From the documentation for axis (etc), it was unclear (at least to me) if this was possible, and all my experiments failed.

Thanks in advance if anyone has any thoughts.

Best,
Andrew.

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