Subject: Re: Explicit text formatting for Object Axes
Posted by davidf on Tue, 24 Aug 1999 07:00:00 GMT
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Ben Tupper (tupper@seadas.bigelow.org) writes:

> I must be missing something important - but haven't a clue about how to 'get it'.
>
> I think that I am explicitly formatting the text style for Object Axis annotation as follows ...
>
> oHelvetica10 = obj_new('IDLgrFont', 'Helvetica',size = 10.)
>
> oOrigXAxis1 -> getProperty,$
> TickText = oTickText
> oTickText -> SetProperty, Font= oHelvetica10
> oOrigXaxis1 ->setProperty, Ticktext = oTicktext
>
> To my great surprise the text is scaled to different sizes when displayed (and frequently illegible).
>
> It looks like the scaling is related to the axis data range (big ranges yield small text sizes).
>
> Shouldn't Helvetica 10pt be sized to 10pt?

Uh, no. Well, perhaps in a print shop. But certainly not on a computer display screen. On a computer, when you select something like Helvetica 12 point what you mean is "something that looks about right when I use a computer with this resolution and an axis about this long". If the designer of the "display type" was any good, you'll get something that looks reasonable. But is it 12 point? No, not likely.

And in object graphics, we normally want the "size" of the font to change. That is to say, when we expand our window to the full size of the display, it would be nice if the type on the axes was sized proportionally. In fact, it does this. Small windows give a "small" size 12 font. Large windows give a "large" size 12 font. Think of the work you would have to go to otherwise, or what a nightmare it would be to calculate the "appropriate" size font for every viewplane rectangle, on every display, in every resolution that you might encounter. :-(

I would just make sure your axes are scaled into your view before you muck around with your fonts. This will ensure that they are scaled "proportionally" to the axis they are attached to. Then, as you change axis scaling, these will change too. :-)

Cheers,

David
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