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Subject: Re: Plotting double precision

Posted by [Richard G. French](#) on Fri, 10 Mar 2000 08:00:00 GMT

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THis has been a limitation in IDL since the beginning, and it surely seems that the time has long since come for RSI to update PLOT so that it can handle double precision. I understand the need for backward compatibility, so if they want us to add a /DOUBLE keyword, I'm willing to do it. Can we band together and urge RSI to do something about this long-standing and unnecessary limitation?

Dick French

Jacques Basson wrote:

>  
> Hi all  
>  
> Does anyone know how I can plot double precision values in IDL. The plot  
> routine help says:  
>  
> Plots created with PLOT are limited to the range and precision of  
> single-precision floating-point values.  
>  
> Unfortunately, this means that values which do not lie in the  
>  $\pm 10^{(\pm 38)}$  range can't be easily plotted. Of course as luck would have  
> it, my values are of the order  $10^{(-39)}$ , and I'd rather not have factors  
> of 10 in my labels. The other option would be to take logs before  
> plotting rather than using the /ylog keyword, but I prefer the axis  
> label to have the value of the variable, rather than its log.  
>  
> Thanks  
> Jacques Basson

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