
Subject: multiple plots with *COMMON AXES*

Posted by [knight](#) on Mon, 28 Mar 1994 16:26:20 GMT

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I needed to gang some plots together with common axes. Previously I had a crude procedure to make a panel of plots along y. In this case, I wanted plots along x and also semilog capability. As a result, I wrote the enclosed procedure to make plots with *COMMON AXES*--- like using !p.multi except without space in between plots. (A recent thread in this newsgroup considered the interaction between !p.position and !p.multi, which precludes making plots with common axes without some work.)

So attached is the procedure, called multiplot.pro. To test it, after copying it to a directory in your IDL_PATH, do the following:

```
IDL> multiplot,/help
```

```
% Compiled module: MULTILOT.
```

```
----- Documentation for /users/knight/idl/multiplot.pro -----
```

```
Name:
```

```
MULTILOT
```

```
Purpose:
```

```
This procedure allows multiple plots with *COMMON AXES*, either using  
parameters passed to multiplot or !p.multi in a non-standard way.
```

```
It is good for data with one or two common axes and retains all the  
versatility of the plot commands (e.g. all keywords and log scaling).
```

```
The plots are connected with the common axes, which saves space by  
omitting redundant ticklabels and titles. Multiplot does this by  
setting !p.position, !x.tickname and !y.tickname automatically.
```

```
A call (multiplot,/reset) restores original values.
```

```
Note: This method may be superseded by future improvements in !p.multi  
by RSI. For now, it's a good way to gang plots together.
```

```
Examples:
```

```
multiplot,/help ; print this header.
```

```
; Then copy & paste, from your xterm, the following lines to test:
```

```
- - -  
/ SECTION OF IDL COMMANDS \  
< TO COPY & PASTE >  
\ /  
- - -  
--More--quit  
IDL> ...
```

As usual, I'd appreciate any comments---pro and con.

Fred

```

----- BEGIN ENCLOSED FILE -----
;+
; Name:
; MULTILOT
; Purpose:
; This procedure allows multiple plots with *COMMON AXES*, either using
; parameters passed to multiplot or !p.multi in a non-standard way.
; It is good for data with one or two common axes and retains all the
; versatility of the plot commands (e.g. all keywords and log scaling).
; The plots are connected with the common axes, which saves space by
; omitting redundant ticklabels and titles. Multiplot does this by
; setting !p.position, !x.tickname and !y.tickname automatically.
; A call (multiplot,/reset) restores original values.
;
; Note: This method may be superseded by future improvements in !p.multi
; by RSI. For now, it's a good way to gang plots together.
; Examples:
; multiplot,/help ; print this header.
; ; Then copy & paste, from your xterm, the following lines to test:
;
; x = findgen(100) ; MULTILOT
; t=exp(-(x-50)^2/300) ; -----
; erase ; | |
; u=exp(-x/30) ; | |
; y = sin(x) ; | UL plot | UR plot |
; r = reverse(y*u) ; | |
; !p.multi=[0,2,2,0,0] ; | |
; multiplot ; y-----
; plot,x,y*u,title='MULTILOT' ; l| |
; multiplot & plot,x,r ; a| |
; multiplot ; b| LL plot | LR plot |
; plot,x,y*t,ytit='ylabels' ; e| |
; multiplot ; l| |
; plot,x,y*t,xtit='xlabels' ; s-----
; multiplot,/reset ; xlabels
;
; wait,2 & erase ; TEST
; multiplot,[1,3] ; H-----
; plot,x,y*u,title='TEST' ; E| plot #1 |
; multiplot ; l-----
; plot,x,y*t,ytit='HEIGHT' ; G| plot #2 |
; multiplot ; H-----
; plot,x,r,xtit='PHASE' ; T| plot #3 |
; multiplot,/reset ; -----
; ; PHASE
;
;

```

```

; multiplot,[1,1],/init,/verbose ; one way to return to single plot
; % MULTIPLOT: Initialized for 1x1, plotted across then down (column major).
; Usage:
; multiplot[pmulti][,/help][,/initialize][,/reset][,/rowmajor]
; Optional Inputs:
; pmulti = 2-element or 5-element vector giving number of plots, e.g.,
; multiplot,[1,6] ; 6 plots vertically
; multiplot,[0,4,2,0,0] ; 4 plots along x and 2 along y
; multiplot,[0,4,2,0,1] ; ditto, except rowmajor (down 1st)
; multiplot,[4,2],/rowmajor ; identical to previous line
; Optional Keywords:
; help = flag to print header
; initialize = flag to begin only---no plotting, just setup,
; e.g., multiplot,[4,2],/init,/verbose & multiplot & plot,x,y
; reset = flag to reset system variables to values prior to /init.
; rowmajor = flag to number plots down column first (D=columnmajor)
; verbose = flag to output informational messages
; Outputs:
; !p.position = 4-element vector to place a plot
; !x.tickname = either " or else 30 ' ' to suppress ticknames
; !y.tickname = either " or else 30 ' ' to suppress ticknames
; !p.noerase = 1
; Common blocks:
; multiplot---to hold saved variables and plot counter. See code.
; Side Effects:
; Multiplot sets a number of system variables: !p.position, !p.multi,
; !x.tickname, !y.tickname, !P.noerase---but all can be reset with
; the call: multiplot,/reset
; Restrictions:
; 1. If you use !p.multi as the method of telling how many plots
; are present, you have to set !p.multi at the beginning each time you
; use multiplot or call multiplot with the /reset keyword.
; 2. There's no way to make an xtitle or ytitle span more than one plot,
; except by adding spaces to shift it or to add it manually with xyouts.
; 3. There is no way to make plots of different sizes; each plot
; covers the same area on the screen or paper.
; Procedure:
; This routine makes a matrix of plots with common axes, as opposed to
; the method of !p.multi where axes are separated to allow labels.
; Here the plots are joined and labels are suppressed, except at the
; left edge and the bottom. You tell multiplot how many plots to make
; using either !p.multi (which is then reset) or the parameter pmulti.
; However, multiplot keeps track of the position by itself because
; !p.multi interacts poorly with !p.position.
; Modification history:
; write, 21-23 Mar 94, Fred Knight (knight@ll.mit.edu)
;-
pro multiplot,help=help,pmulti $

```

```

,initialize=initialize,reset=reset $
,rowmajor=rowmajor,verbose=verbose
;
; =====>> COMMON
;
common multiplot $
, nplots $ ; [# of plots along x, # of plots along y]
, nleft $ ; # of plots remaining---like the first element of !p.multi
, pdotmulti $ ; saved value of !p.multi
, margins $ ; calculated margins based on !p.multi or pmulti
, pposition $ ; saved value of !p.position
, colmajor $ ; flag for column major order
, noerase $ ; saved value of !p.noerase
, xtickname $ ; Original value
, ytickname ; Original value
;
; =====>> HELP
;
;on_error,2
if keyword_set(help) then begin & doc_library,'multiplot' & return & endif
;
; =====>> RESTORE SAVED SYSTEM VARIABLES
;
if keyword_set(reset) then begin
    if n_elements(pposition) gt 0 then begin
        !p.position = pposition
        !x.tickname = xtickname
        !y.tickname = ytickname
        !p.multi = pdotmulti
        !p.noerase = noerase
    endif
    nleft = 0
    if keyword_set(verbose) then begin
        coords = '['+string(!p.position,form='(3(f4.2,""),f4.2)')+']'
        multi = '['+string(!p.multi,form='(4(i2,""),i2)')+']'
        message,/inform,' Reset. !p.position='+coords+', !p.multi='+multi
    endif
    return
endif
;
; =====>> SETUP: nplots, MARGINS, & SAVED SYSTEM VARIABLES
;
if n_elements(nleft) eq 1 then init = (nleft eq 0) else init = 1
if (n_elements(pmulti) eq 2) or (n_elements(pmulti) eq 5) then init = 1
if (n_elements(!p.multi) eq 5) then begin
    if (!p.multi(1) gt 0) and (!p.multi(2) gt 0) then init = (!p.multi(0) eq 0)
endif
if init or keyword_set(initialize) then begin

```

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case n_elements(pmulti) of
0:begin
  if n_elements(!p.multi) eq 1 then return ; NOTHING TO SET
  if n_elements(!p.multi) ne 5 then message,'Bogus !p.multi; aborting.'
  nplots = !p.multi(1:2) > 1
  if keyword_set(rowmajor) then colmajor = 0 else colmajor = !p.multi(4) eq 0
  end
2:begin
  nplots = pmulti
  colmajor = not keyword_set(rowmajor) ; D=colmajor: left to rt 1st
  end
5:begin
  nplots = pmulti(1:2)
  if keyword_set(rowmajor) then colmajor = 0 else colmajor = pmulti(4) eq 0
  end
else: message,'pmulti can only have 0, 2, or 5 elements.'
endcase
pposition = !p.position ; save sysvar to be altered
xtickname = !x.tickname
ytickname = !y.tickname
pdotmulti = !p.multi
nleft = nplots(0)*nplots(1) ; total # of plots
!p.position = 0 ; reset
!p.multi = 0
plot,/nodata,xstyle=4,ystyle=4,[0],/noerase ; set window & region
margins = [min(!x.window)-min(!x.region) $ ; in normlized coordinates
,min(!y.window)-min(!y.region) $
,max(!x.region)-max(!x.window) $
,max(!y.region)-max(!y.window)]
noerase = !p.noerase
!p.noerase = 1 ; !p.multi does the same
if keyword_set(verbose) then begin
  major = ['across then down (column major).','down then across (row major).']
  if colmajor then index = 0 else index = 1
  message,/inform,'Initialized for '+strtrim(nplots(0),2) $
  +'x'+strtrim(nplots(1),2)+' ', plotted '+major(index)
  endif
; print,margins,'=margins'
if keyword_set(initialize) then return
endif
;
; =====>> Define the plot region without using !p.multi.
;
cols = nplots(0) ; for convenience
rows = nplots(1)
nleft = nleft - 1 ; decrement plots remaining
cur = cols*rows - nleft ; current plot #: 1 to cols*rows
idx = [(1.-margins(0)-margins(2))/cols $

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,(1.-margins(1)-margins(3))/rows] ; normalized coords per plot
if colmajor then begin ; location in matrix of plots
  col = cur mod cols
  if col eq 0 then col = cols
  row = (cur-1)/cols + 1
endif else begin ; here (1,2) is 1st col, 2nd row
  row = cur mod rows
  if row eq 0 then row = rows
  col = (cur-1)/rows + 1
endelse
pos = [(col-1)*idx(0),(rows-row)*idx(1),col*idx(0),(rows-row+1)*idx(1)] $
  + [margins(0),margins(1),margins(0),margins(1)]
;print,row,col,rows,cols,pos
;
; =====>> Finally set the system variables; user shouldn't change them.
;
!p.position = pos
onbottom = (row eq rows) or (rows eq 1)
onleft = (col eq 1) or (cols eq 1)
if onbottom then !x.tickname = " else !x.tickname = replicate(' ',30)
if onleft then !y.tickname = " else !y.tickname = replicate(' ',30)
if keyword_set(verbose) then begin
  coords = '['+string(pos,form='(3(f4.2,""),f4.2)')+']'
  plotno = 'Setup for plot ['+strtrim(col,2)+' ','+strtrim(row,2)+' ] of ' $
    +strtrim(cols,2)+'x'+strtrim(rows,2)
  message,/inform,plotno+' at '+coords
endif
;stop
return
end
--
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