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Subject: Re: Controlling axis labels in IDL plots?  
Posted by [davidf](#) on Wed, 12 Apr 2000 07:00:00 GMT  
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Rachel Howe (rhowe@noao.edu) writes:

> I wonder if anyone can help me with a graphics problem?  
>  
> I'm getting very finicky about my IDL plots. (I use direct graphics  
> only, no objects --  
> conceptually I'm still in the v3.6 era).  
> I've learned to use the !p, !x and !y system variables, their associated  
> keywords,  
> and the axis command, to override most of the defaults, but one thing  
> eludes me.  
> Does anyone know how the distance of the axis label from the axis is  
> determined in a single-panel 2d plot?  
> There doesn't seem to be any way to control it directly, but it must be  
> some arcane function of the plot area, position/margin settings, and  
> character size. If anyone knows an algorithm, I'd be delighted to hear  
> it.  
> Or would it be easier to give up and just use  
> XYOUTS to put the annotations where I want them?

Ooohh, someone as anal as I am about the looks of things!  
Thank goodness, I had just about abandoned all hope. :-)

I don't think there is any way to control this. If  
there is an algorithm (there must be), it's a screwy  
one. I've learned to live with it in direct graphics,  
but that distance from the Y axis in object graphics  
drives me crazy. :-(

Cheers,

David

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