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Subject: Re: Plotting functions in IDL  
Posted by [M.Reuss](#) on Wed, 17 Jan 1996 08:00:00 GMT  
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For plotting, IDL needs a vector of points to plot.  
Therefore you evaluate your function at enough points and  
then plot this vector.

Suppose the function MYFUNCTION can be evaluated at one point only  
in each call and you want to plot it in the range [20,140.], one point  
at each integer number being sufficient for you. Then the following should do  
the job:

```
xarr = FINDGEN(121) + 20.  
yarr = FLTARR(121)  
FOR i = 0,N_ELEMENTS(xarr)-1 DO yarr(i) = MYFUNCTION(xarr(i))  
  
PLOT,xarr,yarr
```

This will look even more simple if the function code allows to handle  
a whole array in one call.

I am afraid I haven't understood what you mean with 'no equations'. You can  
code in IDL everything which you can code in FORTRAN, all numerical math  
works with IDL (there can be a performance problem, though).  
If you mean computer algebra, that's something very different...

Matthias Reuss

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