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Subject: Re: Images with coordinate axes, log scale etc.

Posted by [jkj](#) on Tue, 26 Feb 2008 17:05:34 GMT

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On Feb 25, 5:58 pm, pgri...@gmail.com wrote:

> Hi folks,  
>  
> there seems to be a recurrent theme in this newsgroup of questions  
> about how to plot images with plot axes (be it linear or log  
> scale) and/or irregularly gridded images.  
>  
> For example, people may have this image  
>  
> im=dist(128,128)  
>  
> and two coordinates vectors  
>  
> x=findgen(128)+1  
> y=findgen(128)+1  
>  
> and may want to plot the image with the axes overlaid on it,  
> in linear or log scale.  
>  
> There are some way to accomplish this in direct graphics:  
> a) use a routine like "spectro\_plot" or "plot\_image" from various  
> sources  
> b) use contour (strange as it may seem,  
> contour,im,x,y,levels=findgen(256)/255\*max(im),/fill,/xstyle ,/ystyle  
> does the job, although it is slow and introduces some kind of  
> (possibly unwanted) smoothing. If you don't believe this can be  
> used as a first approximation, try it on the "rose.jpg" image  
> for the IDL examples. Works quite well (for a one liner).  
> c) do it from scratch  
>  
> Now, a) requires a library that people may not have or want,  
> and b) is not really an option for serious work because of  
> artifacts from the contouring algorithm, so I decided it was  
> time to write a short stand-alone program for plotting images  
> with axes. I took the main ideas from SSW's "spectro\_plot",  
> which in turn stole it from the Wind software package, I think.  
>  
> The routine can be found at [http://hea-www.harvard.edu/~pgrigis/idl\\_stuff/pg\\_plotimage.pro](http://hea-www.harvard.edu/~pgrigis/idl_stuff/pg_plotimage.pro)  
> and can be used pretty much as one would use "plot", only  
> with the additional required inputs of the x and y vectors  
> with the coordinates.  
>  
> Here's an example (using the above definitions)  
>

```

> loadct,5
> pg_plotimage,im,x,y,/xlog,/xstyle,/ystyle,yrange=[-10,200]$
> ,title='distorted dist() image'
>
> or, if one likes some smoothing
>
> pg_plotimage,im,x,y,/xlog,/xstyle,/ystyle,yrange=[-10,200],/ smooth $
> ,title='smoothed',xtitle='some units',position=[0.2,0.2,0.8,0.8]
>
> Using the "rose" image example:
>
> rose = READ_IMAGE(FILEPATH('rose.jpg', $
> SUBDIRECTORY=['examples','data']))
> dim = SIZE(rose,/DIM)
> nx = dim[1] & ny = dim[2]
> x = findgen(nx)+1
> y = findgen(ny)+1
> im=bytsc1(total(rose,1))
> loadct,0
>
> pg_plotimage,im,x,y,/xstyle,/ystyle,/smooth,/ylog $
> ,title='Gray Rose',xtitle='some units',position=[0.2,0.2,0.8,0.8]
>
> Maybe this can be of some use. I haven't really tested heavily,
> so let me know if you find bugs or have suggestion for improvement.
> Just be aware that if you have negative or 0 axis values and try the
> log keywords, you are beyond redemption ;-))
>
> How does the routine work? The idea is to interpolate the
> input image at the location of every pixel in the plot window
> (the coordinates associated with each pixel depend then on
> the plot & window size and the linear vs. log axis choice).
> This is reasonably fast, as interpolation of, say, about
> 1 million data points is not a hard thing to do.
>
> Cheers,
> Paolo

```

Worked fine for me on Linux running IDL-5.5, using all combinations of x/ylog. Most of my focus right now is object graphics, but I'll make a note of this thread and place it in the code so that if I make any changes which seem useful I will know who to contact!  
 Thanks,  
 -Kevin

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