

---

Subject: Using XYOUTS to substitute numbers for symbols on scatter plots: a caveat

Posted by [MarioIncandenza](#) on Fri, 05 Feb 2010 18:42:38 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

- 1) Obvious: use ALIGNMENT=0.5 to get the text centered on the point.
- 2) Less obvious: use a STRING(data,FORMAT='(iN.N)') and put the data in a fixed-width format.

I wish IDL would do better, maybe it can and I am missing something. I simply want to substitute an integer label from 1-999 for the symbols in a scatter plot. Basically, what I find is that unless I specify FORMAT='(i3.3)' and make it plot 1 as '0001', the smaller numbers will be offset to the right. I would have expected that FORMAT='(i)' would give me what I want, but instead I get a tab-sized offset on every number, even with ALIGN=0.5.

--Edward H.

---