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Subject: PLOT x and y ranges

Posted by [Jeremy Bailin](#) on Fri, 19 Mar 2010 13:46:33 GMT

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More fun with "expected" unexpected behaviour,.. this time with PLOT.

If you give PLOT an X RANGE but not a Y RANGE, it automatically determines the y range by looking at the minimum and maximum data point in the range xrange[0]:xrange[1]. Sounds reasonable.

But that's not necessarily the x range that gets plotted (unless XSTYLE=1). For example, consider the difference between the following:

```
plot, [0,1,2,3,4], [2,1,2,1,43]
plot, [0,1,2,3,4], [2,1,2,1,43], xrange=[0,3.1]
```

In both cases, the plot goes from 0 to 4 in x, but the y ranges are wildly different: 0-80 in the first case, and 0-2 in the second.

Of course, the fact that the line jumps almost vertically in the second plot should tell you that something's up... but where this gets really sneaky is if you use PSYM=10 (or equivalently, if this is getting called inside PLOTHIST in the astronomy library). For example, the following two plots look identical and would lead you to believe that the last bin contains a 2:

```
plot, [0,1,2,3,4], [2,1,2,1,69], xrange=[0,3.1], psym=10
plot, [0,1,2,3,4], [2,1,2,1,2], xrange=[0,3.1], psym=10
```

-Jeremy.

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