
Subject: Re: Is there a way to plot with axis breaks in IDL?

Posted by [mankoff](#) on Wed, 07 Apr 2010 16:08:34 GMT

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On Apr 3, 11:21 am, mankoff <mank...@gmail.com> wrote:

> On Apr 2, 6:12 am, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:

>

>

>

>> I've made plots like this before. It is not particularly

>> difficult to do *a* plot. It is more difficult to write

>> this kind of functionality in a general way.

>

> I think I just came up with a fairly generic implementation

here:<http://code.google.com/p/kdm-idl/source/browse/trunk/plotbreak.pro>

>

> For example I was able to produce the following graphic (including

> equivalent of OPLOTT command) with the following two lines of

code:<http://kenmankoff.com/tmp/plotbreak.png>

>

```
> plotbreak, time, p, $
>     position=pos, $
>     xrange0=[0,1000], $
>     xrange1=[1000,3000], $
>     breakpct=66, $
>     key0={ytitle:'Population (Phytoplankton)', $
>           xtitle:'Time (days)', $
>           xtickn:['0','20','40','60','80',' '],$
>           title:'Predator v. Prey', $
>           thick:2}, $
>     key1={xtitle:'Time (days)', $
>           yst:5,thick:2,$
>           xtickn:['100','150','200','250','300'] }
```

>

```
> plotbreak, time, z, $
>     position=pos, $
>     breakpct=66, $
>     xrange0=[0,1000], $
>     xrange1=[1000,3000], $
>     key0={NOERASE:1,color:253,thick:3,yst:5,xst:5}, $
>     key1={color:253,thick:3,xst:5,$
>           ytitle:'Population (Zooplankton)'}
```

>

> A truly generic algorithm, which would be difficult, would be

> recursive and let me specify BREAKPCT=[10,30,80,90,95] rather than

> just as a single percentage (66% in the above example). It should also

> be recursive in X and Y. That algorithm, when complete, could then

> easily be used to draw, for example, a calendar with the weekends

> (first and last column) thinner than the middle weekdays. I'll leave
> that as an exercise to the reader.
>
> -k.

Not sure if anyone has downloaded this but I found some bugs and fixed them. I also changed key0 and key1 keywords to be `_EXTRA_0` and `_EXTRA_1` to be more 'standard'.

Simpler examples of usage than originally provided, that I think demonstrate generality, are:

```
x = dindgen(51)
IDL> plotbreak, x, exp(x)
IDL> plotbreak, x, exp(x), breakpct=10
IDL> plotbreak, x, exp(x), breakpct=90

IDL> plotbreak, x, exp(-x), breakpct=10
IDL> plotbreak, x, exp(-x), breakpct=90
IDL> plotbreak, x, exp(-x), breakpct=90, _EXTRA_1={xticks:1}

IDL> plotbreak, x, -exp(-x), breakpct=90, _EXTRA_1={xticks:1}
IDL> plotbreak, x, -exp(x), breakpct=10, _EXTRA_0={xticks:1}
```

And of course sine waves and random functions all appear to work well with this algorithm.

I won't post further updates here. The program (and code library) have RSS feeds if you are interested in more...

-k.
