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Subject: Re: Controlling axis labels in IDL plots?  
Posted by [laura.hike](#) on Thu, 01 May 2014 21:57:39 GMT  
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On Friday, April 14, 2000 12:00:00 AM UTC-7, Rachel Howe wrote:

> Mark Hadfield wrote:  
>>  
>> "Rachel Howe" <[rhowe@noao.edu](mailto:rhowe@noao.edu)> wrote in message  
>> [news:38F673F6.7A8BA656@noao.edu](mailto:news:38F673F6.7A8BA656@noao.edu)...  
>>>  
>>> And presumably one could go the other way using !D?  
>>  
>> !C stands for carriage return. Putting it at the beginning or end of the  
>> label shifts the label around by adding an empty line. !D is not the  
>> opposite of !C.  
>>  
>  
>  
> Of course. Sorry to be slow on the uptake!  
>  
> Unfortunately, though I can make the TITLE and YTITLE move in and out  
> like anything by adding trailing or leading !c, the XTITLE will move  
> down but won't move up -- it just sits there while the extra lines go  
> trailing down the screen and off the edge of the window.  
> It's a pity there isn't a reverse-line-feed character .. . wait a  
> minute!  
> !a and !b shift text 'above or below the division line' -- ie half a  
> line up or down.  
> That works on the x axis. Adding in stuff like STRING(12B) doesn't seem  
> to help,  
> with the XTITLE either.  
>  
> Failing that, there are the dubious delights of the ANNOTATE procedure  
> to experiment with.  
> (Has anyone else tried that and had their window jumping across the  
> screen?)  
>  
> Thanks again for the suggestion!  
>  
>  
> --  
> Rachel Howe  
> National Solar Observatory, Tucson AZ

Wow, 14 years later and this is still a problem!! Is there any way to move the y-axis title closer to the axis? I tried all of the tricks listed above and none of them worked. !C at the beginning keeps the edge at the same place but just stretches the letters to the right, !C at the end pushes the

whole title off the edge of the plot area, and a leading !b does move the text inward UNTIL it gets to a superscript, which actually moves up a line and off the edge of the page. Can't we just set the damned position of the title?? There are so many other aspects of a plot that can be controlled.

I managed to get the title onto the page by resetting the margins, but I think the plot looks stupid because the title is so far away from the axis.

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