
Subject: Re: iplot, /xlog

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Fri, 18 Aug 2006 20:27:24 GMT

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Benjamin Hornberger writes:

> IDL> iplot, findgen(10), xrange=[1.,10.], yrange=[2.,8.], /xlog, /ylog

Try X_LOG and Y_LOG keywords and I think you will have better luck. :-)

Cheers,

David

P.S. This is a problem with keyword inheritance. It is easy to write code that allows you to use the wrong keywords without error, but also without effect. At the end of the chain, there should be a _STRICT_EXTRA=extra statement to catch this kind of thing.

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.

Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>

Sepore ma de ni thui. (Opata Indian saying, meaning "Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

Subject: Re: iplot, /xlog

Posted by [Benjamin Hornberger](#) on Fri, 18 Aug 2006 20:49:09 GMT

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David Fanning wrote:

> Benjamin Hornberger writes:

>

>

>> IDL> iplot, findgen(10), xrange=[1.,10.], yrange=[2.,8.], /xlog, /ylog

>

>

> Try X_LOG and Y_LOG keywords and I think you will have better luck. :-)

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> David

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> write code that allows you to use the wrong keywords without
> error, but also without effect. At the end of the chain, there

> should be a `_STRICT_EXTRA=extra` statement to catch this kind
> of thing.
>

Damn, I was reading the documentation so many times and still missed it. Yes, they should make sure wrong keywords are caught. Plus, the direct graphics PLOT routine takes `/xlog` and `/ylog`. Plus, the iPlot keywords are quite inconsistent in whether or not they have the `_` after XYZ.

That helps for now -- still it would be great if somebody could shine some light on the problem of how to control it after the creation of the iTool, which I could use for some other stuff.

Thanks,
Benjamin

Subject: Re: iplot, /xlog
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Fri, 18 Aug 2006 21:36:19 GMT
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Benjamin Hornberger writes:

> Damn, I was reading the documentation so many times and still missed it.
> Yes, they should make sure wrong keywords are caught.

It is probably not as easy as I suggested it might be to solve. Unless you have some final object that is contained in all other others (e.g., the CatAtom object in my Catalyst Library), you can never be absolutely sure you ARE at the end of the chain. This is just an inherent problem with multiple inheritance chains, I think. iPlot is complicated. Lots of keywords are inherited. It is a BIG job to keep track of all of them. Keyword inheritance is used to keep the job under budget, but there are risks to using it. Risks I think even I would take, under the circumstances.

> Plus, the direct
> graphics PLOT routine takes `/xlog` and `/ylog`. Plus, the iPlot keywords
> are quite inconsistent in whether or not they have the `_` after XYZ.

Oh, well, Benjamin. I think you have worked with IDL long enough that *these* modest annoyances shouldn't throw you. You are just probably having a bad day. Go get a beer and worry about it next week. :-)

Cheers,

David

--

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Subject: Re: iplot, /xlog

Posted by [Michael Galloy](#) on Fri, 18 Aug 2006 21:41:07 GMT

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David Fanning wrote:

- > P.S. This is a problem with keyword inheritance. It is easy to
- > write code that allows you to use the wrong keywords without
- > error, but also without effect. At the end of the chain, there
- > should be a `_STRICT_EXTRA=extra` statement to catch this kind
- > of thing.

I agree this is a major pain with the iTools. I think the problem is that the iTool creation routine passes the keywords to multiple other routines. In this case `_STRICT_EXTRA` can't be used on any individual call since the a given keyword might be accepted in some other call.

Mike

--

www.michaelgalloy.com

Subject: Re: iplot, /xlog

Posted by [Kenneth P. Bowman](#) on Sat, 19 Aug 2006 01:30:55 GMT

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In article <MPG.1f4fd09a6d1b6864989c8c@news.frii.com>,
David Fanning <davidf@dfanning.com> wrote:

- > Benjamin Hornberger writes:
- >
- >> IDL> iplot, findgen(10), xrange=[1.,10.], yrange=[2.,8.], /xlog, /ylog
- >
- > Try `X_LOG` and `Y_LOG` keywords and I think you will have better luck. :-)
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- > Cheers,

>
> David
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> P.S. This is a problem with keyword inheritance. It is easy to
> write code that allows you to use the wrong keywords without
> error, but also without effect. At the end of the chain, there
> should be a `_STRICT_EXTRA=extra` statement to catch this kind
> of thing.

A more basic problem is that PLOT uses XLOG and YLOG, while iPlot uses
X_LOG and Y_LOG. Not the best human factors engineering.

Keywords may be slightly more consistent in the iTools, but explain
NO_SAVEPROMPT. Why isn't that NO_SAVE_PROMPT?

Ken

Subject: Re: iplot, /xlog
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Sat, 19 Aug 2006 01:52:47 GMT
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Kenneth P. Bowman writes:

> A more basic problem is that PLOT uses XLOG and YLOG, while iPlot uses
> X_LOG and Y_LOG. Not the best human factors engineering.
>
> Keywords may be slightly more consistent in the iTools, but explain
> NO_SAVEPROMPT. Why isn't that NO_SAVE_PROMPT?

I didn't say I could explain it. Only that I choose
to see it as part of IDL's charm. How else could you
remain sane?

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.
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Sepore ma de ni thui. (Opata Indian saying, meaning "Perhaps thou
speakest truth.")

Subject: Re: iplot, /xlog
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Sat, 19 Aug 2006 02:03:49 GMT

David Fanning writes:

```
> Kenneth P. Bowman writes:
>
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> I didn't say I could explain it. Only that I choose
> to see it as part of IDL's charm. How else could you
> remain sane?
```

Sometimes these keyword names, by the way, are chosen to **expressly** avoid problems with keyword inheritance chains. I wouldn't be a bit surprised to learn that something like this turned XLOG into X_LOG.

I'd look into it, but I am still recovering from something I picked up in Africa and I don't need any more troubles. :-)

Cheers,

David

--

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