Subject: Re: Rotating axis labels
Posted by David Fanning on Thu, 04 Oct 2007 15:46:25 GMT
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## Melanie writes:

- > I am trying to format some plots to look nice for a presentation and I
- > am having trouble with my tick labels on the x axis. Each label is a
- > variable name and there are 20 of them, so just printing them under
- > the axis makes them all run together and thus illegible. Is there
- > some way after setting the xtickname to an array of variable names to
- > then rotate each name so that it can sit at maybe a 45 degree angle or
- > perpendicular to the axis?

What you will want to do is turn axis annotation off of that axis and get the tick values. Something like this:

```
IDL> numticks = 5
IDL> Plot, dates, curve, XTickFormat='(A1)', XTick_Get=tickValues, $
    XTicks=numticks
```

Then the labels will be attached with the XYOUTS command. You can use the ![XY].Window system variables to find the end-points of the X and Y axes in normalized coordinates. This information is critical for positioning the labels correctly. Your code will look something like this:

```
IDL> ypos = Replicate(!Y.Window[0] - 0.04, numticks+1)
IDL> xpos = !X.Window[0] + (!X.Window[1]) - !X.Window[0]) * $
    FIndGen(numTicks+1)/numTicks
IDL> FOR j=0,numTicks DO XYOutS, xpos[j], ypos[j], $
    Alignment=0.0, Orientation=-45, /Normal
```

Cheers.

David

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