
Subject: moving axes around in 3D plots

Posted by [vek](#) on Tue, 28 Feb 1995 20:07:41 GMT

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I want to plot some surfaces from various angles but still have the axes be visible. The IDL manual suggests using reverse to move the surface viewing angle without altering the axes (usually by reversing the direction of one or more axes), but I prefer to rotate the image to the desired angle and then change the position of the axes without changing the directions of the axes. How do I do this?

Ex: Change (A) to (B) by moving the y and z axes to the other side of the x.

(A) (B)

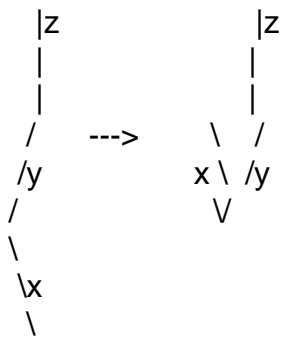


Diagram illustrating the transformation of 3D axes from (A) to (B). In (A), the z-axis is vertical, the y-axis is diagonal down-left, and the x-axis is diagonal down-right. In (B), the z-axis is vertical, the y-axis is diagonal up-right, and the x-axis is diagonal down-left. An arrow points from (A) to (B).

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Vincent Kargatis -- Space Physics & | "Must be Texans. Lowest form
Astronomy, Rice U., Houston, TX | of White Man there is."
[vek@spacsun.rice.edu] | -- Robert Duvall's character in
[http://spacsun.rice.edu/~vek/vek.html] | GERONIMO: AN AMERICAN LEGEND

Subject: Re: Moving Axes

Posted by [Allan Whiteford](#) on Wed, 30 Jan 2008 15:10:16 GMT

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chloesharrocks@gmail.com wrote:

> Dear all
>
> I'm plotting data which has both +ve and -ve x and y values and
> possesses a linear relationship which crosses the xaxis at a value
>
>> 0. At the moment my x-axis is 'sitting' at y= -5, which makes it
>
> very hard to notice that the xintercept is positive when just looking
> at the graph (I do have an xyout output telling me the xintercept
> value, but it would be nice if just a quick glance at the graph made
> this obvious). Is there any way for me to move the x-axis up so it
> sits on y=0 (and similarly moving the y-axis so its at x=0) but so

> that my negative value data is still plotted? I presume there must be
> an easy way to do this in IDL - at the moment I'm just overplotting
> lines corresponding to y=0 and x=0 just so I can clearly see the
> xintercept's positive.
>
> Thanks
> Chloï ½
>
> PS. I'm a complete IDL novice, so the simpler the better please!

Chloï ½,

Look at the AXIS procedure.

E.g.:

```
IDL> plot,findgen(11)-5,findgen(11)-5,xstyle=4,ystyle=4  
IDL> axis,0,0  
IDL> axis,0,0,/yax
```

Thanks,

Allan

Subject: Re: Moving Axes

Posted by [Brian Larsen](#) on Wed, 30 Jan 2008 15:13:38 GMT

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> I'm plotting data which has both +ve and -ve x and y values and
> possesses a linear relationship which crosses the xaxis at a value>0. At the moment my x-axis
is 'sitting' at y= -5,

This is normal IDL behavior, IDL draws a box around the plot with the
ranges on it so you probably have an xaxis 'sitting' at -5 and another
at +6 (or something).

A more specific example could help us understand more fully but in my
example:

```
plot, findgen(10)-5  
i have a xaxis at y=-6 and y=+4.
```

I often draw a horizontal line on a plot at y=0 to help guide the eye,
done without thinking using:

http://people.bu.edu/balarsen/IDLdoc/oplot_horiz.html

http://people.bu.edu/balarsen/IDLdoc/oplot_vertical.html

As for making the plot with the x-axis in the middle of the plot at

$y=0$, I am sure this is possible but I cant recall any easy way. Have you looked though <http://dfanning.com/> ? An amazing number of questions are answered there,

Cheers,

Brian

Brian Larsen
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Center for Space Physics
