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

Posted by [mankoff](#) on Fri, 02 Apr 2010 03:57:41 GMT

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On Apr 1, 8:28 pm, "fututre.keyboard" <future.keybo...@gmail.com> wrote:

> I know this is rare when you need to do this kinda plot. But i'd
> appreciate a lot if someone can point me to the right direction.
> Thanks!
>
> BTW: here is an example of axis break plot from Originlab's
webpage.<http://www.originlab.com/index.aspx?s=8&lm=114&a mp;pid=1020>

Two plot commands with various combinations of POSITION and YSTYLE keywords. Perhaps some use of the AXIS command. Then, PLOTS to draw the four "/" symbols.

-k.

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

Posted by [d.poreh](#) on Fri, 02 Apr 2010 12:34:05 GMT

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On Apr 1, 7:57 pm, mankoff <mank...@gmail.com> wrote:

> On Apr 1, 8:28 pm, "fututre.keyboard" <future.keybo...@gmail.com>
> wrote:
>
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> Two plot commands with various combinations of POSITION and YSTYLE
> keywords. Perhaps some use of the AXIS command. Then, PLOTS to draw
> the four "/" symbols.
>
> -k.

I am also very interested.

I think David could write an article about that!

Cheers

D.

Subject: Re: Is there a way to plot with axis breaks in IDL?
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Fri, 02 Apr 2010 13:12:57 GMT
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Dave Poreh writes:

- > I am also very interested.
- > I think David could write an article about that!

Or, somebody who needs the functionality can do it
and write it up, and I would publish it for them! :-)

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.

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.
Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>
Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

Subject: Re: Is there a way to plot with axis breaks in IDL?
Posted by [mankoff](#) on Sat, 03 Apr 2010 18:21:03 GMT
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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.ak.pro>

For example I was able to produce the following graphic (including
equivalent of OPLOT 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.

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:

>

>

>

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>           xtickn:['0','20','40','60','80',' '],$
>           title:'Predator v. Prey', $
>           thick:2}, $
>     key1={xtitle:'Time (days)', $
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>           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}, $
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> easily be used to draw, for example, a calendar with the weekends
> (first and last column) thinner than the middle weekdays. I'll leave
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>
> -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.

Subject: Re: Is there a way to plot with axis breaks in IDL?
Posted by [fututre.keyboard](#) on Thu, 08 Apr 2010 07:33:48 GMT
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Thanks for the implementation. It takes only a little tweak to make the plot useful. What I need to pay attention when tweaking are the tick- related stuff. The other thing is that I have to suppress the x-title/title and use xyouts to get a centered x-title/title. Although I don't need to break up y-axis, I would imagine a hard time to xyouts y-title in a usual orientation.

E

On Apr 3, 11:21 am, mankoff <mank...@gmail.com> wrote:
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>
>
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>           thick:2}, $
>     key1={xtitle:'Time (days)', $
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> plotbreak, time, z, $
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>     key0={NOERASE:1,color:253,thick:3,yst:5,xst:5}, $
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