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Subject: The refresh method and relative coordinate positioning  
Posted by [Gordon Farquharson](#) on Mon, 19 May 2014 19:40:35 GMT  
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Hi All

In the spirit of sharing knowledge about function graphics, I present the following knowledge gained after some quality hair pulling time.

A great trick when plotting large amounts of data with function graphics is to disable drawing in the window. For example,

```
w1 = window(DIMENSIONS=[800, 400])  
w1.refresh, /DISABLE
```

```
im1 = image(findgen(1000,1000), CURRENT=w1, IMAGE_DIMENSIONS=[60,30],  
IMAGE_LOCATION=[25,25], AXIS_STYLE=2)
```

```
w1.refresh
```

Another nice feature of function graphics is relative coordinate positioning. For example, I can add a color bar to the right of the image using

```
cb1 = colorbar(TARGET=im1, ORIENTATION=1, TEXTPOS=1, POSITION=[1.025,0.,1.050, 1.],  
/RELATIVE)
```

However, disabling refresh and relative coordinate positioning do not play nicely together. For example, try

```
w1 = window(DIMENSIONS=[800, 400])  
w1.refresh, /DISABLE
```

```
im1 = image(findgen(1000,1000), CURRENT=w1, IMAGE_DIMENSIONS=[60,30],  
IMAGE_LOCATION=[25,25], AXIS_STYLE=2)
```

```
cb1 = colorbar(TARGET=im1, ORIENTATION=1, TEXTPOS=1, POSITION=[1.025,0.,1.050, 1.],  
/RELATIVE)
```

```
w1.refresh
```

The result is not what one would expect (and rather frustrating if you try the latter first).

Gordon

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