
Subject: Re: IDLgrPLOT and log

Posted by [Matthew Hanson](#) on Thu, 08 Jan 1998 08:00:00 GMT

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Hello Bernard,

I had the same question about log plots a while ago and Randy Frank answered my question. The documentation for this is lacking - it requires a lot more than the simple keyword for IDLgrAxis. You must transform the Plot Limits and your data to log results before plotting. So, for example, a plot from 0.01 to 100 in log scale would have view plot boundaries from -2 to 2. The View would also need an equivalent area (with extra space for axis text and such. When plotting the data just plot `alog10(data)` rather than just data. Hope this helps. Following is the original post from before along with Randy Frank's (from RSI) answer. There is a short example at the end.

-matt

=====

Matthew Hanson wrote:

(snip)

- > Has anyone else tried making object log plots?
- > There are no examples of log plots in any of the IDL examples. It
- > appears in none of the books. In fact the word log only appears >once -
- > as a keyword to the IDLgrAxis object.

Matt, I agree that the docs need to be updated wrt the LOG property.

It helps

to begin with the (current) basis of object graphics. Data spaces which cannot

be described using a 4x4 matrix transform are not directly supported as inverse

transforms cannot be placed in the graphics hardware. The LOG property tells the axis object how to select its text labels and where to place the tickmarks

it does not transform the data space (it cannot as it does not "own" any children and thus any data space). So, you need to setup your viewport for the

log of the data. Note that there is no LOG keyword on the IDLgrPlot object

either, so you must log your data before you put it in the Plot object and the

data space you are using is then linear in log space. This is a lot more work

than required in direct graphics, but what most people have done is to create

a "myplot" subclass which handles this (and any other non-linear data

transform) and usually combines the axis w/the plot object. This is the state of affairs in the current release of IDL, things may be changing in the future...

Quick example:

```
w=obj_new("idlgrwindow")
v=obj_new("idlgrview",view=[-1,-1,4,4])
v->add,m
a=obj_new("idlgraxis",range=[1,100],/log)
m->add,a
w->draw,v
```

Hope it helps.

Bernard Puc wrote:

```
>
> Hello,
> Can somebody show me an example of plotting on a log/log scale using
> ObjectGraphics? I'm trying to learn Object Graphics and I can't seem to
> get log plots. Any help appreciated. Thanks.
>
> -Bernard Puc
```

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