
Subject: Re: power style labels
Posted by [davidf](#) on Fri, 08 Jan 1999 08:00:00 GMT
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Atsushi SHIMIZU (shimizu@kurasc.kyoto-u.ac.jp) writes:

> Could anyone tell me how to force IDL to make labels with power style
> without using [XYZ]TICKNAME?

No, I doubt it. :-)

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.
Fanning Software Consulting
Phone: 970-221-0438 E-Mail: davidf@dfanning.com
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>
Toll-Free IDL Book Orders: 1-888-461-0155

Subject: Re: power style labels
Posted by [davidf](#) on Sat, 09 Jan 1999 08:00:00 GMT
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Stein Vidar Hagfors Haugan (steinhh@ulrik.uio.no) writes:

>
> David Fanning wrote:
>
>> Atsushi SHIMIZU (shimizu@kurasc.kyoto-u.ac.jp) writes:
>>
>>> Could anyone tell me how to force IDL to make labels with power style
>>> without using [XYZ]TICKNAME?
>>
>> No, I doubt it. :-)
>
> Oh - wanna bet? :-)
>
> Using the xtickformat to name a formatting function, this
> can definitely be done. Try the following:

Using the WHAT keyword!?

Sure, it is easily possible with a function. But the man said he didn't want to use the keyword. What can I say? I stand by my statement and I accept the bet.
Dinner next time I'm in Oslo? :-)

Cheers,

David

--

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Subject: Re: power style labels

Posted by [steinhh](#) on Sat, 09 Jan 1999 08:00:00 GMT

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David Fanning wrote:

> Atsushi SHIMIZU (shimizu@kurasc.kyoto-u.ac.jp) writes:

>

>> Could anyone tell me how to force IDL to make labels with power style

>> without using [XYZ]TICKNAME?

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> No, I doubt it. :-)

Oh - wanna bet? :-)

Using the xtickformat to name a formatting function, this can definitely be done. Try the following:

```
FUNCTION ytf,axis,index,n
```

```
  IF n EQ 0 THEN return,'0' ;; Special case
```

```
  ex = string(n,'(e7.0)')
```

```
  pt = strpos(ex,'')
```

```
  first = strmid(ex,pt-1,1)
```

```
  sgn = strmid(ex,pt+2,1)
```

```
  exp = strmid(ex,pt+3,100)
```

```
  ;; Shave off leading zero in exponent
```

```
  IF strmid(exp,0,1) EQ '0' THEN exp = strmid(exp,1,100)
```

```
  IF sgn EQ '-' THEN return,first+'x10!A'+sgn+exp $
```

```
  ELSE          return,first+'x10!A'+exp
```

```
END
```

and then do

```
plot, [0, 1e5], ytickformat = 'ytf'
```

It appears that the "native" IDL tickmarks use a special symbol for "times" - not simply an "x".... but that's just about the only difference I can see!

Regards,

Stein Vidar

Subject: Re: power style labels

Posted by [davidf](#) on Sun, 10 Jan 1999 08:00:00 GMT

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Stein Vidar Hagfors Haugan (steinhh@ulrik.uio.no) writes:

```
> Dave,
>
> I just cancelled a previous post where I had written:
>
>> Dave,
>>
>> Shimizu said he didn't want to use the [xyz]tickNAME keyword,
>> he didn't say anything about the [xyz]tickFORMAT keyword.
> [...]
>> Sure, dinner sounds good, since you decided to take up the
>> bet :-)
>
> Now that I've re-read the original question, I see that Shimizu
> did mention ytickformat:
>
>> ...I don't like to use following style.
>>> plot, [0, 1e4], ytickformat = '(e7.1)'
>
> However, I think what he meant was he didn't like the look of
> using ytickformat='(e7.1)', not that he wouldn't use ytickformat
> at all.... how about a draw?
```

This whole discussson reminds me of my favorite pet peeve about technical support engineers. So many of them (like I did) answer the *question* rather than (like Stein Vidar did) solve the *problem*. And I suspect many of them do it for the same reason I did: there are not enough hours in the day to do everything that needs doing. Answering questions is quite a bit easier

than solving problems. :-)

But the number one rule of technical support, it seems to me, is that the question is almost always indicative of confusion, not clear thinking. If most bright people think clearly about a problem, they can usually solve it on their own. Thus, just answering the question is often not all that helpful. The best support engineers, like Stein Vidar, anticipate the problem behind the question and work to solve that. Often the problem is nothing more than fuzzy (or incomplete) thinking on the part of the user.

In any case, I'll be happy to spring for dinner the next time I'm in Oslo because no matter which question you answer--the one asked or the one anticipated--I almost always learn something worth knowing. :-)

Cheers,

David

--

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Regards,

Stein Vidar

Subject: Re: power style labels

Posted by [Atsushi SHIMIZU](#) on Mon, 11 Jan 1999 08:00:00 GMT

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steinhh@ulrik.uio.no (Stein Vidar Hagfors Haugan) writes:

```
> However, I think what he meant was he didn't like the look of  
> using ytickformat='(e7.1)', not that he wouldn't use ytickformat  
> at all.... how about a draw?
```

I apologize my fuzzy question. I just dislike the look of (e7.1), and using ytickformat with function seems very good idea. I appreciate Vidar's function and Fanning's comments.

Please share the expenses of dinner in Oslo!

Shimizu
