Subject: label_date precision problem
Posted by mh on Wed, 24 Sep 1997 07:00:00 GMT
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Hello All,

I've got some timeseries data every 15 minutes for a period of a couple of
days, and I'd like to use the label_date routine to do the time (x) axis. In order
to use label_date, I am converting my time axis into absolute Julian Day -
a real number when you convert the time as well. For example, 2450717.5
would be 12:00 on 9/25/1997. If I want 12:15, though, I get 2450717.5104.
But, it appears IDL isn't maintaining the precision of a double when I plot, and
the .5104 is getting truncated to .5. This makes for an ugly plot, with 4 or 5
y-values collapsing onto one x-value.

Right now, I'm working around it by pretending I'm in year -4710, which is
basically the start year for -4713 (1/1/-4713 = Julian Day 1) in order to keep
enough precision to get down to hours. It works, but, it's a cludge, and requires
some thinking around leap years.

Anybody have a suggestion how to make this work? Or another easy way of
doing a time axis in IDL?

Please respond via email.

Thanks,
Mike

Michael Hamilton mikeh@pmel.noaa.gov
NOAA/PMEL phone: 206-526-4810
7600 Sand Point Way NE
Seattle, WA 98115 fax: 206-526-6744

Mr. Bingley...was lively and unreserved, danced every dance,
was angry that the ball closed so early, and talked of
giving one himself at Netherfield. Such amiable qualities
must speak for themselves.
From "Pride and Prejudice" by Jane Austen
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mikeh@pmel.noaa.gov
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