
Subject: Re: axis labels

Posted by [Mirko Vukovic](#) on Wed, 06 Sep 2000 15:31:42 GMT

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In article <39B5DBB1.172B0CAC@fz-juelich.de>,

"r.bauer" <r.bauer@fz-juelich.de> wrote:

>

>

> Mirko Vukovic wrote:

>>

>> Hi again,

>>

>> I have a plot of x vs. y. I would like before hand to know

>> what tick-values of x IDL will put. One way is to create a dummy

>> plot and obtain the tick values.

>>

>> Is there some more direct way? I thought IDL had a routine for that

>> but could not find it.

>>

>> Thanks,

>>

>> Mirko (Vukovic)

>

> Dear Mirko,

>

> I like to hear a bit more why you like to know the axis values.

>

> Would you like to format the labels?

>

> regards

> Reimar

>

You see, I have this gorgeous piece of software. And I really mean it.

And it should be shared with the rest of the IDL world (but see later).

It is the ultimate plot routine, based on `_direct_` graphics and completely oop-ed, that can plot, replot, print, save to ps, zoom, etc.

But the gem is that it is completely `_extedable_` with the user not having to deal with its internals whatsoever (within reason). To add another type of plot (polar say), one has to write several objects, and modify the `_caller_` to the plot routine, so that it can accept a `\polar` keyword.

So, it started as me writing it for a prof. from east coast. Since then it has evolved some, to accept polar plots, contours, (polar too), smith charts, and now time series, where the axis is time in hours, minutes, seconds, days, etc).

I am therefore writing the code how to display the ticks for the time axis. I want it to be general in the sense that I plot the data:

```
> cplot, time, data,/time_series
```

where the time axis is displayed in seconds, say. But then, I may want to modify the axis to be displayed in days (suppose my series lasts over several days). I would then do

```
> modframe,xaxis='days',
```

and it would replot the stuff, with the axis now in days.

So, this is the origin of the question. I am working on this axis display, and the plot will always be vs. seconds (internally), but then, using the axis procedure, I will put the tick marks on minutes, days, hours, whatever I specify.

Oh, and why do I not share the gem? Time, Time, as said Bilbo Baggins. It is currently a mess of some 50+ routines (I guess), and has still rough edges. If I had two weeks off to do it, I would try to put it on a web site. But for now, it remains buried.

Mirko

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