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Subject: Re: Irregularly spaced tick-marks on secondary axis.  
Posted by [Ken Mankoff](#) on Thu, 02 May 2002 12:55:17 GMT  
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On Wed, 1 May 2002, Paul Van Delst wrote:

```
> FUNCTION wticks, axis, index, value
>   wavelength = 10000.0d / value
>   format = '( f5.2 )'
>   RETURN, STRING( wavelength, FORMAT = format )
> END
>
> PLOT, x, y, XSTYLE = 8
> AXIS, XAXIS = 1, $
>   X RANGE = !X.CRANGE, $
>   XTICKV = 10000.0d/[ 10d, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 ], $
>   XTICKS = 5, $
>   XSTYLE = 1, $
>   XTICKFORMAT = 'wticks'
>
> As you can see, the above AXIS command assumes something about the
> XTICKV values. However, if I now decide to zoom into the plot such
> that the x-range falls between, say, 11 and 12 microns -- no
> wavelength scale is shown since XTICKV doesn't contain fractional
> wavelength values. Is there any way to get IDL to set "nice"
> wavelength values (via a dynamic XTICKV for e.g.) on the top scale
> based on the wavenumber range on the bottom scale?
```

Can't you make the inputs to XTICKV a function call (as you say, a "dynamic XTICKV"), and use !X.CRANGE in that function?

This seems fairly straightforward, so if this is not the solution, please clarify a bit...

The best analogy I can think of to your problem is "MAP\_GRID", which picks nice gridlines for global views (30 degrees) and also nice gridlines for close-up views (every .001 degrees if the view small enough). Is this what you are trying to achieve?

-k.  
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