Subject: How to determine good tickmark formats?
Posted by art.croucher on Tue, 09 May 1995 07:00:00 GMT

I'm trying to write TICKFORMAT functions that display lat/lon axes as
unsigned numbers with a hemisphere indicator (17.25S).

But I'm having trouble calculating the correct format for the numerical
part. The TICKFORMAT function only processes one tickmark at a time,
so I'm having trouble getting it to use the same format for all the
tickmarks. (If the current tick is 17, but the next is 17.25, I want
F5.2 for both).

RSI tells me that there isn't any way to find either the default format
that IDL would calculate for this axis, or the array of tickvals that I
could use to find a standard format.

Since this function has to go into a LOT of procedures, I don't want to
do any other modifications to the procedures, or make any assumptions
that the range or ticks have been explicitly defined.

So how can I determine a common format for all the ticks, using only
system data that is ALWAYS defined?

Thanks,

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