
Subject: Re: Tick labels and dates

Posted by [Mark Hadfield](#) on Thu, 25 Nov 2004 00:18:17 GMT

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Michael Wallace wrote:

- > Now, there's the plotting part of my code. The previous examples showed
- > this label_date stuff, but since I'm not using that, how do I go about
- > creating the correct labels? If I use JD values for that axis, is there
- > some magic option where I can give it the format code?

Use TICKFORMAT ([XYZ]TICKFORMAT for direct graphics commands)

TICKFORMAT

A string, or an array of strings, in which each string represents a format string or the name of a function to be used to format the tick mark labels. If an array is provided, each string corresponds to a level of the axis. (The TICKUNITS property determines the number of levels for an axis.) If the number of strings stored in this property is one, GetProperty returns a scalar string, otherwise GetProperty returns an array of strings.

If the string begins with an open parenthesis, it is treated as a standard format string. (See Format Codes.)

If the string does not begin with an open parenthesis, it is interpreted as the name of a callback function to be used to generate tick mark labels. This function is defined with either three or four parameters, depending on whether TICKUNITS is specified.

Don't worry about array values, as they're only relevant for multi-level axes. (There are various problems with multi-level axes that make them an intriguing toy, IMHO. Also, note that when it says above that the TICKUNITS property determines the number of levels for an axis it means the *number of elements* of TICKUNITS determines the number of levels.)

So the following (not tested) should give you a plot with an x-axis with an interval of one month and with each tick mark labelled in "yyyy-mm" format:

```
PLOT, ..., XMINOR=0, XTICKUNITS='month', XTICKINTERVAL=1, $
    XTICKFORMAT='(C(CYI4.4,"-",CMOI2.2))'
```

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