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Subject: Re: Tick labels and dates

Posted by [Michael Wallace](#) on Wed, 24 Nov 2004 22:23:40 GMT

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> I'm not a fan of LABEL\_DATE, mainly because it uses a common block, so  
> there is endless scope for confusing interactions between apparently  
> unrelated graphs. I think that it is much simpler and safer to use the  
> C() calendar-format codes directly in your axis's TICKFORMAT string. You  
> will need to convert your time data to Julian Days, but how hard is that?

I was trying to figure out how in the world label\_date was working.  
Common blocks. Ugh. I am no fan of common blocks either and avoid them  
like the plague.

Now that I've read through the C() it will do what I need it to do. My  
problem was that it wasn't intuitively obvious for me to look up "C()".

Converting seconds since 1970 to a Julian day isn't hard. 1 Jan 1970  
00:00:00 is 2440587.5 JD. Just convert the seconds to days and add it  
to 2440587.5.

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? Or will I need  
to go the ugly route and create the axis with JD, get the labels,  
convert them and reset the label values?

-Mike

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