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Subject: Re: Tick labels and dates

Posted by [R.Bauer](#) on Wed, 24 Nov 2004 08:58:59 GMT

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Michael Wallace wrote:

> I have never been good with figuring how how all the date formatting  
> stuff works. I want to label the X axis on a few of my plots with some  
> readable date strings. In certain cases, I'd like to display something  
> of the form "HH:MM:SS". Other times I'd like to see a day of month or a  
> day of year or some other variation.  
>  
> Anyway, assuming that I have a timestamp in the form of seconds since  
> the 1970 epoch, is there some built in way to convert to the time string  
> my choosing? Or will I have to role my own conversions? Secondly, how  
> do I go about cleanly setting the labels on my IDLgrAxis to the strings?  
>  
> TIA,  
> Mike

Dear Mike

probably this routine from our library could help

[http://www.fz-juelich.de/icg/icg-i/idl\\_icglib/idl\\_source/idl\\_html/dbase/setup\\_time\\_axis\\_dbase.pro.html](http://www.fz-juelich.de/icg/icg-i/idl_icglib/idl_source/idl_html/dbase/setup_time_axis_dbase.pro.html)

This routine is based on julian seconds. This time format was first introduced by Ray Sterner (JHUAPL)

If you like to have the right minor ticks for the months over a time period you should have a look into the minor ticks routine. There is an example implemented.

[http://www.fz-juelich.de/icg/icg-i/idl\\_icglib/idl\\_source/idl\\_html/dbase/rb\\_axis\\_minor\\_dbase.pro.html](http://www.fz-juelich.de/icg/icg-i/idl_icglib/idl_source/idl_html/dbase/rb_axis_minor_dbase.pro.html)

pro my\_plot

```
x=dindgen(864)*100
y=sin(x/100)
```

```
setup_time_axis, x, $
    XRANGE = xrange, $
```

```
XSTYLE = xstyle,$
XTITLE = xtitle, $
XTICKS = xticks, $
XMINOR = xminor, $
XTICKV = xtickv, $
XTICKNAME = xtickname, $
TIMEFORMAT = 'HH:MM:SS' , $
TIMESTEP = timestep, $
FORCE_10DAYS=1 , $
xmtickv=xmtickv
```

```
plot,x,y,$
  X RANGE = xrange, $
  XSTYLE = xstyle, $
  XTITLE = xtitle, $
  XTICKS = xticks, $
  XMINOR = xminor, $
  XTICKV = xtickv,$
  XTICKNAME = xtickname
```

end

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Reimar Bauer

Institut fuer Stratosphaerische Chemie (ICG-I)  
Forschungszentrum Juelich  
email: R.Bauer@fz-juelich.de

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a IDL library at ForschungsZentrum Juelich

[http://www.fz-juelich.de/icg/icg-i/idl\\_icglib/idl\\_lib\\_intro.html](http://www.fz-juelich.de/icg/icg-i/idl_icglib/idl_lib_intro.html)

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