
Subject: Re: Using [XYZ]TICKFORMAT for dynamic formatting
Posted by [David Gell](#) on Fri, 22 May 2009 18:42:03 GMT

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On May 21, 4:40 pm, Paul van Delst <paul.vande...@noaa.gov> wrote:

> David Gell wrote:

>> I usually do something like the following when I have to pass data to
>> a callback routine.

>> Change the lowticks routine as follows:

```
>  
>> FUNCTION lowticks, axis, index, value, format=format  
>>   common qqlowticks, sFormat  
>>   if n_elements(sFormat) eq 0 then sFormat='(!C",f7.3)' ;;  
>> initialize state memory  
>>   if keyword_set(format) ne 0 then begin  
>>     sFormat=format  
>>     return, 0  
>>   endif  
>  
>>   RETURN, STRING( value, FORMAT = sFormat  
>> END
```

>> Then, prior to using lowticks as the value of the xtickformat keyword
>> argument, you set the
>> format string,

```
>>   nDummy=lowticks(format='(F7.3)'
```

```
>>   plot, ..., xtickformat=lowticks
```

>> Hope this helps.

> Thanks David. I try to not use common blocks where possible, but I will file it away in
> case I can't get the other suggestions to work.

> cheers,

> paulv

I also avoid common blocks for communications between routines, but I often use them to hold state information between invocations of a routine. Think of it as half-ass*d object programming.
