
Subject: Re: time axis labelling

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Mon, 26 Mar 2012 15:19:33 GMT

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anil writes:

> I have a contour plot (y axis is ocean depth, x axis is time and
> temperature of the water column is contoured) in which i have 123
> irregular time(data) points. I want to read in column data (which is
> no problem) from a file :
> 09 09 2002
> 09 17 2002
>
>
> 12 23 2005 etc... I want to read these columns as month, day ,year
> seperately and then generate time labels for the x axis of my plot
> such as : 09/09/2002 .
>
> There is no regular spacing in between the dates, which is what i
> could not figure out.
> I want to have tickmarks on each date(data point), so my plot will be
> easy to follow.

I don't know if you have noticed, but that's a fairly long string you want to put on there for the date. If you have more than 5 dates on your plot, it's going to be hard to follow no matter what you do. :-)

I'd recommend you suppress the tick annotations on your contour plot entirely, and then put the labels on with `cgText`, in a rotated fashion, so you have a chance of fitting them onto the plot in a way that is readable. You can see an example of how this is done with the labels in the discrete color bar program `cgDCBar`.

You could even put small tick marks in the right locations with `cgPlotS`.

Cheers,

David

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Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.idlcoyote.com/>

Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")
