
Subject: Using TICKINTERVAL with LABEL_DATE in object_graphics

Posted by dcleon@gmail.com on Mon, 02 Feb 2009 18:30:09 GMT

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Just wasted more time than I care to mention figuring out how to control the tick spacing using TICKINTERVAL in conjunction with LABEL_DATE. Hopefully, I can save somebody else the same thrash -- either that or somebody can point out that what I think I've figured out is total bunk.

Per IDL's documentation, TICKINTERVAL is used to set the spacing between tickmarks. What they fail to mention is that (when used with LABEL_DATE and TICKUNITS = 'TIME') that the units of the spacing between tickmarks change depending on the axis interval. If the elapsed time over the plot range is:

 <= 60 seconds, then TICKINTERVAL is in
seconds.

 > 60s seconds, but <= 60 min TICKINTERVAL is in minutes

 > 60 min, but <= 24 Hours, then TICKINTERVAL is in hours

 > 24 Hours, but < 1 month, then TICKINTERVAL is in days

(I'm not sure how this works given the varying # of days in a month).

 (I assume the behavior continues to be consistent for months and years, but I've wasted too much time on this already to bother verifying).

Perhaps this is spelled out clearly somewhere in the IDL documentation, but I sure never found it.

Cheers
dave
