
Subject: Plotting date/times

Posted by [bleau](#) on Wed, 05 Jul 1995 07:00:00 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Hello, a quick (hopefully simple) question. I am plotting times along my X axis. Internally I've converted the m/d/y h:m:s times into floating point numbers, thinking this would be the easier way to plot it. I then have a procedure which I specify to the XTICKFORMAT keyword to convert a float to the proper character string.

The problem is that IDL keeps scaling the ticks on the X axis to nice, round multiples of the floating values, which hardly **ever** map to nice, round numbers (like 24 hours, or 1 hour) on my time axis labels. I partially solved this by specifying my own min and max using XRANGE and XTICKS, but this leaves me without any minor tick marks. Also, I'd like to leave some room on the right side of the graph after the plot has finished to annotate the graph lines (there are several).

Has anyone solved this problem satisfactorily in some other manner? Or is the approach I'm taking the only one available? I couldn't find any info in TFM about date/time as a data type, which would have been ideal. Thanks.

Larry Bleau
University of Maryland
bleau@umdsp.umd.edu
301-405-6223

Subject: Re: Plotting date/times

Posted by [rivers](#) on Sun, 09 Jul 1995 07:00:00 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

In article <3temc6\$rlb@hecate.umd.edu>, bleau@UMDSP.UMD.EDU (Lawrence Bleau) writes:

> Hello, a quick (hopefully simple) question. I am plotting times along my X
> axis. Internally I've converted the m/d/y h:m:s times into floating point
> numbers, thinking this would be the easier way to plot it. I then have a
> procedure which I specify to the XTICKFORMAT keyword to convert a float to the
> proper character string.

>
> The problem is that IDL keeps scaling the ticks on the X axis to nice, round
> multiples of the floating values, which hardly **ever** map to nice, round
> numbers (like 24 hours, or 1 hour) on my time axis labels. I partially solved
> this by specifying my own min and max using XRANGE and XTICKS, but this leaves
> me without any minor tick marks. Also, I'd like to leave some room on the
> right side of the graph after the plot has finished to annotate the graph
> lines (there are several).

>

I think that by using XSTYLE=1 you can force IDL to use your XRANGE and still get minortick marks.

Mark Rivers	(312) 702-2279 (office)
CARS	(312) 702-9951 (secretary)
Univ. of Chicago	(312) 702-5454 (FAX)
5640 S. Ellis Ave.	(708) 922-0499 (home)
Chicago, IL 60637	rivers@cars3.uchicago.edu (Internet)
