
Subject: Retrieving labels of tick marks
Posted by [elias](#) on Tue, 26 Aug 2014 21:10:49 GMT
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Hi,

I was wondering if it is possible to retrieve the string array of the tick labels that IDL generates for a plot? As far as I know, one may retrieve the tick values with tick_get.

What I want to do is to modify the output of label_date. For the day number, LABEL_DATE outputs only the day of month, but sometimes I prefer to have the day of year (e.g. 184/2014 instead of 01-Jul-2014). My idea is to retrieve the output of LABEL_DATE and replace the month/day-of-month with DOY, using one of the JHUAPL routines.

Do you suggest a different method otherwise?

Thanks.

Subject: Re: Retrieving labels of tick marks
Posted by [Matthew Argall](#) on Thu, 28 Aug 2014 00:19:03 GMT
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You can write your own tick-label formatting function.

Say your time axis is given in julian day numbers:

```
MyDates = TIMEGEN(366, START=JULDAY(1,1,2000))
```

You can create you own function to convert axis labels to dates:

```
function xtick_time_labels, axis, index, value, level
    caldat, value, month, day, year
    year_day = Convert2YearDay(month, day, year)
    tick = strtrim(year_day, 2) + '-' + strtrim(year, 2)

    return, tick
end
```

then use the XTICKFORMAT keyword in the plot command.

```
plot, MyDates, MyData, XTICKFORMAT='xtick_time_labels'
```

http://exelisvis.com/docs/graphkeyw.html#graphkeyw_328877816_6_370350
