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Subject: label\_date precision problem

Posted by [mh](#) on Wed, 24 Sep 1997 07:00:00 GMT

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Hello All,

I've got some timeseries data every 15 minutes for a period of a couple of days, and I'd like to use the label\_date routine to do the time (x) axis. In order to use label\_date, I am converting my time axis into absolute Julian Day -

a real number when you convert the time as well. For example, 2450717.5

would be 12:00 on 9/25/1997. If I want 12:15, though, I get 2450717.5104.

But, it appears IDL isn't maintaining the precision of a double when I plot, and

the .5104 is getting truncated to .5. This makes for an ugly plot, with 4 or 5

y-values collapsing onto one x-value.

Right now, I'm working around it by pretending I'm in year -4710, which is

basically the start year for -4713 (1/1/-4713 = Julian Day 1) in order to keep

enough precision to get down to hours. It works, but, it's a cludge, and requires

some thinking around leap years.

Anybody have a suggestion how to make this work? Or another easy way of

doing a time axis in IDL?

Please respond via email.

Thanks,

Mike

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Michael Hamilton

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Mr. Bingley...was lively and unreserved, danced every dance,  
was angry that the ball closed so early, and talked of  
giving one himself at Netherfield. Such amiable qualities  
must speak for themselves.

From "Pride and Prejudice" by Jane Austen

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Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

<HTML>

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<PRE>

mikeh@pmel.noaa.gov

[illegible]

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[illegible]

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