Subject: Re: Systime function works!
Posted by sterner on Fri, 15 Apr 1994 22:16:17 GMT
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In comp.lang.idl-pvwave Andrew F. Loughe writes:

. . .
> Does the systime function in IDL *REALLY* return the number of seconds
> since January 1, 1970? I needed to know, so I though I would compute
> the quantity myself using output from the Unix command shown below.
  <computation removed>
> Does this all seem straightforward? I thought so, but IDL returns:

> IDL> print, systime(1), format='(e15.8)'
> 7.66330122e+08

> Why are these numbers different by 14400 seconds (exactly 4.0 hours)!?

> The IDL function must use the time at Greenwich England, so systime works!
> I thought I'd pass that along to anyone else who is interested.

When I discovered this some time ago I thought it was an unneeded complication, but have now decided that it is an advantage. I use the time base difference between systime() and systime(1) to find the local time zone, or more accurately, the current time difference from Greenwich. The JHU/APL IDL library routine gmt_offsec returns the time difference in seconds. It's not a standalone routine so I won't post it. It assumes your local computer clock is right (to within about 10 or 15 minutes anyway).

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