Subject: Re: JULDAY 5.4 not same as 5.3?
Posted by Craig Markwardt on Mon, 05 Mar 2001 22:22:19 GMT
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pit@phys.uu.nl (Peter Suetterlin) writes:

...

- > I'm still not sure who's to blame, me (i.e. the programmer) or
- > IDL/RSI, but in general it does not make sense to take a negative of a
- > unsigned number, and IMHO there should also occur an automatic type
- > conversion as soon as a minus sign is involved. Currently, you get e.g.

>

- > IDL> x=5b
- > IDL> print,-x
- > 251

We can argue all day about what is correct mathematically.

However I think it is correct from a microprocessor standpoint (ie, that's what the processor does). Further more it satisfies certain identities like:

$$(-x) + x EQ 0$$

And what would you do with a number like -('fffffff'xul), ie a number that to begin with is too large to fit into a signed type.

Finally, you would have the people (like me) who would gripe about how IDL changed the type of a variable without asking me first!

Craig

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