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Subject: Re: IDL 5.4 label\_date function

Posted by [Wayne Landsman](#) on Wed, 07 Nov 2001 22:54:50 GMT

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> This would have made sense 2000 years ago when the date changed at midday,  
> but these days it only makes sense to IDL developers.  
>

Well, it also once made a small amount of sense to (non-solar) astronomers, since starting at noon meant that telescope observations taken over one night would all have the same integral value of Julian date (JD). Of course, this is irrelevant for telescope observations from space, or for Australia/New Zealand/Japan where noon UT (Greenwich time) occurs in the middle of the night. So even astronomers now typically use modified Julian date (MJD) defined as JD- 2400000.5 and which does begin at midnite.

Wayne Landsman            [landsman@mpb.gsfc.nasa.gov](mailto:landsman@mpb.gsfc.nasa.gov)

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