
Subject: Re: days of the week

Posted by [Craig Markwardt](#) on Thu, 21 Mar 2002 17:01:04 GMT

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"Mark Hadfield" <m.hadfield@niwa.co.nz> writes:

> "Craig Markwardt" <craigmnet@cow.physics.wisc.edu> wrote in message
> news:ong02v434v.fsf@cow.physics.wisc.edu...

>

>> P.S. I think the built-in JULDAY function is the one of the most
>> dangerous function I have ever seen. It measures *calendar dates*
>> from *noon* by gosh!

>

> I couldn't agree more.

>

>> It also doesn't handle fractional days...

>

> Not true in recent versions...

>

> IDL> print, julday(03,21,2002)

> 2452355

> IDL> print, julday(03,21,2002,10,23,30)

> 2452354.9

>

> But that weird argument order (month, day, year, ...) is what I
> *really* hate.

That is true, and the irony here is that JULDAY came from Numerical Recipes, and other criticisms about code quality aside, those NR guys are *astronomers* gosh darnit!

The following is totally unintuitive to me:

```
IDL> print, julday(3d,21d,2002d), format='(D30.3)'  
2452355.000
```

```
;; Now, how about "one second" later
```

```
IDL> print, julday(3d,21d,2002d,00d,00d,01d), format='(D30.3)'  
2452354.500
```

It's because in one case the calendar dates are measured from noon, and in the other they are measured from midnight.

Craig

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