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Subject: CDF\_EPOCH (was Re: Time Woes)  
Posted by [Brian Jackel](#) on Thu, 02 May 2002 19:05:42 GMT  
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Hi

I've found the CDF\_EPOCH routine to be very useful for this kind of thing. For your example

```
CDF_EPOCH,epoch0,1980,1,1,0,0,0,/COMPUTE  
CDF_EPOCH,today,2002,05,02,12,50,30,/COMPUTE  
dt= (today-epoch0)/1.0d3 ;difference in seconds
```

This doesn't directly address the tricky question of leap-seconds, but the CDF source code is available ([http://nssdc.gsfc.nasa.gov/cdf/cdf\\_home.html](http://nssdc.gsfc.nasa.gov/cdf/cdf_home.html)) so in theory you could check it to see what goes on inside.

Brian

David Fanning wrote:

```
>  
> Folks,  
>  
> OK, I'm completely lost.  
>  
> I've been perusing the JHAPL IDL library for days, it seems like,  
> but my eyes are still crossed.  
>  
> I have a time array that purports to be the number of seconds  
> from 1 Jan 1980. How in the world do I convert that to something  
> I can use with routines I have access to?  
>  
> Thanks,  
>  
> David
```