
Subject: Re: Time Woes

Posted by [Struan Gray](#) on Thu, 02 May 2002 15:34:38 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

David Fanning, david@dfanning.com writes:

- > it suddenly occurred to me that I was earning
- > less as an IDL programmer than I was earning as a tennis
- > coach. The idea of explaining *that* to my wife left me
- > in a cold sweat.

It can help to talk. When I was once complaining about IDL time functions my wife gave me the old Monty Python "you were looky..." rant. She deals with time series in the sixteenth century. The year number changes on different dates in different countries. Within the same country it can change on different dates for different types of record, and the different levels and types of law court all used different days too. Best of all, the switch to the Gregorian calender was in mid-swing, so weeks and days disappear whilly nilly from various months of the year, and at different times in all the different countries, palatinates and free republican cities. The Swedes - bless 'em - not only made the switch last, they spread it over several years, catching up one day at a time.

Compared to that, a relativistic correction for the orbital velocity of a satellite is child's play.

Struan
