
Subject: Re: number of seconds since 1/1/1970
Posted by [sterner](#) on Tue, 14 Mar 1995 15:17:56 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

knipp@ipi.uni-hannover.de (K Knipp) writes:

> I'm sure it's in the libraries but I can't find it:
> I need a function to convert any given date (not the actual one)
> to the number of seconds elapsed since Jan 1st, 1970.

My IDL library has a routine called `dt_tm_tojs` (date and time to Julian Seconds) which converts a date and time to the number of seconds after 2000 Jan 1 0:00. A simple difference will give the value you need. Here is an example use:

```
js0 = dt_tm_tojs('1970 jan 1 0:00')
sec = dt_tm_tojs('1990 mar 14 10:15')-js0
print,sec
6.3740970e+08
```

There is also the inverse, `dt_tm_fromjs`, which allows fairly flexible formatting of the result. Many other time related routines are available in this library. These are documented in the following web page:

<ftp://fermi.jhuapl.edu/www/s1r/idl/s1r/lib/time/time.html>

Information on obtaining the library is also on that page.

If you don't have web access (a very unfortunate circumstance) you can get the library as follows:

```
ftp fermi.jhuapl.edu
login: anonymous
password: enter your email address
cd pub/idl
get README
bye
```

Follow the instructions in the README (~6.6k bytes) file to get the actual library. You may also want to get the one line description file `cat.one` (~30kb).

Ray Sterner sterner@tesla.jhuapl.edu
The Johns Hopkins University North latitude 39.16 degrees.
Applied Physics Laboratory West longitude 76.90 degrees.
Laurel, MD 20723-6099
WWW Home page: <ftp://fermi.jhuapl.edu/www/s1r/people/res/res.html>
