Subject: Re: Best way to store a time-stamp
Posted by btt on Tue, 10 Feb 2004 14:06:01 GMT
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M. Katz wrote:
> I'm interested to know what method people use for making a time-stamp.
> With each datapoint I'd like to record the current time, store it, and
> be able to read it and plot with it later.
>
> systime(0) gives a well-formatted string, but it would be difficult to
> deconstruct back into abscissa values.
>
> systime(1) is great for relative and elapsed time, but is it easy to
> convert it into absolute date and time down to fractions of a second?
>
> systime(1, /julian) seems to only change once per second.
>
> Ideally, I'd like a double-precision number that I can store, and a
> function I can use to interpret the values as read-able date stamps.
>
> Thanks,
> M. Katz

Hello,

I have a DLM that uses the system function gettimeofday. It returns the time of day as a Long64 integer in milliseconds. I have used it with video acquisition to timestamp each video frame. The long integer is easy to work with and to decomposed back into a julian day number. Send me an email and I will send it along if you're interested. Of course, there are two caveats (1) I'm a rather wobbly c-programmer and (2) it was written to work on MacOSX - but that shouldn't matter.

```
IDL> for i = 0, 9 do print, hbb_milliclock()
        1076420938927
        1076420938929
        1076420938931
        1076420938972
        1076420938974
        1076420938976
        1076420938981
        1076420938983
        1076420938985
        1076420938987
```

Also, in the DLM is a seconds clock, but I haven't ever used it. A double precision value is returned.

```
IDL> for i = 0, 9 do print, hbb_secclock(), format = '(f20.4)'
      1076421825.6358
      1076421825.6379
      1076421825.6398
      1076421825.6797
      1076421825.6826
      1076421825.6846
      1076421825.6899
      1076421825.6919
      1076421825.6939
      1076421825.6959
```

On a similar note, I'm not sure what it means that IDL will become an "National Instruments Alliance Member", but I do know that LabView is very much clock dependent and has a wide variety of time functions. Perhaps IDL's time functions will be expanded to accomodate this connection with LabView.

Ben
