Subject: Re: JULDAY-CALDAT problem Posted by David Fanning on Thu, 26 Feb 2004 14:19:10 GMT

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## Luciano writes:

- > Hi, maybe somebody has a clue about the following:
- >
- > IDL> aa=JulDay(11,18,1990,2,0,0)
- > IDL> Caldat,aa,m,d,y,h,mi,s
- > IDL> print,m,d,y,h,mi,s
- > 11 18 1990 2 0 5.3644181e-005

>

> Why does s=5.3644181e-005 and not s=0 as it should be?

I think it is a question of using a computer to do the calculations rather than your fingers. :-)

Floating point numbers have about 7 significant figures. Assuming 60 seconds in a minute, this number starts to vary in the seventh place. So, about as close to zero as you gonna get, I think.

For a more complete explanation, see this article:

http://www.dfanning.com/math\_tips/sky\_is\_falling.html

Cheers,

David

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Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: http://www.dfanning.com/