Subject: Re: JULDAY-CALDAT problem
Posted by David Fanning on Thu, 26 Feb 2004 14:19:10 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

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

--
David Fanning, Ph.D.
Fanning Software Consulting
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: http://www.dfanning.com/