Subject: Re: hours since 1-1-1
Posted by Mark Hadfield on Thu, 04 Aug 2005 22:09:41 GMT

Reimar Bauer wrote:
>
> We prefer Julian Seconds which were initial defined by Ray Sterner at
> JHUapl.

Personally, I prefer Modified Julian Days...

   MJD = JD - 2,400,000.5

...because the values are smaller and they avoid the tricky "integer
value at noon" thing. Also because they are used in William Thompson's
very nice CDS library.

However RSI prefers Julian Days and IDL provides various functions to
deal with it. Also, there are the calendar formats, which make labelling
axes very straightforward and can't easily be replaced by the user.

So my recommendation to anyone who wants to deal with date-time data in
IDL and doesn't have special requirements (like very high precision,
leap seconds and the like) remains "use Julian Dates".

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