Subject: Re: Julian Day Question
Posted by Paul Van Delst[1] on Fri, 26 May 2006 14:20:18 GMT
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David Fanning wrote:
> David Fanning writes:
>
>
>> Clearly, I am missing something important here. :-(
>
>
> Oh, wait! I am missing Mark's nice explanation of this
> problem on my very own web page. Sigh..
>
> http://www.dfanning.com/misc_tips/julianday.html
>
> But even after reading it, I'm very, very confused. :-(

Me too - it seems inconsistent.

The example on that page is:

```
IDL> print, julday(1,1,1,0,0,0), julday(1,1,1)
1721423.5 1721424
```

The *input* date, 0001-01-01, /should/ be based on how we define dates /now/, starting at midnight. But the reference point for the input date seems to change (to 12noon) when the hours/minutes/seconds are not supplied.

paulv

p.s. Mark's point (about using such a distant reference point for dates) is also a good one. Why Julian and not, say, Gregorian dates? (At least for those of us that use the Gregorian calendar). Another (somewhat) common reference I've encountered in satellite data streams is the number of seconds since Jan 1, 1980, 00:00:00 - which makes more sense to me that julian dates.

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Paul van Delst Ride lots.
CIMSS @ NOAA/NCEP/EMC Eddy Merckx
Ph: (301)763-8000 x7748
Fax:(301)763-8545