Subject: Re: Julian Day Question
Posted by Mike Wallace on Fri, 26 May 2006 14:05:53 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

> My experience is that the naive usage of the IDL JULDAY function does
> not give me what I expect to see. For a given calendar date, say
> JULDAY(5,26,2006), I normally expect this to refer to midnight at the
> start of the day (JD 2453881.5), whereas IDL returns the Julian day at
> noon, twelve hours later (JD 2453882). Of course, if one specifies
> hours, minutes and seconds, then the proper result pops out.
>
> I.e., I would naively expect these to be the same but they are not:
> JULDAY(5,26,2006, 0,0,0)
> JULDAY(5,26,2006)

I should have added that I always specify hours minutes and seconds when working with julday() for this very reason and because I specify the time within the day, I get what I expect. Come to think of it, julday() without the hours minutes and seconds also gives me what I expect, however what I expect is a weird number because some astronomer thought he was being smart by having the day boundary be at a time when he wouldn't be observing. I guess it has to deal with your expectations and since I've looked at Julian Day numbers and other weird time systems for years now, I've become conditioned to it. After working with things like Ephemeris Time and Barycentric Dynamical Time, Julian Day seems pretty easy. :-)

-Mike