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Subject: Re: Calculating Sat. water vapor pressure from air temperature: What is wrong?

Posted by [lasse](#) on Tue, 03 Apr 2007 12:03:01 GMT

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On 3 Apr, 01:53, "DirtyHarry" <kim20...@gmail.com> wrote:

> Goodday, everyone. I came with a new question. Please take a look at  
> this code.

>

> I am going to calculate saturated water vapor pressure from air

> temperature using clausius-clapeyron equation.

> The air temperature is on tem(4:27, \*) in my test.txt below.

>

> ;site\_id year month day h01 h02 h03 h04 h05 h06 h07 h08 h09 h10 h11

> h12 h13 h14 h15 h16 h17 h18 h19 h20 h21 h22 h23 h24

> ; 90 2003 1 1 -53 -21 -22 -38 -44 -52 -50

> -51 -23 -12 -6 1 1 13 6 4 -13 -19

> -29 -34 -43 -59 -59 -61

> ; 90 2003 1 2 -71 -65 -76 -69 -70 -73 -67

> -69 -43 -9 4 6 14 9 21 14 0 -5

> -7 -15 -17 -13 -10 -24

> ; 90 2003 1 3 -17 -7 -6 -14 -23 -9 -16

> -11 -19 4 13 17 24 15 9 5 -9 -19

> -19 -25 -33 -41 -50 -52

> .

> .

> .

>

> I want to keep the first 1 to 4 columns and change 4 to 28 columns

> with this equation.

>

> tem0 = tem/10 - 273.3 ; for unit conversion from celcius into K.

> SatVP = 6.11\*exp(19.59\*(tem0-273.3)/tem0) ; modified clausius-

> clapeyron equation.

>

> So, I tried this way.

> -----

> pro SatVPNWS

>

> file = 'test.txt'

> ndata = file\_lines(file) ;number of lines in data file

> site\_num = 72 ; NATIONAL WEATHER STATION IN KOREA

> tem = intarr(28, ndata)

> tem0 = tem/10 - 273.3

> SatVP = 6.11\*exp(19.59\*(tem0-273.3)/tem0)

>

> close, 1

> openr, 1, file ;reading air temperature measured in NWS

```

> readf, 1, tem
> close, 1
>
> openw,2, 'SatVP_00.txt'
> for j=0,ndata-1 do begin
>   printf, 2, tem[0:3,j], satVP[4:27,j] , format = '(4i6,2x,24F8.3,
> 2x)'
> endfor
> close, 2
>
> end
> -----
>
> and this is the SatVP_00.txt
>
>   90 2003   1   1
> *****
> *****
> *****
>   90 2003   1   2
> *****
> *****
> *****
>   90 2003   1   3
> *****
> *****
> *****
>
> There must be something wrong, but I don't know what is it exactly.
> Firstly, I suspected the format statement. I changed the parameters and
> ran again and again, but the results were always same.
>
> Please give me some suggestions for correct format for this case, and
> check if I make other mistakes. Thanks.
>
> Harry

```

Hi,

lots of stars when using format codes points to the fact that the number cannot be formatted. Whenever I see lots of stars, I completely take away the format code (or stop drinking, chichichi). Then see what IDL prints and decide what a good format code is.

For the value  $tem = 41$ , your formula yields SatVp to be  $4.77502e+17$  and that's the reason why you cannot use a format code like F8.3. The reason why you are getting values like the above is that in the formula for SatVP you are again subtracting 273.3 which you have

already done once before.

Also I noticed:

```
tem = intarr(28, ndata)
tem0 = tem/10 - 273.3
```

You are losing one order of magnitude precision here, because you divide by an integer, hence 41/10 will give you 4 as opposed to 4.1 which is, probably, what you really want. Divide by a float like so

```
tem0 = tem/10. - 273.3
```

and you're good because IDL will take care of the type conversion. If you do want to lose the one digit, ignore this comment.

Cheers  
Lasse

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