
Subject: Re: two issues with julian dates

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Wed, 11 Jul 2007 21:58:20 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Josh writes:

- > I've got date and time strings that I've parsed into their respective
- > hour/minute/etc and month/day/etc form and I'm using the julday()
- > function to turn them into julian dates. I've come across two
- > problems that hopefully somebody can help me with.
- >
- > First off, according to NASA (<http://ssd.jpl.nasa.gov/tc.cgi#top>), the
- > returned value of julday() is incorrect. When I use 11/18/2003 at
- > 16:14:43, I get 2452955.2 from IDL and 2452962.1768866 from NASA.
- > Thoughts?
- >
- > Second, the fact that julday() only returns a value with ONE digit
- > after the decimal is not cool. If it returns a double floating point
- > value, shouldn't I be able to get 14 sig figs? The time scales in my
- > data set are such that I need that resolution. Thoughts?

Humm. Are you using *this* IDL!

```
IDL> print, julday(11, 18, 2003, 16, 14, 43), format='(F 20.10)
2452962.1768865748
```

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.

Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>

Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")
