Folks,

OK, just so we are all on the same page here. The time data
in this NetCDF file is in hours since 1 January 0001. (Strange,
but true.) BUT, here is the thing, you are not *suppose*
to worry about that. What you are suppose to worry about
is the time *difference*.

So, in this data set, if I subtract time[1]-time[0]
I should have the number of hours between the two
measurements. If I divide by 24, I should get the number
of days:

    IDL> Print, (time[1]-time[0]) / 24
        31

In fact, if I do this:

    IDL> Print, (Shift(time,1) - time) / 24

I get a comforting series of 31s and 30s, with the occational
28 thrown in there to give me hope!

So, all appears to be well in the Universe again. :-)

Thanks for everyone's help.

Cheers,

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