Subject: Re: merge data-array with calender-date-array
Posted by Chris[6] on Thu, 24 Jul 2008 10:28:44 GMT
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On Jul 23, 11:29 pm, julia.waltersp...@gmail.com wrote:
> the newbie calls out for help again :)
>
> Problem:
> I have two arrays: one with my MODIS-data (float), the second with the
> "matching" calender dates of the data (string, like "01/Jan/2002").
> Say the first number of the "data-array" belongs to the first date of
> the "date-array".
> What's the easiest way to merge those two arrays so that I will be
> able to easily plot the data with the matching dates as x-axis.
>
> Goal/Purpose:
> Plotting a time series of the data with the matching date on the x-
> axis.
>
> probably a super-easy task, but I only come up with rather inelegant
> solutions and I'm sure there's a simple and elegant way to do this.
> Cheers,
> juls

The first thought that comes to mind is to convert the date strings to julian dates using a procedure like juldate from the IDL astronomy user's library. That's kind of clunky since:
1) You have to loop through the date array
2) You have to convert strings like 'jan' to numbers like 1

anyways, it would look like

```
nrec=n_elements(date_array)
output=fltarr(2,nrec)
output[1,*]=data_array

for i=0L, n_elements(date_array)-1, 1 do begin
 date=strsplit(date_array[i],"/",/extract)
 case date[1] of
   'Jan': month=1
    etc etc
 endcase
 juldate,[float(date[2]),month,float(date[0])],jd
 output[0,i]=jd
endfor
```

This is probably the inelegant solution you are hoping to avoid?