
Subject: Re: Time conversion for .nc file

Posted by [lecacheux.alain](#) on Tue, 19 Nov 2013 14:58:20 GMT

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Le mardi 19 novembre 2013 15:11:03 UTC+1, David Fanning a écrit :

> Madhavan Bomidi writes:

>

>

>

>> How can we obtain the exact month, day, year, hour, min, sec from the ncdfTime created above? I tried to use the CALDAT but it is giving some crazy numbers for each of them. I am asking this because in order to plot the variables as a function of time, the jultime is more difficult to say about which day it corresponds to. Do you have any better suggestion?

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>

>

> No other suggestions. CalDat works great. You just have to do the

>

> reverse of what you have done previously. Convert seconds to Julian

>

> days, add Julday(1,1,1970,0,0,0) to that result, and put that through

>

> the CalDat function. I've never known it to go wrong. :-)

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> Cheers,

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> David

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> David Fanning, Ph.D.

>

> Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.

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

>

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

For novice IDL users as well as experienced ones, may I add that:

1) "calendar format" is quite useful because it works in same way in both directions and can be used with arrays, i.e.

```
IDL> reads, DATE, JD, format=FMT  
IDL> DATES = string(JD, format=FMT)
```

where JD is array of doubles, DATES is array of date strings, and FMT is some calendar format.

2) axis plotting where time is expressed in Julian days is pretty easy to do by using XTICKUNITS keyword (this is true both in DG and NG !):

```
IDL> plot, jd, data, XTICKUNITS='year'           ;automatic labeling in years  
IDL> plot, jd, data, XTICKUNITS=['minute','hour'] ;double labeling in hours and minutes.  
etc...
```

The axis can be further customized by using MINOR and XTICKINTERVAL keywords.

alx.
