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Subject: hours since 1-1-1

Posted by [qian](#) on Wed, 27 Jul 2005 01:53:22 GMT

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Dear IDL users:

Is there an IDL function/program that converts the unidata time unit to more readable format?

For example: hours since 1-1-1 17338824 -> Jan 1 1979.

Thanks,

Qian

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Subject: Re: hours since 1-1-1

Posted by [Mark Hadfield](#) on Thu, 04 Aug 2005 22:09:41 GMT

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Reimar Bauer wrote:

>

> We prefer Julian Seconds which were initial defined by Ray Sterner at

> JHUapl.

Personally, I prefer Modified Julian Days...

MJD = JD - 2,400,000.5

...because the values are smaller and they avoid the tricky "integer value at noon" thing. Also because they are used in William Thompson's very nice CDS library.

However RSI prefers Julian Days and IDL provides various functions to deal with it. Also, there are the calendar formats, which make labelling axes very straightforward and can't easily be replaced by the user.

So my recommendation to anyone who wants to deal with date-time data in IDL and doesn't have special requirements (like very high precision, leap seconds and the like) remains "use Julian Dates".

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Mark Hadfield        "Kei puwaha te tai nei, Hoesa tahi tatou"

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