
Subject: Re: Problems with JULDAY and CALDAT
Posted by [John J. Boia](#) on Wed, 07 Apr 1999 07:00:00 GMT
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Wayne, thanks for the references. Will have a look.

I checked JULDAY just like your example and got different results from what you got!

```
IDL> print,julday(4,7,1999,0)
% Compiled module: JULDAY.
    2451276.0
IDL> print,julday(4,7,1999,12)
    2451276.5
IDL> print, !version
{ mipseb IRIX unix 5.0.2 Aug 19 1997}
```

Wayne Landsman wrote:

```
>
>> JULDAY seems to return Julian date values with an offset
>> of 0.5 from the accepted definition, when hours, minutes,
>> and seconds are passed in as arguments Integer julian
>> day numbers correspond to 12:00 noon UT.
>
> I'm not sure what you are referring to here -- I don't see any problems with
> JULDAY. JULDAY should return an integer value when the hour is 12:00 noon --
> which it does.
>
> IDL> print,julday(4,7,1999,0)
>    2451275.5
> IDL> print,julday(4,7,1999,12)
>    2451276.0
>
> --Wayne Landsman                      landsman@mpb.gsfc.nasa.gov
```

--
John J. Boia | Email: jboia@iasdev1.gsfc.nasa.gov
Programmer/Analyst | Web: <http://iasdev1.gsfc.nasa.gov/~jboia/>
Computer Sciences Corp. | Phone: 301.794.2357

Subject: Re: Problems with JULDAY and CALDAT
Posted by [landsman](#) on Wed, 07 Apr 1999 07:00:00 GMT
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In article <370B879B.41C6@iasdev1.gsfc.nasa.gov>, "John J. Boia"
<jboia@iasdev1.gsfc.nasa.gov> writes...

> CALDAT does not correctly return the month/day/year
> values for Julian day numbers that correspond to leap days
> (Feb 29) in the leap years 1584 through 1604.

John,

As a replacement for CALDAT, you might look at DAYCNV.PRO available at <http://idlastro.gsfc.nasa.gov/ftp/pro/astro/daycnv.pro>. It passes your time test for all years except for the peculiar year 1582 itself.

(I don't know what the algorithm error in CALDAT is, since it uses a different algorithm from DAYCNV.PRO. But CALDAT does have a most un-IDL like programming style, with a special subroutine that only does scalar calculations that is called in a loop. Ugly.)

Although not directly to your question, you might also look the time utilities in IDL written by Bill Thompson at <http://sohowww.nascom.nasa.gov/solarsoft/gen/idl/time/>

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--Wayne Landsman

landsman@mpb.gsfc.nasa.gov