

Updates for SOFA Release 16 : 2020 July 21

Summary of Changes

The changes fall into the following categories:

- 1. Correction of a sign in routine P06E.
- 2. Correction in the ANSI C macro function dnint in the include file sofam.h, to improve rounding.
- 3. Improvements in precision and rounding (see 2 and 3 below).
- 4. Miscellaneous typographical corrections and improvements to various other documents.

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FORTRAN 77 Library

- 1. iau_P06E Correction. The series are taken from Table 1 of Hilton, J. et al., 2006, Celest. Mech. Dyn. Astron. 94, 351., and it has been discovered that the one for general precession, p_A, had the wrong sign for the t^5 coefficient. The error in the paper has been corrected in the SOFA code. The correct value is -0.0000000383 arcsec. (Even after five centuries the error would be lower than 250 microarcsec.)
- 2. iau_PB06 Improvements in the method of decomposing the rotation matrix by ensuring that angles near zero are preferred.
- 3. iau_JD2CAL Improvements by ensuring precision is not lost when splitting date and time.
- 4. iau_DAT Release year updated.
- 5. t_sofa_f.for Updated due to the correction in iau_P06E.
- 6. iau_FK524 Minor corrections/improvements to the documentation.
 iau_FW2M
 iau_GMST82
 iau_TRXP
 iau_XYS00A

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ANSI C Library

- 1. iauP06e Correction. The series are taken from Table 1 of Hilton, J. et al., 2006, Celest. Mech. Dyn. Astron. 94, 351., and it has been discovered that the one for general precession, p_A, had the wrong sign for the t^5 coefficient. The error in the paper has been corrected in the SOFA code. The correct value is -0.0000000383 arcsec. (Even after five centuries the error would be lower than 250 microarcsec.)
- 2. sofam.h Correction to dnint(A).

The existing dnint macro could incorrectly round numbers just over -0.5 and just under +0.5 due to the loss of precision when calculating ceil(A-0.5) or floor(A+0.5). A preliminary test for |A|<0.5 has been added to ensure that such numbers always round to zero. As none of the SOFA C functions depend critically on perfect rounding, the change is unlikely to affect user applications noticeably, though critical round-trip tests may see an improvement.

