

# Package ‘astroFns’

October 12, 2022

**Type** Package

**Title** Astronomy: Time and Position Functions, Misc. Utilities

**Version** 4.2-1

**Date** 2022-05-08

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**Description** Miscellaneous astronomy functions, utilities, and data.

**License** GPL (>= 2)

**LazyLoad** yes

**NeedsCompilation** no

**Repository** CRAN

**Date/Publication** 2022-05-08 17:20:02 UTC

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astroFns-package      *Astronomy: Time and Position Functions, Misc. Utilities*

---

**Description**

Collection of time, position, and utility functions for astronomy: Julian and Modified Julian Day transformations, J2000/B1950 coordinate transformations, GMST at 0h from UT, UT to LST and hour angle, angular unit transformations and distance, etc. Precision generally at the level of a millisecond in time for JD, 0.1 s for LST, and a few tenths of an arcsecond in position for B2000-J1950 and vice versa. Additional functions include flux from thermal disk-shaped source, and others. Functions were originally assembled to support single-dish radio astronomy planning and observations. Cosmology-related functions are in the cosmoFns package.

**Details**

Package: astroFns  
Type: Package  
Version: 4.2-0  
Date: 2022-05-08  
License: GPL (>=2)  
LazyLoad: yes

**Author(s)**

Andrew Harris Maintainer: Andrew Harris <harris@astro.umd.edu>

---

angSep      *Angular separation of two sky positions*

---

**Description**

angSep calculates the angular separation of two sky positions using spherical trigonometry.

**Usage**

```
angSep(ra1, dec1, ra2, dec2)
```

**Arguments**

ra1	Right ascension (string) of the first position.
dec1	Declination of (string) the first position.
ra2	Right ascension (string) the second position.
dec2	Declination of (string) the second position.

**Details**

Enter positions as text strings with fields separated by characters d, h, m, s, a colon, or a comma, e.g. '17, 42, 28', '-28h43m03s', or '- 28 :43 : 3'. Spaces are removed in input conversion. This is a spherical trigonometry calculation, valid for small and large distances.

**Value**

Returns angular separation in decimal degrees.

**Author(s)**

Andrew Harris

**See Also**

See [dms2rad](#), [hms2rad](#) for input conversions.

**Examples**

```
angSep('1, 59, 03', '-3, 40, 44', '2, 30', '5, 40, 03')
angSep('1h59m03s', '-3d40m44s', '2h30', '5h40m03')
angSep('1', '0', '2', '0')
angSep(' 1, 40, 4', ' - 5, 6', '3', '1')
```

---

b2j

*B1950 to J2000 coordinate conversion*


---

**Description**

Precession from B1950 to J2000

**Usage**

```
b2j(ra = "17h42m29.3076s", dec = "-28d59m18.484s")
```

**Arguments**

ra	B1950 Right ascension (string)
dec	B1950 Declination (string)

**Details**

Enter positions as text strings with fields separated by characters d, h, m, s, a colon, or a comma, e.g. '17, 42, 28', '-28h43m03s', or '- 28 :43 : 3'. Spaces are removed in input conversion. Trailing missing values are taken as zero. The code uses an approximate formula for precession; spot checks give results accurate within a few tenths of an arcsecond.

**Value**

List with strings in:

ra2000	J2000 Right ascension
dec2000	J2000 Declination

**Note**

Calculation based on power-law expansion of exact function.

**Author(s)**

Andrew Harris

**References**

Explanatory supplement to the Astronomical Almanac, Seidelmann (ed.), c.~1992, chapter 3.213

**See Also**

[j2b](#). See [dms2rad](#), [hms2rad](#) for input conversions.

**Examples**

```
b2j()
b2j(ra='17, 43', dec='-28, 47, 30')
b2j(ra='17, 43', dec=' - 28, 47, 30')
b2j(ra='17h43m', dec='-28d47m30s')
tmp <- b2j(ra='17, 43', dec=' - 28, 47, 30')
str(tmp)
tmp
```

---

beamDiskOverlap

*Gaussian beam and disk overlap with shift*

---

**Description**

Calculate the overlap integral of a 2-D Gaussian beam and a uniform disk, including a shift between the centers of the beam and disk.

**Usage**

```
beamDiskOverlap(s = 0, r = 1, theta.fwhm = 1)
```

**Arguments**

s	Shift between centers
r	Disk radius
theta.fwhm	Gaussian beam FWHM

**Details**

Converts the 2-D integral to 1-D for speed. Use consistent units.

**Value**

Value of the overlap integral, normalized to unity for a beam much smaller than the disk.

**Author(s)**

Andrew Harris

**References**

"Telescope illumination and beam measurements for submillimeter astronomy," A.I. Harris, Internat. J. IR and mm Waves, 9, 231 (1988)

**Examples**

```
s <- seq(0, 10, 0.1)
plot(s, beamDiskOverlap(s, 4, 1), t='l', col=4)
```

---

dmjd2ut

*DMJD to UT*

---

**Description**

Decimal modified Julian date to Universal time.

**Usage**

```
dmjd2ut(dmjd, tz='UTC')
```

**Arguments**

dmjd	Time in decimal Modified Julian Date
tz	Time zone string

**Details**

Calculation is always from UTC, but it is possible to correct to local time zone with `tz` (see [Sys.timezone](#)). For instance, `tz = 'EST5EDT'` converts to U.S. Eastern time, with EST or EDT based on the system's knowledge of the date for switching between the two. Set the number of digits after the decimal place for seconds, `n`, with options(`'digits.secs'=n`).

**Value**

Time string with class `POSIXct`

**Author(s)**

Andrew Harris

**See Also**

[ut2dmjd](#), [ymd2jd](#), [strptime](#), [ISOdatetime](#), [axis.POSIXct](#) for time in plot axes; [as.POSIXct](#) to recover time in plot from `locator()`

**Examples**

```
dmjd2ut(56951.54183613)

sd <- getOption('digits.secs')
dmjd2ut(ut2dmjd(2010, 1, 5, 2, 34, 17.8115))
options('digits.secs' = 3)
dmjd2ut(ut2dmjd(2015, 1, 5, 2, 34, 17.8115))
options('digits.secs' = sd)

dmjd2ut(ut2dmjd(2015, 1, 5, 2, 34, 17.8115), tz='CET')
dmjd2ut(ut2dmjd(2015, 8, 5, 2, 34, 17.8115), tz='CET')
dmjd2ut(ut2dmjd(2015, 1, 5, 2, 34, 17.8115), tz='EST5EDT')
dmjd2ut(ut2dmjd(2015, 8, 5, 2, 34, 17.8115), tz='EST5EDT')

dmjd2ut(ymd2jd(2001, 1, 1) - 2400000.5)
```

---

dms2rad

*Degrees, minutes, and seconds to radians*

---

**Description**

Angular conversion from degrees, minutes, and seconds to radians

**Usage**

```
dms2rad(d = '33d 09m 35.0s')
```

**Arguments**

d                      String containing degrees, minutes, and seconds

**Details**

Function reads a string (the input is a string to allow conversion of angles between -1 and zero degrees) with degrees, minutes, and seconds separated by any of characters d, m, s, a colon, or a comma. Spaces are not valid separators, as they are removed as part of input parsing. Decimal values are allowed in any position. Zeros are the default if values for minutes or seconds are missing from the string. A minus sign, W, or w before the degrees indicates negative degrees. Positive degrees are denoted by no character, +, E, or e before the degrees values.

**Value**

Angle in radians

**Author(s)**

Andrew Harris

**See Also**

[hms2rad](#), [rad2dms](#), [rad2hms](#)

**Examples**

```
dms2rad('10, 22, 14')
dms2rad('10:22:14')
dms2rad('10d22m14s')
dms2rad('-0, 30')
dms2rad('-77d30.5m')
dms2rad('W 77d30.5m')
dms2rad(-77.5083333)
```

---

elev

*Source elevation*

---

**Description**

Calculates source elevation and azimuth in degrees given declination, hour angle, and observatory latitude.

**Usage**

```
elev(dec.sou = "33d 09m 35.0s", ha = 0, lat.obs = "38d 25m 59.2s")
```

```
azimuth(dec.sou = "33d 09m 35.0s", ha = 0, lat.obs = "38d 25m 59.2s")
```

**Arguments**

dec.sou	Source declination (string)
ha	Hour angle (decimal hours)
lat.obs	Observatory latitude (string)

**Details**

Enter latitude as s text string with fields separated by characters d, h, m, s, a colon, or a comma, e.g. '38d25m59.2s' or '38, 25, 59.2' or '38:25:59.2' or '38:25.987' for the Green Bank Telescope. Spaces are removed in input conversion. Decimal values for degrees or minutes are allowed. Trailing missing values are taken as zero.

**Value**

Source elevation or azimuth (E from N) in degrees.

**Note**

Geometrical calculation only, no corrections for refraction, aberration, precession, etc.

**Author(s)**

Andrew Harris

**References**

"Astrophysical Formulae," K.R. Lang, Springer c. 1986, 5-45

**See Also**

[dms2rad](#), [hms2rad](#) for input formats, [ut2ha](#) to convert UT to hour angle.

**Examples**

```
# Maximum elevation at Green Bank
elev(dms2rad('-28, 20'))

# Maximum elevation at Mauna Kea
elev(dms2rad('-28, 20'), 0, '19:49')

# Plot elevation and azimuth vs. hour angle
ha <- seq(0, 24, 0.25)
el <- elev('30d 33m 22s', ha)
plot(ha, el, t='l', col=4)
az <- azimuth('30d 33m 22s', ha)
plot(ha, az, t='l', col=4)

# Plot elevation and azimuth vs. UT (using many defaults)
h.ut <- seq(0, 24, 0.25)
el <- elev(dec.sou='30d 33m 22s', ha=ut2ha(hr=h.ut))
```



```
plot(h.ut, el, t='l', col=4)
az <- azimuth(dec.sou='30d 33m 22s', ha=ut2ha(hr=h.ut))
plot(h.ut, az, t='l', col=4)
```

---

gmst1

*GMST1 (Greenwich Mean Siderial Time at 0h, UT1) from UT1 date*

---

### Description

Calculate Greenwich Mean Siderial Time at 0h, UT1 (GMST1) from UT1 year, month, and day.

### Usage

```
gmst1(yr = 2012, mo = 1, dy = 1)
```

### Arguments

yr	UT1 year (integer)
mo	UT1 month (integer)
dy	UT1 day (integer)

### Details

Function calculates Greenwich Mean Siderial Time at 0h, UT1 (GMST1) given UT1 year, month, and day.

### Value

Returns fractional hours of GMST1 with class fracHrs. The corresponding print method gives hh:mm:ss format rounded to n decimal places in seconds by setting options('digits.secs'=n).

### Note

Multiply UT1 fractional day by 1.002737909350795 to get fractional sidereal day.

### Author(s)

Andrew Harris

### References

Explanatory Supplement to the Astronomical Almanac Seidelmann (ed), c. 1992

### See Also

[ymd2jd](#)

**Examples**

```
out <- gmst1(yr=2012, mo=7, dy=8)
str(out)
out
```

---

`hms2rad`*Hours, minutes, and seconds to radians*

---

**Description**

Angular conversion from hours, minutes, and seconds to radians.

**Usage**

```
hms2rad(h = '12h 3m 45.6s')
```

**Arguments**

`h` String hours, minutes, and seconds

**Details**

Function reads a string (the input is a string to allow conversion of angles between -1 and zero hours) with hours, minutes, and seconds separated by any of characters d, m, s, a colon, or a comma. Spaces are not valid separators, as they are removed as part of input parsing. Zeros are the default if values for minutes or seconds are missing from the string. A minus sign before the hours indicates negative hours. Decimal values are allowed in any position.

**Value**

Angle in radians.

**Author(s)**

Andrew Harris

**See Also**

[dms2rad](#), [rad2hms](#), [rad2dms](#)

**Examples**

```
hms2rad('10, 22, 14')
hms2rad('-0:30')
hms2rad('0h30')
```

---

j2b

*J2000 to B1950 coordinate conversion*

---

**Description**

Precession from J1950 to B2000

**Usage**

```
j2b(ra = "17:30:30", dec = "-28:47")
```

**Arguments**

ra	J2000 Right ascension (string)
dec	J2000 Declination (string)

**Details**

Enter positions as text strings with fields separated by characters d, h, m, s, a colon, or a comma, e.g. '17, 42, 28', '-28h43m03s', or '- 28 :43 : 3'. Spaces are removed in input conversion. Trailing missing values are taken as zero. The code uses an approximate formula for precession; spot checks give results accurate within a few tenths of an arcsecond.

**Value**

List with strings in:

ra1950	B1950 Right ascension
dec1950	B1950 Declination

**Note**

Values based on power-law expansion of more exact calculation.

**Author(s)**

Andrew Harris

**References**

Explanatory supplement to the Astronomical Almanac, Seidelmann (ed.), c.~1992, chapter 3.213

**See Also**

[b2j](#). See [dms2rad](#), [hms2rad](#) for input conversions.

**Examples**

```
j2b()  
j2b(ra='17h43m', dec='-28d47m30s')  
tmp <- j2b(ra='17, 43', dec=' - 28, 47, 30')  
str(tmp)  
tmp
```

---

jd2ymd	<i>JD to year, month, date</i>
--------	--------------------------------

---

**Description**

Convert Julian date to UT1 year, month, and date.

**Value**

Date for 0h, UT1, with class POSIXct

**Author(s)**

Andrew Harris

**References**

Fliegel & Van Flandern, Comm. ACM 10, 657 (1968), whose algorithm uses FORTRAN integer mathematics

**See Also**

[weekdays](#), [dmjd2ut](#)

**Examples**

```
jd2ymd(2456092.5) # returns 0h date, 2012-06-14 UT  
jd2ymd(2456092.6) # returns 0h date, 2012-06-14 UT  
jd2ymd(2456092.4) # returns 0h date, 2012-06-13 UT
```

---

planetFlux                      *Flux density from a thermal disk*

---

**Description**

The flux density from a disk-shaped blackbody with uniform temperature observed in a Gaussian beam.

**Usage**

```
planetFlux(T = 195, dp = 14.8, thetab = 19.4, f = 32)
```

**Arguments**

T	Disk's physical temperature
dp	Planet diameter, arcsec
thetab	Beam FWHM, arcsec
f	Observing frequency, GHz

**Details**

Geometry is for a uniform-temperature disk, a planet to some approximation, in a Gaussian beam.

**Value**

Flux density in janskys

**Note**

For a physical Mars model, see <http://www.aoc.nrao.edu/~bbutler/work/mars/model/>

**Author(s)**

Andrew Harris

**Examples**

```
planetFlux()
```

---

rad2dms                      *Convert radians to degrees, minutes, and seconds*

---

**Description**

Angular conversion from radians to degrees, minutes, and seconds

**Usage**

```
rad2dms(rad = 1, places = 2)
```

**Arguments**

rad	Decimal radians
places	Number of decimal places in seconds term (0:6)

**Details**

Convert radians to degrees, minutes, and seconds.

**Value**

Fixed-format string with sign, then degrees, minutes, and seconds separated by colons.

**Author(s)**

Andrew Harris

**See Also**

[rad2hms](#), [dms2rad](#), [hms2rad](#)

**Examples**

```
rad2dms(2.44)
rad2dms(dms2rad(c('-1,4,5.12', '10:04: 5.3')), places=3)
rad2dms(-66.5 * pi/180) # from degrees to dms
```

---

rad2hms	<i>Convert radians to hours, minutes, and seconds</i>
---------	---

---

**Description**

Angular conversion from radians to hours, minutes, and seconds

**Usage**

```
rad2hms(rad = 1, places = 1)
```

**Arguments**

rad	Decimal radians
places	Number of decimal places in seconds term (0:6)

**Value**

Fixed-format string with hours, minutes, and seconds separated by colons.

**Author(s)**

Andrew Harris

**See Also**

[rad2dms](#), [dms2rad](#), [hms2rad](#)

**Examples**

```
rad2hms(2.44)
rad2hms(hms2rad(c('10:04:5.12', '27,04,5.3', '-3:0:0')), places=3)
rad2hms(266.5 * pi/180) # from degrees to hms
```

---

ut2dmjd	<i>UT to DMJD</i>
---------	-------------------

---

**Description**

Universal time to decimal modified Julian date.

**Usage**

```
ut2dmjd(yr = 2012, mo = 1, dy = 1, hr = 0, mi = 0, se = 0)
```

**Arguments**

yr	UT year
mo	UT month
dy	UT day
hr	UT hour
mi	UT minute
se	UT second

**Value**

Decimal modified Julian date.

**Note**

Uses [ymd2jd](#) to calculate Julian date

**Author(s)**

Andrew Harris

**See Also**

[dmjd2ut](#)

**Examples**

```
ut2dmjd(yr=2000, mo=1, dy=1, hr=0, mi=0, se=0)
format(ut2dmjd(yr=2012, mo=5, dy=20, hr=7, mi=8, se=39), digits=10)
```

---

ut2lst

*Universal time to local sidereal time or hour angle*

---

**Description**

Functions to calculate local sidereal time (LST) or hour angle (HA) from Universal time (strictly, UTC1).

**Usage**

```
ut2lst(yr = 2012, mo = 1, dy = 1, hr = 0, mi = 0, se = 0,
lon.obs = "W 79d 50.5m")
```

```
ut2ha(yr = 2012, mo = 1, dy = 1, hr = 0, mi = 0, se = 0,
ra.sou = "13h 31m 08.3s", lon.obs = "W 79d 50m 23.4s")
```



**Arguments**

yr	UT1 Year
mo	UT1 Month number
dy	UT1 Day number
hr	UT1 Hour
mi	UT1 Minute
se	UT1 Seconds
ra.sou	String with source Right Ascension
lon.obs	String with observatory longitude

**Details**

If this input is `hr = Sys.time()` the function uses system time, including conversion to UT. UT is within a few seconds of UT1.

**Value**

Returns decimal local sidereal time in range 0 to 24 hours and hour angle from -1 to 12 hours, with class `fracHrs` (prints as h:m:s). For elapsed sidereal time difference over multiple sidereal days, difference UT days (from e.g. [ut2dmjd](#)) and multiply by 1.002737909350795.

**Note**

Spot checks show values match tabulated values in The Astronomical Almanac within ~0.01 seconds.

**Author(s)**

Andrew Harris

**References**

Greenwich mean sidereal time (GMST) at 0h UT1 from the "Explanatory Supplement to the Astronomical Almanac," Seidelmann (ed), c. 1992. Approximate equation of the equinoxes from <http://aa.usno.navy.mil/faq/docs/GAST.php>.

**See Also**

[ymd2jd](#), [gmst1](#), [dms2rad](#) and [hms2rad](#) for input formats, [Sys.time](#), [Sys.timezone](#) and time zone examples in [as.POSIXlt](#).

**Examples**

```
# LST at UT1 midnight on the first of every month for Green Bank, WV, USA
midLST <- ut2lst(yr = 2012, mo = 1:12, dy = 1, hr = 0, mi = 0, se = 0,
               lon.obs="W 79d 50.5m")
str(midLST)
midLST
```

```

# LST at EST midnight on the first of every month for Green Bank, WV, USA
# (EST = UT1-5 hours)
midLST <- ut2lst(yr = 2012, mo = 1:12, dy = 1, hr = -5, mi = 0, se = 0,
                lon.obs="W 79d 50.5m")
str(midLST)
midLST

# LST in Green Bank, WV, USA, now, and 12 hours from now.
ut2lst(Sys.time())
ut2lst(Sys.time() + 12*3600)

# Hour angle of 3C286 in Green Bank now (using function defaults)
ut2ha(Sys.time())

```

---

ymd2jd	<i>Year, month, day to 0h on Julian day</i>
--------	---

---

### Description

Convert year, month, day to 0h on Julian day.

### Usage

```
ymd2jd(yr = 2012, mo = 1, dy = 1)
```

### Arguments

yr	UT1 Year
mo	UT1 Month number
dy	UT1 Day number

### Details

Returns Julian date of 0 hours on the specified day. To get to noon on day, the time origin of Julian days, add 0.5.

### Value

Julian date

### Author(s)

Andrew Harris

**References**

Fliegel & Van Flinders, Comm. ACM 10, 657 (1968), whose algorithm uses FORTRAN integer mathematics. See also the Explanatory Supplement to the Astronomical Almanac, ed. P.K. Seidelmann, c. 1992.

**See Also**

[weekdays](#), [ut2dmjd](#)

**Examples**

```
# Ensure enough digits to see result, then return to previous value
dig <- getOption('digits')
options(digits=16)
ymd2jd(yr=2000, mo=1, dy=1)
ymd2jd(yr=2000, mo=1, dy=1.3) # rounds to nearest day
options(digits=dig)
jd2ymd(ymd2jd(yr=2000, mo=1, dy=1))
```

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