Updates for SOFA Release 18 : 2021 May 11

Summary of Changes

The changes fall into the following categories:

- (1) Introduction of three new support routines. Two deal with calculating astrometric places, while the third provides the approximate lunar position and velocity. The validation program has been duly updated.
- (2) A rearrangement of the ANSI C header files sofam.h and sofa.h. The consequence of this is that an explicit #include "sofam.h" has been added to many of the SOFA functions. Thus developers of applications that use constants from sofa.h will now need to include an explicit #include <sofam.h>. Further explanation is given below.
- (3) The year of validity for the leap second (dat) routine has been extended.
- (4) Typographical and other minor corrections to the documentation. Those that are purely typographical (e.g. punctuation) are not listed).

FORTRAN 77 Library

- iau_ATCC13 New support routine to transform a star's ICRS catalog entry (epoch J2000.0) into ICRS astrometric place.
- iau_ATCCQ New support routine; a "quick" transformation of a star's ICRS catalog entry (epoch J2000.0) into ICRS astrometric place, given precomputed star-independent astrometry parameters.
- iau_dat Year extended to 2021.
- iau_G2ICRS Documentation updated.
- iau_ICRS2G
- iau_PLAN94 Documentation updates and corrections.
- t_sofa_f The test program has been updated to include the three new routines.
- N.B. Both iau_MOON98 and iau_PLAN94 provide only approximate positions and do not use IAU endorsed theories.

ANSI C Library

sofa.h The information in both these files has been rearranged to
sofam.h Eliminate problems encountered by C++ developers.
The change has
(i) moved the structures from sofam.h into sofa.h and
(ii) thus eliminated the #include "sofam.h" from sofa.h.
The consequence of this change for SOFA functions is that
an explicit #include "sofam.h" has had to be added to some
of them.

Previously, sofam.h contained both structure definitions and constants, and was #included by sofa.h, which was otherwise dedicated to function prototypes. The difficulty was that

short uppercase names in sofam.h were colliding with C++ variables.

The consequence of the change for developers is that any application that uses constants from sofa.h will now need an explicit #include <sofam.h>. It should, however, be noted that the contents of sofam.h are not formally part of the SOFA API, and so such an application is vulnerable to future changes. Rather than adding an #include <sofam.h> to applications, it would be better to replicate the needed macros in the user code.

- iauAtcc13 New support function to transform a star's ICRS catalog entry (epoch J2000.0) into ICRS astrometric place.
- iauAtccq New support function, a "quick" transformation of a star's ICRS catalog entry (epoch J2000.0) into ICRS astrometric place, given precomputed star-independent astrometry parameters.

iauDat Year extended to 2021.

iauG2icrs Documentation updated.

iauIcrs2g

- makefile An error has been corrected when using "make check". The directory for the include files was incorrect.
- iauMoon98 New support function for calculating approximate geocentric position and velocity of the Moon.
- iauPlan94 Documentation updates and corrections.
- t_sofa_c The test program has been updated to include the three new functions.

Cosmetic changes to improve consistency have been made to the ANSI C code.

N.B. Both iauMoon98 and iauPlan94 provide only approximate positions and do not use IAU endorsed theories.