SKYCALC AND SKYCALENDER V5 - README

This contains the V5 version of the observer's almanac tools, skycalc and skycalendar.

Skycalc is an interactive tool which conveniently handles the time-and-the-sky calculations commonly encountered in optical astronomy. It has many features useful for planning observations and at the telescope.

Skycalendar prints a table of sunrise, sunset, moonrise, moonset, and so on, organized on a nightly (double-dated) basis for any site.

This version (posted 2001 February) incorporates some minor upgrades, bug fixes, and enhancements over V4. Most notably, for skycalc:

- colon-separated times and coordinates are now permitted;
- the program can be set to read the system clock every time output is called for;
- certain small pieces of copyright-protected code have been excised and replaced with original or public-domain versions;
- one can now save non-menu site parameters in a file.

And for skycalendar:

- more TeX output options are supported (e.g., one month per page in landscape mode).

The two subdirectories are as follows:

src - contains the source codes for skycalc and skycalendar.

doc - contains a manual in four forms - plain TeX, dvi, postscript, and PDF. Sorry, no HTML manual yet.

*** INSTALLATION ***

If you're on an X86 Linux machine, it should suffice to simply copy the executables in the gzip compressed tar file skycal-linux.tgz to someplace in your path (e.g., somewhere like /usr/local/bin, or $HOME/bin). You may want to rename the executables "skycalc" and "skycalendar". It's conceivable that pre-Red-Hat-6 Linices might have some kind of problem -- I haven't tested this.

If you're on another UNIX machine, you should be able to compile

the source by typing

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cc skycalc.v5.c -o skycalc -lm
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-- that's really all there is to it! -- and copying the output ("skycalc" in this example) into your path. The code is one gigantic slab of C. I know that the freebie pre-ANSI compilers on old SUN machines used to have troubles because the code uses some distinctly ANSI features, but the free gcc compiler should handle it perfectly.

If you have another OS (e.g., the Evil Empire OS) and compiler, you're on your own -- I know that old Windows C compilers used to choke on skycalc because it is a gigantic monolithic file with a bunch of routines in it, but I can't imagine why the industry would maintain these limits for modern machines.