Subject: Re: Local solar time

Posted by kuyper on Wed, 30 Jun 2004 12:59:56 GMT

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Craig Markwardt <craigmnet@REMOVEcow.physics.wisc.edu> wrote in message news:<on1xjyrl7b.fsf@cow.physics.wisc.edu>...

> James Kuyper <kuyper@saicmodis.com> writes:

>

>> Craig Markwardt wrote:

> ...

- >>> However, I will take issue on your claim that Julian days is a "time
- >>> system." In fact, Julian day numbers are simply a means of counting
- >>> whole and fractional days, referred to some offset, but it is the
- >>> definition of those days that are important!

>>

- >> According to the US Naval Observatory,
- >> <http://aa.usno.navy.mil/data/docs/JulianDate.html>, Julian days are
- >> defined in terms of Universal Time, and each one starts at Noon GMT.

>

- > Uhh, I'm sorry this is spilling out into the newsgroup. I still
- > disagree. Whether or not the USNO "definition" includes mention of
- > GMT or Universal Time, there are in practice enough different ways to
- > assign days that one needs to explicitly name the time system being
- > used. My biggest concern for the original poster was whether he meant
- > Julian days expressed in local time or in UTC, which obviously makes
- > all the difference in the world for his application.

I don't believe that this definition of "Julian Day" is specific to the USNO. I believe that they're merely reporting on an international standard definition. As such, anyone who's using the term correctly is inherently implying use of UTC, not local time.