
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:<on1xjyr17b.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.
