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Subject: Re: Local solar time

Posted by [Craig Markwardt](#) on Tue, 29 Jun 2004 23:36:08 GMT

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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.

Craig

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