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Subject: Re: Local solar time

Posted by [James Kuyper](#) on Tue, 29 Jun 2004 20:19:41 GMT

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Craig Markwardt wrote:

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

>

>> I know of at least two different things that are referred to as

>> Julian days. The first of these is indeed a time system; it is a

>> single number for every single day, starting at Jan. 1, 4713 B.C.E.

>> at 12:00:00, a time when three different cycles associated with

>> three ancient calendar systems were all synchronized. Nobody was

>> using any of those three

>

>

> James, as a mini-tutorial on julian day numbers, your post was great.

>

>

> 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.

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