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NIST Time and Frequency Bulletin

Karen Hansen Lichtfuss, Editor

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Willie E. May, Under Secretary of Commerce for Standards and Technology and Director

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1. GENERAL BACKGROUND INFORMATION

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THIS BULLETIN

ACTS - Automated Computer Time Service
BIPM - Bureau International des Poids et Mesures
GPS - Global Positioning System
IERS - International Earth Rotation Service
MC - Master Clock
MJD - Modified Julian Date
NIST - National Institute of Standards and Technology
SI - International System of Units
TA - Atomic Time
TAI - International Atomic Time
USNO - United States Naval Observatory
UT1 - Universal Time (Astronomical)
UTC - Coordinated Universal Time

ns - nanosecond
μs - microsecond
ms - millisecond
s - second
min - minute

2. TIME SCALE INFORMATION

The values listed below are based on data from the IERS, the USNO, and NIST. The UTC(USNO,MC) - UTC(NIST) values are averaged measurements from all available common-view GPS satellites (see bibliography on page 5). UTC - UTC(NIST) data are on page 3.

0000 HOURS COORDINATED UNIVERSAL TIME			
October 2015	MJD	UT1-UTC(NIST) (±5 ms)	UTC(USNO,MC) - UTC(NIST) (±20 ns)
1	57296	+229 ms	+10 ns
8	57303	+220 ms	+ 9 ns
15	57310	+209 ms	+ 7 ns
22	57317	+198 ms	+ 4 ns
29	57324	+183 ms	+ 2 ns

The master clock pulses used by the WWV, WWVH, and WWVB time-code transmissions are referenced to the UTC (NIST) time scale. Occasionally, 1 s is added to the UTC time scale. This second is called a leap second. Its purpose is to keep the UTC time scale within ±0.9 s of the UT1 astronomical time scale, which changes slightly due to variations in the Earth's period of rotation.

NOTE: No leap second will be added at the end of December 2015.

Positive leap seconds, beginning at 23 h 59 min 60 s UTC and ending at 0 h 0 min 0 s UTC, were inserted in the UTC time scale on 30 June 1972, 1981-1983, 1985, 1992-1994, 1997, 2012, 2015 and on 31 December 1972-1979, 1987, 1989, 1990,1995, 1998, 2005, 2008.

The use of leap seconds ensures that UT1 - UTC will always be held within ±0.9 s. The current value of UT1 - UTC is called the DUT1 correction. DUT1 corrections are broadcast by WWV, WWVH, WWVB, and ACTS and are printed below. These corrections may be added to the received UTC time signals in order to obtain UT1.

DUT1 = UT1 - UTC =

+0.1 s beginning 0000 UTC 26 November 2015
+0.2 s beginning 0000 UTC 11 September 2015
+0.3 s beginning 0000 UTC 01 July 2015
-0.7 s beginning 0000 UTC 28 May 2015
-0.6 s beginning 0000 UTC 19 March 2015
-0.5 s beginning 0000 UTC 25 December 2014
-0.4 s beginning 0000 UTC 25 September 2014
-0.3 s beginning 0000 UTC 08 May 2014
- 0.2 s beginning 0000 UTC 20 February 2014
- 0.1 s beginning 0000 UTC 21 November 2013
+0.0 s beginning 0000 UTC 22 August 2013
+0.1 s beginning 0000 UTC 11 April 2013
+0.2 s beginning 0000 UTC 31 January 2013
+0.3 s beginning 0000 UTC 25 October 2012
+0.4 s beginning 0000 UTC 01 July 2012
- 0.6 s beginning 0000 UTC 10 May 2012

The difference between UTC(NIST) and UTC has been within ±100 ns since July 6, 1994. The table below shows values of UTC - UTC(NIST) as supplied by the BIPM in their *Circular T* publication for the most recent 310-day period in which data are available. Data are given at ten-day intervals. Five-day interval data are available in *Circular T* .

0000 Hours Coordinated Universal Time		
DATE	**MJD**	**UTC-UTC(NIST), ns**
Sep. 24, 2015	**57289**	**15.8**
Sep. 14, 2015	**57279**	**14.3**
Set. 4, 2015	**57269**	**13.6**
Aug. 25, 2015	**57159**	**4.7**
Aug. 15, 2105	**57149**	**4.8**
Aug. 5, 2015	**57139**	**4.4**
Jul. 26, 2015	**57229**	**9.4**
Jul. 16, 2015	**57219**	**8.8**
Jul. 6, 2015	**57209**	**7.7**
Jun. 26, 2015	**57199**	**6.6**
Jun. 16, 2015	**57189**	**6.3**
Jun. 6, 2015	**57179**	**5.8**
May 27, 2015	**57169**	**5.6**
May 17, 2015	**57159**	**4.7**
May 7, 2015	**57149**	**4.8**
Apr. 27, 2015	**57139**	**4.4**
Apr. 17, 2015	**57129**	**4.4**
Apr. 7, 2015	**57119**	**4.5**
Mar. 28, 2015	**57109**	**4.3**
Mar. 18, 2015	**57099**	**4.3**
Mar. 8, 2015	**57089**	**4.2**
Feb. 26, 2015	**57079**	**3.5**
Feb. 16, 2015	**57069**	**2.5**
Feb. 6, 2015	**57059**	**2.5**
Jan. 27, 2015	**57049**	**3.5**
Jan. 17, 2015	**57039**	**5.0**
Jan. 7, 2015	**57029**	**5.8**
Dec. 28, 2014	**57019**	**7.8**
Dec. 18, 2014	**57009**	**9.6**
Dec. 8, 2014	**56999**	**10.2**

3. BROADCAST OUTAGES OVER FIVE MINUTES AND WWVB PHASE PERTURBATIONS

OUTAGES OF 5 MINUTES OR MORE						PHASE PERTURBATIONS 2 ms			
Station	Oct. 2015	MJD	Began UTC	Ended UTC	Freq.	Oct. 2015	MJD	Began UTC	End UTC
WWVB	10/11/15	57306	1543	1730	60 MHz	None			
WWV	None					None			
WWVH	10/29/15	57324	1854	2127	2.5, 5, 10, 15 MHz	None			

4. NOTES ON NIST TIME SCALES AND PRIMARY STANDARDS

Primary frequency standards developed and operated by NIST are used to provide accuracy (rate) input to the BIPM and to provide the best possible realization of the SI second. NIST-F1 and NIST F-2, cold-atom cesium fountain frequency standards, have served as the U.S. primary standards of time and frequency since 1999. The uncertainty of NIST-F2 is currently about 1 part in 10^{16}.

The AT1 scale is run in real-time by use of data from an ensemble of cesium standards and hydrogen masers. It is a free-running scale whose frequency is maintained as nearly constant as possible by choosing the optimum weight for each clock that contributes to the computation.

UTC(NIST) is generated as an offset from our real-time scale AT1. It is steered in frequency towards UTC by use of data published by the BIPM in its *Circular T*. Changes in the steering frequency will be made, if necessary, at 0000 UTC on the first day of the month, and occasionally at mid-month. A change in frequency is limited to no more than ±2 ns/day. The frequency of UTC(NIST) is kept as stable as possible at other times.

UTC is generated at the BIPM by use of a post-processed time-scale algorithm and is not available in real-time. The parameters that we use to generate UTC(NIST) in real-time are therefore based on an extrapolation of UTC from the most recent available data.

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5. UTC(NIST) – AT1 PARAMETERS

The table below lists parameters that are used to define UTC(NIST) with respect to our real-time scale AT1. To find the value of UTC(NIST) - AT1 at any time T (expressed as a Modified Julian Date, including a fraction if needed), the appropriate equation to use is the one for which the desired T is greater than or equal to the entry in the T_0 column and less than the entry in the last column. The values of x_{ls}, x, and y for that month are then used in the equation below to find the desired value. The parameters x and y represent the offsets in time and frequency, respectively, between UTC(NIST) and AT1; the parameter x_{ls} is the number of leap seconds applied to both UTC(NIST) and UTC, as specified by the IERS. Leap seconds are not applied to AT1.

UTC(NIST) - AT1 = x_{ls} + x + y*(T -T_0)					
Month	xls (s)	x (ns)	y (ns/d)	T0 (MJD)	Valid until 0000 on: (MJD)
Dec 15	-36	-425162.45	-36.9*	57357	57388
Nov 15	-36	-424162.45	-36.9	57332	57357*
Nov 15	-36	-424070.45	-36.4	57327	57332†
Oct 15	-36	-423378.95	-36.4	57305	57327
Oct 15	-36	-422939.65	-36.6	57296	57308†
Sep 15	-36	-421832.65	-36.9	57266	57296
Aug 15	-36	-421057.75	-36.9	57245	57266
Aug 15	-36	-420686.75	-37.1	57235	57245†
Jul 15	-36	-419536.65	-37.1	57204	57235
Jun 15	-35	-418423.65	-37.1	57174	57204
May 15	-35	-417273.55	-37.1	57143	57174
Apr 15	-35	-416161.55	-37.1	57113	57143
Mar 15	-35	-415010.45	-37.1	57082	57113
Feb 15	-35	-413971.65	-37.1	57054	57082
Jan 15	-35	-412824.65	-37.0	57023	57054
Dec 14	-35	-412010.65	-37.0	57001	57023
Dec 14	-35	-411675.85	-37.2	56992	57001†
Nov 14	-35	-410931.85	-37.2	56972	56992
Nov 14	-35	-410557.85	-37.4	56962	56972†
Oct 14	-35	-409735.05	-37.4	56940	56962
Oct 14	-35	-409379.1	-37.55*	56931	56940†
Sep 14	-35	-408270.6	-37.55	56901	56931
Aug 14	-35	-407106.6	-37.55	56870	56901
Jul 14	-35	-405942.5	-37.55	56839	56870

† Rate change in mid-month

***Provisional value**