NIST TIME AND FREQUENCY BULLETIN
NISTIR 5057-11

NO. 480 NOVEMBER 1997

This bulletin is published monthly. Address correspondence to:

Gwen E. Bennett, Editor
Time and Frequency Division
National Institute of Standards and Technology
325 Broadway
Boulder, CO 80303-3328
(303) 497-3295

NOTE TO SUBSCRIBERS: Please include your address label (or a copy) with any correspondence regarding this bulletin.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, William M. Daley, Secretary
TECHNOLOGY ADMINISTRATION, Mary L. Good, Under Secretary for Technology
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY, Robert Hebner, Acting Deputy Director

1. GENERAL BACKGROUND INFORMATION

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS USED IN THIS BULLETIN

BIPM - Bureau International des Poids et Mesures
CCIR - International Radio Consultative Committee
cs - Cesium standard
GOES - Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite
GPS - Global Positioning System
IERS - International Earth Rotation Service
LORAN - Long Range Navigation
MC - Master Clock
MJD - Modified Julian Date
NVLAP - National Voluntary Laboratory Accreditation Program
NIST - National Institute of Standards & Technology
NOAA - National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
SI - International System of Units
TA - Atomic Time
TAI - International Atomic Time
USNO - United States Naval Observatory
UTC - Coordinated Universal Time
VLF - very low frequency

ns - nanosecond
 - microsecond
ms - millisecond
s - second
min - minute
h - hour
d - day

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 up to 10 GPS satellites (see bibliography on page 5). UTC-UTC(NIST) data are on page 3.

0000 HOURS COORDINATED UNIVERSAL TIME			
OCT 1997	MJD	UT1 – UTC(NIST) (±5 ns)	UTC(USNO,MC) – UTC(NIST) (± 20 ns)
2	50723	+389 ms	16 ns
9	50730	+376 ms	13 ns
16	50737	+359 ms	8 ns
23	50744	+345 ms	7 ns
30	50751	+331 ms	6 ns

3. UT1 CORRECTIONS AND LEAP SECOND ADJUSTMENTS

The master clock pulses used by the WWV, WWVH, WWVB, and GOES 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 rotation of the Earth.

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 timescale on 30 June 1972, 1981-1983,1985, 1992,1993, 1994, and 1997, and on 31 December 1972-1979,1987, 1989, 1990, and 1995.

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 DUTI correction. DUT1 corrections are broadcast by WWV, WWVH, WWVB, and GOES and are printed below. These corrections may be added to received UTC time signals in order to obtain UT1.

DUT1 = UT1 - UTC =
+0.4 s beginning 0000 UTC 18 September 1997
+0.3 s beginning 0000 UTC 30 October 1997
+0.2 s beginning 0000 UTC 18 December 1997

The deviation of UTC of UTC(NIST) from UTC has been less than+/– 100 since July 6, 1984. The table below shows values of UTC - UTC(NIST) as supplied by the BIPM in Circular T for the most recent 350 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

Oct 13, 1996	50369	2
Oct 23, 1996	50379	6
Nov 2, 1996	50389	13
Nov 12, 1996	50399	23
Nov 22, 1996	50409	34
Dec 2, 1996	50419	44
Dec 12, 1996	50429	49
Dec 22, 1996	50439	50
Jan 1, 1997	50449	44
Jan 11, 1997	50459	40
Jan 21, 1997	50469	36
Jan 31, 1997	50479	29
Feb 10, 1997	50489	27
Feb 20, 1997	50499	21
Mar 2, 1997	50509	20
Mar 12, 1997	50519	12
Mar 22, 1997	50529	10
Apr 1, 1997	50539	5
Apr 11, 1997	50549	6
Apr 21, 1997	50559	–3
May 1, 1997	50569	–5
May 11, 1997	50579	–7
May 21, 1997	50589	–4
May 31, 1997	50599	–6
Jun 10, 1997	50609	–5
Jun 20, 1997	50619	–3
Jun 30, 1997	50629	0
Jul 10, 1997	50639	8
Jul 20, 1997	50649	16
Jul 30, 1997	50659	18
Aug 9, 1997	50669	21
Aug 19, 1997	50679	26
Aug 29, 1997	50689	29
Sep. 8, 1997	50699	30
Sep. 18, 1997	50709	31
Sev. 28. 1997	50719	30

4. PHASE DEVIATIONS FOR WWVB AND LORAN-C

WWVB - The values shown for WWVB are the time difference between the time markers of the UTC(NIST) time scale and the first positive-going zero voltage crossover measured at the transmitting antenna. The uncertainty of the individual measurements is $\pm 0.5\ \mu s$. The values listed are for 1300 UTC.

LORAN-C - The values shown for Loran-C represent the daily accumulated phase shift (in nanoseconds). The phase shift is measured by comparing the output of a Loran receiver to the UTC(NIST) time scale for a period of 24 h. If data were not recorded on a particular day, the symbol (-) is printed.

The master stations monitored are Dana, IN (8970) and Fallon, NV (9940). The monitoring is done from the NIST laboratories in Boulder, CO.

Note: The values shown for Loran-C are in nanoseconds.

DATE	MJD	UTC(NIST)-WWVB(60 kHz) ANTENNA PHASE (μs)	UTC(NIST) - LORAN PHASE (ns) LORAN-C (DANA) (8970)	LORAN-C (FALLON)' (9940)
10101/97	50722	5.73	+47	+79
10102197	50723	5.73	-533	-336
10/03/97	50724	5.73	-11	+251
10104197	50725	5.74	+45	-206
10105197	50726	5.75	-125	+46
10106197	50727	5.77	-251	-242
10107197	50728	5.74	+302	+138
10/08/97	50729	5.78	+129	-96
10109197	50730	5.77	-286	-205
10110197	50731	5.78	+262	-443
10/1 1/97	50732	5.79	+80	+94
10/1 2/97	50733	5.80	-213	-69
10113197	50734	5.81	-77	+116
10114197	50735	5.04	-34	-50
10/15197	50736	5.78	+222	+46
10116197	50737	5.79	-335	-549
10117197	50738	5.80	+129	-284
10/18/97	50739	5.71	+377	-71
10/19/97	50740	5.71	-170	+46
10120197	50741	5.71	+32	-365
10121197	50742	5.72	+208	+36
10122197	50743	5.71	+457	-182
10123197	50744	5.70	-313	+220
10124197	50745	5.68	+265	-18
10/25/97	50746	5.71	-120	-86
10126197	50747	5.72	-338	-319
10127197	50748	5.74	+122	-348
10/28/97	50749	5.73	-108	+102
10129197	50750	5.71	-133	+157
10130197	50751	5.74	-159	+217
10/3 1197	50752	5.75	+553	+402

5. GOES TIME CODE INFORMATION

A. TIME CODE PERFORMANCE (1-31 October 1997)

GOES/East:

Currently using the GOES-8 satellite at 75° west longitude. Timing uncertainty is ±100 μs with respect to UTC(NIST).

The Fall eclipse season for GOES/East began on August 30th and will continue until October 15, 1997. The peak eclipse hours are from 0416 to 0528 UTC. The GOES/East signal may be intermittent or erratic during the peak eclipse hours.

A GOES/East stationkeeping maneuver was performed on October 20,1997 at about 1900 UTC.

GOES/West:

Currently using the GOES-9 satellite at 135° west longitude. Timing uncertainty is ±100 μs with respect to UTC(NIST).

The Spring eclipse season for GOES/West began on August 31st and will continue until October 16, 1997. The peak eclipse hours are from 0818 to 0930 UTC. The GOES/West signal may be intermittent or erratic during the peak eclipse hours.

A GOES/West stationkeeping maneuver was performed on October 31, 1997 at about 1200 UTC.

NOTE: The next anticipated WWVB service interruptions will be in December 1997. This interruption is needed to test the WWVB transmitters on the antenna system. The exact dates, start times, and durations will be posted at http://www.bldrdoc.gov/tirnefreq/vboutage.htrn when the information becomes available.

Station	OCT 1997	MJD	Began UTC	Ended UTC	Freq.	OCT 1997	MJD	Began UTC	End UTC
WWVB	10/24	50745	1740	1855	60 KHz				
WWV									

7. NOTES ON NIST TIME SCALES AND PRIMARY STANDARDS

Primary frequency standards developed and maintained by NIST are used to provide accuracy (rate) input to the BIPM. NBS-6, which served as the U.S. primary standard from 1975 through 1992, has been replaced by NET-7, an optically pumped cesium-beam standard. The uncertainty of the new standard is currently 1 part in 10^{14}.

Since 1981, TA(NIST) has been computed retrospectively each month using a Kalman algorithm. The purpose of TA(NIST) was to provide a flywheel that realized our best estimate of the SI second between calibrations of our primary frequency standard, but the algorithm we have been using is not optimum for this purpose and is particularly unsuited to our new higher-accuracy environment. We therefore stopped computing TA(NIST) on 31 October 1993. We are studying alternate methods for incorporating the rate accuracy of NIST-7 into our time-scale algorithm, but no changes are likely until a thorough evaluation of the new procedure has been completed.

The AT1 scale is run in real time using data from an ensemble of cesium standards and hydrogen masers. It is a free-running scale whose frequency is maintained as 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 using data published by the BIPM in its Circular T. Changes in the steering frequency will be made only at 0000 UTC on the first day of any month, and the change in frequency in any month is limited to ±2 ns/day. The frequency of UTC(NIST) is kept as stable as possible at other times.

UTC is generated at the BIPM using 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 data available.

8. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Allan, D.W.; Hellwig, H.; and Glaze, D.J., "An accuracy algorithm for an atomic time scale," Metrologia, Vol.11, No.3, pp.133-138 (September 1975).

Allan, D.W. and Weiss, M.A., "Accurate time and frequency transfer during common view of a GPS satellite," Proc. 34th Annual Symposium on Frequency Control, p.334 (1980).

Allan, D.W. and Barnes, J.A., "Optimal time and frequency using GPS signals," Proc. 36th Annual Symposium on Frequency Control, p.378 (1982).

Drullinger, R.E.; Glaze, D.J.; Lowe, J.P.; and Shirley, J.H., "The NIST optically pumped cesium frequency standard," IEEE Trans. Instrum. Meas., IM-40, 162-164 (1991).

Glaze, D.J.; Hellwig, H.; Allan, D.W.; and Jarvis, S., "NBS-4 and NBS-6: The NIST primary frequency standards," Metrologia, Vol.13, pp.17-28 (1977).

Wineland, D.J.; Allan, D.W.; Glaze, D.J.; Hellwig, H.; and Jarvis, S., "Results on limitations in primary cesium standard operation," IEEE Trans. Instrum. Meas., IM-25, pp.453-458 (December 1976).

Table 7.1 is a list of the 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 Day, 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 offset in time and in 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.

Month	x_{ls} (s)	x (ns)	y (ns/day)	T_0 (MJD)	Valid until 0000 on: (MJD)
Jan 96	-30	-138687	-43.5	50083	50114
Feb 96	-30	-140035	-43.5	50114	50143
Mar 96	-30	-141297	-43.5	50143	50174
Apr 96	-30	-142645	-43.5	50174	50204
May 96	-30	-143950	-43.5	50204	50235
Jun 96	-30	-145299	-43.5	50235	50265
Jul 96	-30	-146604	-44.0	50265	50296
Aug 96	-30	-147968	-44.5	50296	50327
Sep 96	-30	-149347	-44.5	50327	50357
Oct 96	-30	-150682	-44.0	50357	50388
Nov 96	-30	-152046	-44.0	50388	50418
Dec 96†	-30 -30	-153366 -154066.8	-43.8 -42.6	50418 50434	50434 50449
Jan 97	-30	-154705.8	-42.5	50449	50480
Feb 97	-30	-156023.3	-42.5	50480	50508
Mar 97	-30	-157213.3	-42.7	50508	50539
Apr 97	-30	-158537	-42.5	50539	50569
May 97	-30	-159812	-43.0	50569	50600
Jun 97	-30	-161145	-43.0	50600	50630
Jul 97	-31	-162435	-43.0	50630	50661
Aug 97	-31	-163768	-43.0	50661	50692
Sep 97	-31	-165101	-42.5	50692	50722
Oct 97	-31	-166376	-42.0	50722	50753
Nov 97	-31	-167678	-42.0	50753	50783
Dec 97	-31	-168938	-42.0*	50783	50814

*Provisional rate

†Note rate change in mid-month

9. SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

TRACEABLE FREQUENCY CALIBRATIONS
(Now NVLAP Certified)

Anyone needing traceable frequency calibrations can get them by subscribing to the NIST Frequency Measurement and Analysis Service. This service is offered on a lease basis by NIST to provide an easy and inexpensive means to obtain traceability of a laboratory main oscillator and, in addition, to calibrate other devices in the lab. This service has been designed for ease of operation and as a practical lab calibration tool.

All the equipment and software needed are provided by NIST. Users must provide their own oscillator(s) and an ordinary telephone line so that NIST can access the system by modem. A total of four oscillators can be calibrated at the same time. Radio signals from either Loran-C or GPS satellite are used. Results for either are at about the same accuracy.

The calibration data are displayed in color and a graph is plotted daily for each oscillator connected. Data are also stored on disk. The user can call up any of the data and view them onscreen or in the form of plots. Many months of data can be plotted.

The system plots are easy to read and understand. The system manual is written for easy understanding and the NIST staff is available by telephone to assist. The modem connection allows NIST to access the data and to prepare a monthly traceability report which is mailed to the user.

Frequency sources of any accuracy can be calibrated. The FMAS is particularly useful at the highest levels of performance. This is because each user of the system contributes information and calibration data for the others. If an uncertainty arises, it is possible for NIST to call by modem to another user nearby. In this way problems in data interpretation can be resolved.

NVLAP certification requirements for frequency measurement are met by following the NIST-FMAS operating manual. This service does not eliminate the NVLAP audits but, when installed and operated per the NIST guidelines, audit requirements are easily met.

NIST retains title to the equipment and supplies any needed system spares. Equipment that fails is replaced by overnight shipment. Training for use of the system is available if requested by the user.

The NIST Frequency Measurement and Analysis Service provides a complete solution to nearly all frequency measurement and calibration problems. For a free information package, please call Michael Lombardi at (303) 497-3212, or write to: Michael Lombardi, NIST, Division 847, 325 Broadway, Boulder, CO 80303.