

NIST TIME AND FREQUENCY BULLETIN  
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## 1. GENERAL BACKGROUND INFORMATION

### ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS 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 and Technology		
NOAA	- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration	ns	- nanosecond
SI	- International System of Units	μs	- microsecond
TA	- Atomic Time	ms	- millisecond
TAI	- International Atomic Time	s	- second
USNO	- United States Naval Observatory	min	- minute
UTC	- Coordinated Universal Time		

## 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			
DEC 2001	MJD	UT1-UTC(NIST) (±5 ms)	UTC(USNO,MC) - UTC(NIST) (±20 ns)
6	52249	-94 ms	8 ns
13	52256	-101 ms	3 ns
20	52263	-104 ms	-4 ns
27	52270	-112 ms	-6 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 rate of rotation of the Earth.

NOTE: There was NO leap second added at the end of December 2001.

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, 1995, and 1998. There have been 22 leap seconds inserted in total.

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, and WWVB and are printed below. These corrections may be added to received UTC time signals in order to obtain UT1.

DUT1 = UT1 - UTC =	+0.1 s beginning 0000 UTC 19 October 2000 +0.0 s beginning 0000 UTC 01 March 2001 -0.1 s beginning 0000 UTC 04 October 2001
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The deviation of UTC(NIST) from 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
Nov. 26, 2001	52239	27
Nov. 16, 2001	52229	31
Nov. 6, 2001	52219	34
Oct. 27, 2001	52209	39*
Oct. 17, 2001	52199	42*
Oct. 7, 2001	52189	46*
Sep. 27, 2001	52179	40
Sep. 17, 2001	52169	32
Sep. 7, 2001	52159	26
Aug. 28, 2001	52149	17
Aug. 18, 2001	52139	2
Aug. 8, 2001	52129	-11
July 29, 2001	52119	-18
July 19, 2001	52109	-20
July 9, 2001	52099	-23
June 29, 2001	52089	-26
June 19, 2001	52079	-23
June 9, 2001	52069	-21
May 30, 2001	52059	-17
May 20, 2001	52049	-14
May 10, 2001	52039	-13
Apr. 30, 2001	52029	-11
Apr. 20, 2001	52019	-8
Apr. 10, 2001	52009	-5
Mar. 31, 2001	51999	3
Mar. 21, 2001	51989	-2
Mar. 11, 2001	51979	0
Mar. 1, 2001	51969	1
Feb. 19, 2001	51959	5
Feb. 9, 2001	51949	11
Jan. 30, 2001	51939	11

\*NOTE: These values have been corrected.

### 3. PHASE DEVIATIONS FOR WWVB AND LORAN-C

- WWVB - The values shown for WWVB are the time differences 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  $\pm 0.5 \mu\text{s}$ . The values listed are for 1300 UTC.
- LORAN-C - The values shown for Loran-C represent the daily accumulated phase shift (in ns). 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 stations monitored are Baudette, ND (8970) and Fallon, NV (9940). The monitoring is done from the NIST laboratories in Boulder, Colorado.

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

DATE	MJD	UTC(NIST)-WWVB (60 kHz)		UTC(NIST) - LORAN PHASE (ns)	
		ANTENNA PHASE ( $\mu\text{s}$ )	LORAN-C (BAUDETTE) (8970)	LORAN-C (FALLON) (9940)	
12/01/01	52244	5.73	-38	+102	
12/02/01	52245	5.72	+172	+358	
12/03/01	52246	5.72	+81	-19	
12/04/01	52247	5.70	-121	-37	
12/05/01	52248	5.70	+131	-469	
12/06/01	52249	5.73	+17	+127	
12/07/01	52250	5.70	-119	-353	
12/08/01	52251	5.71	-6	-10	
12/09/01	52252	5.71	+61	-193	
12/10/01	52253	5.70	+428	+9	
12/11/01	52254	5.68	+226	+371	
12/12/01	52255	5.72	+8	-68	
12/13/01	52256	5.72	-372	+47	
12/14/01	52257	5.72	-1	+159	
12/15/01	52258	5.72	+461	+257	
12/16/01	52259	5.72	-227	-468	
12/17/01	52260	5.72	+251	+61	
12/18/01	52261	5.72	+263	+227	
12/19/01	52262	5.72	-5	-72	
12/20/01	52263	5.72	+52	-118	
12/21/01	52264	5.72	+60	-241	
12/22/01	52265	5.72	+110	+387	
12/23/01	52266	5.72	+7	-288	
12/24/01	52267	5.72	-116	+301	
12/25/01	52268	5.72	+28	-51	
12/26/01	52269	5.72	+46	+127	
12/27/01	52270	5.72	-50	+25	
12/28/01	52271	5.72	-18	-125	
12/29/01	52272	5.72	+86	+170	
12/30/01	52273	5.72	+106	-78	
12/31/01	52274	5.72	-105	+208	

#### 4. BROADCAST OUTAGES OVER FIVE MINUTES AND WWVB PHASE PERTURBATIONS

OUTAGES OF 5 MINUTES OR MORE WWVB 60 kHz						PHASE PERTURBATIONS			
Station	DEC 2001	MJD	Began UTC	Ended UTC	Freq.	DEC 2001	MJD	Began UTC	End UTC
WWVB	12/8/01	52251	1822	1933	60 kHz				
WWV									
WWVH									

#### 5. 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. NIST-7, which had served as the U.S. primary standard since 1994, has been replaced by NIST-F1, a cesium fountain frequency standard. The uncertainty of the new standard is currently 1.7 parts in  $10^{15}$ .

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 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 using 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 very occasionally at mid-month. A change in frequency is limited to no more than  $\pm 2$  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.

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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 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 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.

Table 7.1 UTC(NIST) - AT1 = $x_{ls} + x + y*(T - T_0)$					
Month	$x_{ls}$ (s)	$x$ (ns)	$y$ (ns/d)	$T_0$ (MJD)	Valid until 0000 on: (MJD)
May 00	-32	-205248.0	-40.25	51665	51696
Jun 00	-32	-206495.75	-40.25	51696	51725††
Jul 00	-32	-207663.0	-40.0	51725††	51757
Aug 00	-32	-208943.0	-39.5	51757	51788
Sep 00	-32	-210167.5	-39.0	51788	51818
Oct 00	-32	-211337.5	-39.0	51818	51849
Nov 00	-32	-212546.5	-40.0	51849	51879
Dec 00	-32	-213746.5	-40.0	51879	51910
Jan 01	-32	-214986.5	-40.0	51910	51941
Feb 01	-32	-216226.5	-39.0	51941	51969
Mar 01	-32	-217318.5	-39.5	51969	52000
Apr 01	-32	-218543.0	-39.0	52000	52030
May 01	-32	-219713.0	-39.0	52030	52061
Jun 01	-32	-220937.5	-39.5	52061	52091
Jul 01	-32	-222122.5	-40.0	52091	52122
Aug 01	-32	-223362.5	-41.0	52122	52153
Sep 01	-32	-224633.5	-40.5	52153	52183
Oct 01	-32	-225848.5	-39.5	52183	52214
Nov 01	-32	-227073.0	-39.5	52214	52244
Dec 01	-32	-228258.0	-39.0	52244	52275
Jan 02	-32	-229467.0	-39.0	52275	52306†
Feb 02	-32	-230676.0	-39.5*	52306	52334

† Rate change in mid-month  
 †† Rate change one day early  
 \*Provisional value

## 7. SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

### TRACEABLE FREQUENCY CALIBRATIONS (Now NVLAP Certified)

Laboratories can get any needed traceable frequency calibrations 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 frequency standard and, in addition, to calibrate other devices in the lab. This service has been designed for ease of operation and as a practical calibration tool.

All necessary hardware and software is 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 maximum total of five oscillators can be calibrated at the same time. Radio signals from GPS satellites are used and the measurement uncertainty is  $\pm 2 \times 10^{-13}$  per day. Any frequency from 1 Hz to 120 MHz (in 1 Hz increments) can be measured.

The calibration data are displayed in color, and a graph is plotted daily for each oscillator. 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. Up to 5 months of data can be plotted on one graph.

The system plots are easy to read and understand. The system manual is written clearly and the NIST staff are 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. All necessary replacement parts are 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 phone Michael Lombardi at (303) 497-3212, or E-mail him at [lombardi@boulder.nist.gov](mailto:lombardi@boulder.nist.gov), or write to Michael Lombardi, NIST, Division 847, 325 Broadway, Boulder, CO 80305.

### NOTICE TO DISCONTINUE INVOLVEMENT WITH GOES TIME CODE SERVICE

NIST has announced that it will discontinue its involvement with the time code broadcast from the GOES WEST and GOES EAST satellites operated by the National Oceanic and Atmosphere Administration (NOAA) on January 1, 2005. This decision has been jointly made by NIST and NOAA in response to the fact that nearly all users requiring time more accurate than 1 millisecond now use the Global Positioning System (GPS), and as a result, commercial sources for GOES timing receivers no longer exist.

NOAA is expected to continue to provide a GOES time code indefinitely after January 1, 2005, and existing receivers should be able to continue to receive and decode the time signal. However, the time code will no longer be controlled and checked by NIST, and the received time is expected to be less accurate when NIST discontinues its involvement. The GOES satellites currently broadcast continuously updated position information in addition to the time, so that GOES receivers can automatically correct for path delay changes caused by satellite motion. This allows the current system to have a time uncertainty of less than 100 microseconds. NOAA is expected to continuously broadcast a fixed position from the satellites, which could increase the time uncertainty to 1 millisecond or more.

The GOES time broadcasts began in 1974 and have served many applications and thousands of users. NIST will continue to control and monitor the time code through January 1, 2005 to allow users who require a high accuracy signal sufficient time to replace their existing receivers. If you have additional questions, please contact Michael Lombardi, 303-497-3212, or email [lombardi@boulder.nist.gov](mailto:lombardi@boulder.nist.gov).

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### IMPORTANT NOTICE!

The Time and Frequency Bulletin data are now online at

<http://tf.nist.gov>

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