

NISTIR 8167-08

NIST Time and Frequency Bulletin

Kathryn Stephenson, Editor

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August 2017



U.S. Department of Commerce
Wilbur L. Ross, Jr., Secretary

National Institute of Standards and Technology
Kent Rochford, Acting NIST Director and Under Secretary of Commerce for Standards and Technology

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NIST IR 8167-08

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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	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
UT1	- Universal Time (Astronomical)		
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			
Jul 2017	MJD	UT1-UTC(NIST) (±5 ms)	UTC(USNO,MC) - UTC(NIST) (±20 ns)
6	57940	357 ms	-1.7 ns
13	57947	356 ms	-3.1 ns
20	57954	352 ms	-3.3 ns
27	57961	349 ms	-3 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 June 2017.

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, 2016.

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 =	+0.3 s beginning 0000 UTC 29 June 2017 +0.4 s beginning 0000 UTC 30 March 2017 +0.5 s beginning 0000 UTC 26 January 2017 +0.6 s beginning 0000 UTC 01 January 2017 -0.4 s beginning 0000 UTC 17 November 2016 -0.3 s beginning 0000 UTC 01 September, 2016 -0.1 s beginning 0000 UTC 24 March 2016 +0.0 s beginning 0000 UTC 31 January 2016 +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
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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
Jul. 25, 2017	57959	1.6
Jul. 15, 2017	57949	0.7
Jul. 5, 2017	57939	0.6
Jun. 25, 2017	57929	1
Jun. 15, 2017	57919	0
Jun. 5, 2017	57909	-1.3
May 26, 2017	57899	-3.8
May 16, 2017	57889	-4.3
May 6, 2017	57879	-3.8
Apr. 26, 2017	57869	0.5
Apr. 16, 2017	57859	6.9
Apr. 6, 2017	57849	10
Mar. 27, 2017	57839	5.5
Mar. 17, 2017	37829	-4.9
Mar. 7, 2017	37819	-6.6
Feb. 25, 2017	57809	-5.1
Feb. 15, 2017	57799	-2
Feb. 5, 2017	57789	-0.6
Jan. 26, 2017	57779	-0.6
Jan. 16, 2017	57769	-1.2
Jan. 6, 2017	57759	-1.4
Dec. 27, 2016	57749	-1.2
Dec. 17, 2016	57739	-2.6
Dec. 7, 2016	57729	-1.3
Nov. 27, 2016	57719	0.9
Nov. 17, 2016	57709	1.6
Nov. 7, 2016	57699	1.2
Oct. 28, 2016	57689	1.8
Oct. 18, 2016	57679	4.5
Oct. 8, 2016	57669	5.5
Sep. 28, 2016	57659	4.1
Sep. 18, 2016	57649	1.3
Sep. 8, 2016	57639	0.4
Aug. 29, 2016	57629	-1.6

3. BROADCAST OUTAGES OVER FIVE MINUTES AND WWVB PHASE PERTURBATIONS

OUTAGES OF 5 MINUTES OR MORE						PHASE PERTURBATIONS 2 ms			
Station	Jul 2017	MJD	Began UTC	Ended UTC	Freq.	Jul 2017	MJD	Began UTC	End UTC
WWVB	07-29-17	57963	0257	0347	60 kHz	None			
WWV	None					None			
WWVH	None					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 10¹⁶.

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	x_{ls} (s)	x (ns)	y (ns/d)	T_0 (MJD)	Valid until 0000 on: (MJD)
Sep 17	-37	448915.95	-37.20*	57997	58027
Aug 17	-37	448619.95	-37.10	57989	57997*
Aug 17	-37	448360.85	-36.90	57982	57989†
Aug 17	-37	-448101.15	-37.10	57975	57982†
Aug 17	-37	-447765.9	-37.25	57966	57975†
Jul 17	-37	-447058.15	-37.25	57947	57966
Jul 17	-37	-446612.35	-37.15	57935	57947†
Jun 17	-37	-446278	-37.15	57926	57935
Jun 17	-37	-445643.05	-37.35	57909	57926†
Jun 17	-37	-445492.85	-37.55	57905	57909†
May 17	-37	-445230	-37.55	57898	57905
May 17	-37	-444745.75	-37.25	57885	57898†
May 17	-37	-444448.55	-37.15	57877	57885†
May 17	-37	-444338	-36.85	57874	57877†
Apr 17	-37	-444190.6	-36.85	57870	57874
Apr 17	-37	-443935.45	-36.45	57863	57870†
Apr 17	-37	-443418.15	-36.95	57849	57863†
Apr 17	-37	-443231.4	-37.35	57844	57849†
Mar 17	-37	-443156.7	-37.35	57842	57844
Mar 17	-37	-442621.2	-38.25	57828	57842†
Mar 17	-37	-442099.7	-37.25	57814	57828†
Mar 17	-37	-442062.85	-36.85	57813	57814†
Feb 17	-37	-441325.85	-36.85	57793	57813
Feb 17	-37	-441029.45	-37.05	57785	57793†
Jan 17	-37	-439880.9	-37.05	57754	57785
Dec 16	-36	-439547.45	-37.05	57745	57754
Dec 16	-36	-439287.05	-37.2	57738	57745†
Dec 16	-36	-438770.45	-36.90	57724	57738†
Dec 16	-36	-438733.45	-37.00	57723	57724†
Nov 16	-36	-438030.45	-37.00	57704	57723
Nov 16	-36	-437694.75	-37.30	57695	57704†
Nov 16	-36	-437620.95	-36.90	57693	57695†
Oct 16	-36	-436956.75	-36.90	57675	57693
Oct 16	-36	-436510.35	-37.20	57663	57675†

† Rate change in mid-month

*Provisional value