

Andrew Johnston Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum

Time and Navigation: The Untold Story of Getting From Here to There.

An enduring connection between determining time and position.

"If you want to know where you are, you need a reliable clock."

WELCOME TO TIME and NAVIGATION

DEAD RECKONING AT SEA



CELESTIAL NAVIGATION AT SEA















Replica of Galileo's Giovilabio



Replica of Galileo Pendulum Clock Design from 1642







Chronometer, Thomas Mudge Jr. Number 14 (1802)



Bond Chronometer (1812)



Chronometer Movement, John Roger Arnold (about 1825)





Ramsden Dividing Engine (1775)



Sextant, Jesse Ramsden (after 1775)





Thomas Sumner's line of constant altitude (voyage 1838, published 1843)

United States Exploring Expedition (Pacific Ocean 1838-1842)



Flying Cloud (New York – San Francisco 1854)





Synchronizing the World

Scales for time and location moved from local to global.

Railroad Time: Great Western Railway to Greenwich time (1840), US Railway Time (1883)

US Meridian in DC: Jefferson Pier Stone (1804), Old Naval Observatory (1850)

Geographical Congress (1881) - International Geodesic Conference, Rome (1883) International Meridian Conference, Washington DC (1884) Prime Meridian Contested: Selected Greenwich by vote of 22-1 (2 abstentions)

Time Zones proposed by Sandford Fleming in 1879 and again at 1884 Conference

Map shows current time zones. Each zone defined at national and local level.



Navigation in the Air





Lockheed Vega *Winnie Mae* (around the world in 1931, 1933)

NC-4 by Ted Wilbur (Atlantic crossing 1919)

Navigation in the Air



Fairchild-Maxson Line of Position Computer (1938)



Richie Compass from *Winnie Mae* (recovered 1935 after Post & Rogers crash)

Navigation in the Air







Synchronizing the World

Global Time Scales, but with expanding range of applications. How to define time scale for specific needs?

Rotation of the Earth Local Solar Time Universal Time - UT1 and UT2 (smoothed UT1)

Movement of Celestial Bodies Ephemeris Time 1950 – revolution of Earth around Sun (IAU) Relativistic Scales 1977 - Correction applied for clock altitudes 1979 - Terrestrial Dynamical Time (Earth center) and Barycentric Dynamical Time (Sun center)

Atomic Time

- **1955 Greenwich Atomic (GA)**
- 1956 USNO A.1 scale related to ET, master clock updated to match UT2
- 1957 NIST Boulder NBS-A followed A.1, NBS-UA offset to UT2 and broadcast on WWV

Who Needs Relativity?

Albert Einstein

The atomic clocks in the GPS system are so accurate that they take into account Albert Einstein's understanding of time, space, and relativity. Because GPS satellites experience less gravity and move at high velocity, their clocks operate at a different rate than those on Earth. Since all the clocks in the system must be synchronized, a net correction of 38 millionths of a second per day must be added to the satellite clocks' time signals.

Ational Archives and records Administration

Synchronizing the World

Who sets the time? Would it continue to follow Earth rotation? Differences between celestial time and atomic time are not new.

- 1959 International Radio Consultative Committee (CCIR) studies time standard
- 1960 Labs in US and UK coordinate time
- 1960 International Time Bureau (BIH) mean atomic time (AM, A3) and \triangle UT2
- 1960 SI second defined by Ephemeris Time
- 1963 UTC formalized and adopted by CCIR: included 100ms steps to match UT2
- 1966 CCIR experiment: Stepped Atomic Time (SAT) 0.1s of UT2 with 200ms steps
- 1967 SI second defined by Cesium 133
- 1968 Leap seconds proposed
- 1971 International Atomic Time (TAI) extension of BIH time (A3)
- 1972 UTC altered: Approximates UT1 instead of UT2 Leap seconds adopted

1987 – International Bureau of Weights and Measures (BIPM) maintains UTC, TAI 1987 - International Earth Rotation Service (now International Earth Reference Systems Service) forecasts DUT1 and announces leap seconds

Navigation in Space



Apollo Sextant (1968)





Space Shuttle star tracker (1981)

Pioneer 4 (1959)

Navigation in Space



26 m antenna at Goldstone



Quartz Oscillator (1961)

Velocity precision improved from 10m/sec to 50mm/sec

1962 Atomic clocks: 5mm/sec

Navigation in Space





Mariner 10 (1973)

70 m antenna at Goldstone

NAVIGATION IN SPACE

1

Goldstone

1. Deep Space Network (DSN) sends signals to a spacecraft, which returns these signals to the stations on Earth. The spacecraft may also track the position of its destination against a star field.

Medrid

Canberra

3. DSN_stations transmit course correction commands, which the spacecraft executes.

Current

Desired

Target

Star Field

1933 E

2. Using precise time information from these signals, navigators calculate the spacecraft's location and velocity with respect to the Earth, and ultimately with respect to its destination. They compare the spacecraft's current course with its desired target and calculate a course correction.



MER Landing Ellipse (2004)





MSL Landing Ellipse (2012)



Second Transit satellite (1960)



The Doppler shift of signals from a moving satellite is used to determine the satellite's orbit compared to the location of the tracking station. By then inverting the process, a vessel can locate itself compared to the satellite's known location.





SINS from USS Alabama



NTS-2 satellite (1977)



Small Diameter Bomb







GPS Time maintained at Schriever AFB to match USNO time.





NIST-7 Atomic clock



Stanley (2005)





John Sullivan

Roy Bardole

Eva González





- **1** GPS receiver
- 2 Processor (computer)
- **3** Three-axis gyroscope
- 4 Magnetic compass
- **5** Radio receivers
- **6** Three-axis accelerometer

Seiko Epson Digital Assistant (1997)

Looking Ahead



Chip-Scale atomic clock

Looking Ahead

Future Time: Global Time, Local Implications

Multiple communities with diverse viewpoints rely on precise time services. UTC by itself is not a perfect solution for either celestial or radio navigation.

TAI – UTC now 35 seconds apart: 10 seconds in 1972, 25 leap seconds.

DUT1 = UT1 – UTC Broadcast by WWV

Each GNSS has its own time scale. Leap seconds in GPS message. GLONASS impact in the past. Future impact could increase.

Keep UTC as basis of civil time? Rename UTC? Eliminate TAI?



Future of Leap Seconds? 2008 – ITU working party submits recommendation to stop leap seconds 2012 – ITU postpones decision to 2015 conference in Geneva

Behinds the Scenes at Time and Navigation



DSN Frequency Standard

Working atomic clock

Time and Navigation open to the public at the National Air and Space Museum

Please visit web site: timeandnavigation.si.edu

More information:

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Come visit the Einstein Planetarium! Tuesday 10:00



Phoebe Waterman Haas Public Observatory (Wed.-Sun.) Explore the Universe Gallery

