

RECOMMENDATION ITU-R TF.536-1

TIME-SCALE NOTATIONS

(Question 101-2/7)

(1978-1998)

The ITU Radiocommunication Assembly,

considering

- a) that language independent time-scale notations have been introduced;
- b) that the 14th General Conference of Weights and Measures (CGPM) in 1971 defined the International Atomic Time, using the designation TAI;
- c) that the 15th CGPM in 1975 recommended the use of Coordinated Universal Time, using the designation UTC,

recommends

- 1 that for all forms of atomic time, the following notations consistent with TAI be used in all languages:

TAI: International Atomic Time, as formed by the BIPM,

TA: Atomic Time; a time variable which may be realized on the basis of an atomic or molecular transition,

TA(k): Atomic Time-scale, as realized by the laboratory "k";

- 2 that for all forms of Universal Time, the following notations consistent with UTC be used in all languages:

UT: Universal Time,

UTC: Coordinated Universal Time; this time-scale is maintained by the BIPM and the IERS, according to Recommendation ITU-R TF.460,

UTC(k): Time-scale realized by the laboratory "k" and kept in close agreement with UTC, with the goal to reach ± 100 ns, according to Recommendation S5 (1993) of the Consultative Committee for the Definition of the Second.

NOTE 1 – Where there may be danger of confusion, UTC (BIPM) may be used instead of UTC.

NOTE 2 – TAI and UTC are evaluated in arrears and are only accessible by means of corrections (published by the BIPM) to existing (realized) time-scales such as TA(k) or UTC(k) including extrapolation.

NOTE 3 – The reference for notation of time instants and time scale differences can be found in the International Standardization Organization (ISO) Standard 8601:1988.
