

Re: moonrise and time offset

Source: <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.astro.amateur/2004-08/0655.html>

From: Brian Tung (brian_at_isi.edu)

Date: 08/04/04

Date: Wed, 4 Aug 2004 22:25:37 +0000 (UTC)

Tom Rankin wrote:

- > *The basic reason is because the Moon does not orbit the Earth in the*
- > *same plane as the Earth orbits the Sun. Thus the Moon's declination can*
- > *change rapidly from day to day, or slowly, depending on where the moon*
- > *is on the celestial grid. And the declination change can have a large*
- > *effect on rise/set time.*

Although this is basically correct, I'm going to pick a nit and mention that I don't think you mean the ecliptic plane you mean, but that of the celestial equator. If the Moon orbited in the equatorial plane, it *would* have the same declination (0 degrees, geocentric) all the time. If it orbited in the ecliptic plane, its geocentric declination would vary between -23.44 and $+23.44$.

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The Astronomy Corner at <http://astro.isi.edu/>

Unofficial C5+ Home Page at <http://astro.isi.edu/c5plus/>

The PleiadAtlas Home Page at <http://astro.isi.edu/pleiadatlas/>

My Own Personal FAQ (SAA) at <http://astro.isi.edu/reference/faq.txt>