

## Re: Polar Shift

**Source:** <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.astro.amateur/2005-01/2617.html>

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Jerry Pool <nlpjp@aol.comremove> wrote:

>How much has the Polar Shift caused by the recent 9.0 earthquake affected the  
>circa 2000 star charts?

You need to shift all of your object coordinates by one-half of a millionth of an arcsecond.

Better update your charts ASAP!

While I marvel at the innumeracy of the press and the public during this current game of urban myth "telephone," let me make a couple of points:

1. The shift is predicted by a numerical model developed by Richard Gross at JPL. This is not a measurement, it's the prediction of a model.
2. Part of the reason it hasn't been measured is because the model's predictions are too small to measure with current technology.

Example: The model predicts a speed-up in the Earth's rotation of 2.7 microseconds. The earth's rotational period can't be measured to an accuracy any better than 20 microseconds.

<[http://earthquake.usgs.gov/eqinthenews/2004/usslav/neic\\_slav\\_faq.html](http://earthquake.usgs.gov/eqinthenews/2004/usslav/neic_slav_faq.html)>

But, you know, just to be on the safe side, I recommend that you buy replacements for all of your charts and charting software as soon as possible.

Mojo

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