

Re: Oriel36 – I am very disappointed!

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On Nov 10, 11:41 pm, oriel36 <kelleher.ger...@xxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

The empirical version applied to astronomy is that the Earth rotates 360 degrees in 23 hours 56 minutes 04 seconds instead of the correct 24 hour value. The reasoning an ideology which produces the alternative value I have fought and will continue to fight tooth and nail but this time by demonstrating the possibilities offered by modern imaging rather than descending to the level that suits you and your indoctrinated colleagues.

Of course, I suppose that Guy Macon will continue to maintain that you are some kind of robot until you descend to the level of explicitly stating that your answer is that of Orwell and not that of the Party.

Where does the 23 hour, 56 minute, and 4 second value come from?

Why is the return of a star considered more important, more fundamental, than the natural noon cycle?

Because, as you know, due to the Equation of Time, the natural noon cycle is not uniform and regular by the standard set by a mechanical clock.

The return of a star does occur at a uniform, regular interval of 23 hours, 56 minutes, and 4 seconds, as measured by a mechanical clock.

Thus, because we seek understanding of the motions of the Earth, we begin with that which is simple and regular, and build upon that as a foundation to explain those observations which are irregular and complex.

The natural noon cycle, including its variability due to the Equation of Time, can be derived from the properties of the Earth's orbit around the Sun.

For the Earth to orbit the Sun once a year, for Mercury to orbit the Sun in 88 days, for Jupiter to orbit the Sun in 12 years, in

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accordance with the law of Kepler, we must judge these orbits according to the stars; if this is not objectionable, there is no reason to object to referring to the axial rotation of the Earth in comparison to the stars as well. Since the return of a star *does* happen in 23 hours, 56 minutes, and 4 seconds, to say that the axial rotation of the Earth *by this standard* is 23 hours, 56 minutes, and 4 seconds is not a falsehood, equivalent to stating that two plus two is five.

The mean synodic rotation of the Earth is still 24 hours, and you may certainly choose to view that as more fundamental if you wish. But today's astronomers, that they might not be fatigued with calculations, resist hopping from one frame to another when calculating motions in the heavens.

You declaim against our indoctrination, but we have understanding, not just indoctrination, and your postings, because they repeat assertions instead of going further into their consequences, do not display an understanding comparable to what we have. This, not "indoctrination", is why you are not heeded.

John Savard

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