

Re: Lat/Lon to Local Time

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In an earlier contribution to this discussion,
Anna <annalahoud@xxxxxxxx> wrote:

Sam Wormley wrote:

Anna wrote:

I am writing a program that must calculate local time from latitude/longitude. I realize this is not a trivial undertaking, given the social and political issues of time zones. However, it seems to me that there are programs I've seen that surely must know the algorithm. Table based lookup is highly undesirable but will do if there are no other solutions available.

Does anyone know how this is done?

In astronomy...

Longitude to local time
 $\text{GMT} \pm (\text{Longitude}/15) = \text{local time}$

I actually must go by political local times, not UT. So although I'd love to write that ONE line of code, it's not what they have asked of me. I am sure I am going to have to use a table for all the different political boundaries. I guess I was just hoping that the solution was small enough I could avoid it.

I can't see any way of avoiding lookup tables – because there are so many anomalies relative to the simple 1 hour shift per 15 degrees. You almost need to do it on a country by county basis – because parts of some countries will be in an unnatural zone to keep them with the rest of the country.

Re: Lat/Lon to Local Time

Don't forget also that some areas shift their local time at certain times of the year in order to achieve so called "daylight saving". This will, in general, be the opposite way round in the two hemispheres at any given longitude. Some areas near the equator don't bother with daylight saving time because their daylight hours don't vary much throughout the world. Just one more spanner in the works – some parts of Australia use *half-hour* time zones! Oh – and don't forget the International Date Line – it doesn't exactly run straight down the 180 deg longitude line!

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Cheers,
Roger

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