

3.5.3 Conventions Centre

The Conventions Center is operated jointly by the Bureau International des Poids et Mesures (BIPM) and the U.S. Naval Observatory (USNO).

The Conventions Center provides updated versions of the IERS Conventions in electronic form, after approval of the IERS Directing Board. In the meantime, work on interim versions is also available by electronic means. In addition to the electronic releases, printed versions of the Conventions will be provided at less frequent intervals or when major changes are introduced.

Over 2011, the work accomplished or in progress is the following:

1. Technical content of the IERS Conventions

After the publication of the new reference edition, the IERS Conventions (2010), in electronic form (<http://tai.bipm.org/iers/conv2010/>) and as IERS Technical Note 36, work started on the updates to the Conventions (2010). The list below summarizes the changes in 2011, see <http://tai.bipm.org/iers/convupdt/convupdt.html> for details.

- Corrected typos or other numerical errors, or completed information, in Chapter 5 (Transformation between the International Terrestrial Reference System and Geocentric Celestial Reference System), Chapter 6 (Geopotential), Chapter 7 (Displacements of reference points), Chapter 8 (Tidal variations in the Earth's rotation), Chapter 9 (Models for atmospheric propagation delays) and the Glossary. The most significant corrections concern data files for the FES2004 ocean tides model.
- Provided the yearly update of the free core nutation model.

2. Conventions software

Some of the updates included changes to the Conventions software, in general affecting only the test cases. However the update included functional changes for the routine ARG2.F which computes the angular astronomical argument for 11 tidal waves.

3. Dissemination of information

The Conventions web pages at the BIPM (<http://tai.bipm.org/iers/>) and the USNO (<http://maia.usno.navy.mil/conv2010/>) have been maintained.

Past updates to the IERS Conventions (2003), from 2004 until the release of the IERS Conventions (2010), have been archived separately from the current updates, at <http://tai.bipm.org/iers/conv2010/convupdt/convupdt.html>.

A survey (http://maia.usno.navy.mil/conv2010/Conventions_Survey.html) has been carried out to gather comments on the technical content of the Conventions (2010), the process of elaboration, as well as ideas for future evolution. A summary of

the replies may be found at <http://tai.bipm.org/iers/conv2010/conv2010_surveyreplies.pdf>.

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