

CHAPTER 2 CELESTIAL REFERENCE FRAME

The directions of the axes of the Celestial Reference Frame (ICRF) are defined by the coordinates of 23 primary radio sources published in the Annual Report of the BIH for 1987. The frame is densified by 205 secondary and supplementary sources, the positions of which are known with lower precision. The origin of the ICRF is at the barycenter of the solar system. The direction of the axis of rotation of the Earth is the one given for epoch J2000.0 by the IAU 1976 Precession and the IAU 1980 Theory of Nutation. The origin of right ascensions is in agreement with that of the FK5 within $\pm 0^{\prime\prime}.04$. The most recent realization is given in the Annual Report of the IERS and future information will be found in the most recent Annual Report of the IERS.

REFERENCES

- Arias, E. F., Feissel, M., and Lestrade, J.-F., 1988, Annual Report of the BIH for 1987, p. D-113.
- Arias, E. F., Feissel, M., 1989, "The Celestial System of the International Earth Rotation Service," Proceedings of IAU Symposium 141, in press.