

Erratum

An approximation to the errors in the planetary ephemerides of the Astronomical Almanac

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The word “errors” in my recent paper (Standish 2004) does not imply that there are mistakes in the Astronomical Almanac. Instead, that word is used strictly in the scientific sense: errors are the differences between the measured or modeled value of a quantity and that which would be the exact or perfect value of that quantity.

The imperfections of any almanac are a direct reflection of the accuracy of the planetary ephemerides upon which they are based, in this case successive editions of the JPL DE/LE series (Standish 1990, 1998). The paper is intended to inform those who have used the Astronomical Almanac throughout the past

couple of decades, what the listed coordinates would have been if a more recent (and thus, presumably, more accurate) base ephemeris had been available for the computation of the coordinates in the tables.

References

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<http://ssd.jpl.nasa.gov/iau-comm4/relateds.html>
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