

Milestone: Keeping Time: Homework 9

Due: 13 November 2020

1 Commercial Atomic Clocks

Atomic clocks are commercially available. The most common variety seems to be the Rubidium atomic clock, which is also called a Rubidium frequency standard or a Rubidium oscillator.

- a) Do an internet search for a commercially available Rubidium atomic clock. Describe who manufactures the clock, where they are based and how much the clock costs (if they provide that information).
- b) What does the clock look like? Does it appear to be portable? Does it look fragile?
- c) Is it obvious to you, from the website how to use such a clock? Could you imagine buying it?
- d) Does the manufacturer or vendor say anything that you can understand about the possible uses of the clock? If so what?

2 Final Term Paper

The first draft of the final term paper will be due on Friday 20 November. The paper must:

- i) cover one topic based on timekeeping, timekeeping devices, clocks, or the use of time in society,
- ii) must include at least some social, cultural or economic aspects of timekeeping (e.g. why there is a need for a particular type of timekeeping, or what the economic circumstances are behind some type of timekeeping),
- iii) must discuss some aspects or details of timekeeping that were not described in class,
- iv) use more than one reliable reference and
- v) be at least five pages long.

This paper will be much broader in its coverage than most of the research papers and could be a survey rather than directed at a particular question. In order to prepare for this answer the following:

- a) What is the topic of your paper?
- b) What are the main issues, ideas or themes that your paper will address? Provide a short list of these.
- c) What literature sources will address the topic of your paper?

3 Title

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