

Sidereal and Solar Time

In Class Example

Right Ascension (RA): The east-west coordinate of the celestial sphere, measured in “hours.” RA is 0h at the Vernal Equinox and increases eastward (right to left if facing south). RA is somewhat analogous to longitude on the Earth.

Declination (Dec): The north-south coordinate of the celestial sphere, measured in degrees. Dec is 0° at the celestial equator and 90° at the north and south celestial poles.

Local Solar Time (LT): The Sun’s position relative to the meridian, PM to the west of the meridian and AM to the east. Sometimes referred to as the Hour Angle (HA) of the Sun.

Local Sidereal Time (LST): The Right Ascension on the meridian.

1. What is the Sidereal Time?

2. What is the Sun’s RA?

3. What is the Sun’s Dec?

4. What is the Local Solar Time?

5. Where does the Sun set?

