

Leap Seconds Are Dead. What Now?

A global time reset rewrites the rules for AI in space and aviation.

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3,600 seconds

Time Drift Threshold

The new threshold for correcting atomic time drift will be an hour, not a second.

This shift means atomic clocks and Earth's rotation will diverge by up to 3,600 seconds before correction — a change that could disrupt AI systems reliant on sub-second precision. In commercial space and aviation, where navigation, satellite coordination, and autonomous flight depend on ultra-precise timekeeping, this leap hour introduces a new class of latency risk.

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https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-026-03329-z?error=cookies_not_supported&code=76d574cb-122b-4f62-9e98-aaf7a54e418e



01

AI Timekeeping Must Evolve

This is not just a change in infrastructure — it's a paradigm shift in how AI learns to trust time. Systems that once assumed millisecond consistency must now model temporal uncertainty over hours, a challenge for reinforcement learning and real-time decision engines.

02

The Rise of Time-Aware AI

The new standard creates a competitive edge for AI architectures that can model and self-correct for drift over time, rather than react to it. This will likely accelerate the development of 'temporal resilience' as a core metric in AI certification for aerospace applications.

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Director, ALEX Companies

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george@alex.realestate · +1 713.918.9951



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