

# Tutorials 4.4 Dates

De Wiki

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## What is a date ?

A date is an instance of [AbsoluteDate](#). Two important things are necessary to know:

- It is an immutable object, meaning, once it is created, it is no more possible to change it. If you want, for example to shift it, you will have to create a new date, eventually starting from the initial one using the [shiftedBy\(\)](#) method;
- It is allways "stored" in the **TAI** time scale (but may be built and/or expressed in other formats). Time scales are available with a factory ([TimeScalesFactory](#).getXXX()). But, be careful that it is mandatory to use a **PATRIUS** data set as **UTC/TAI** shifts are stored in it !

Some basic operations may be executed as, for example, comparizon ([compareTo\(\)](#)), computing a duration ([durationFrom\(\)](#)), adding an offset ([shiftedBy\(\)](#)) ...

**Code example:** [create dates](#)

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