

# Tutorials 4.5.1 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 always "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, comparison (`compareTo()`), computing a duration (`durationFrom()`), adding an offset (`shiftedBy()`) ...

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

Since the V4.5.1, some new utilities may easily convert Julian dates to [AbsoluteDate](#).

### Code example: [Julian dates](#)

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