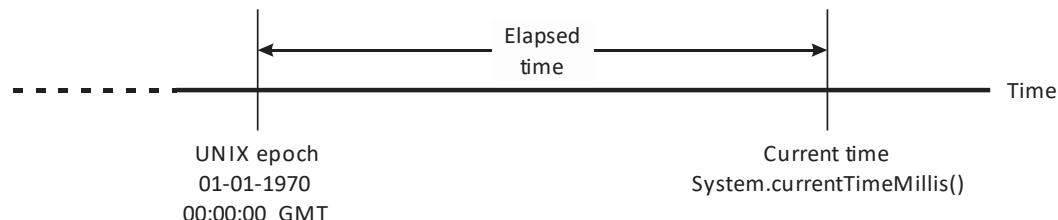


Key point: You can invoke `System.currentTimeMillis()` to return the current time.

- The `currentTimeMillis` method in the `System` class returns the current time in milliseconds elapsed since the time midnight, January 1, 1970 GMT, as shown in Figure 2.2. This time is known as the *UNIX epoch*. The epoch is the point when time starts, and **1970** was the year when the UNIX operating system was formally introduced.



**Figure 2.2** The `System.currentTimeMillis()` returns the number of milliseconds since the UNIX epoch.

1. Obtain the total milliseconds since midnight, January 1, 1970 in `totalMilliseconds` by invoking `System.currentTimeMillis()`.
2. Obtain the total seconds `totalSeconds` by dividing `totalMilliseconds` by **1000**.
3. Compute the current second from `totalSeconds % 60`.
4. Obtain the total minutes `totalMinutes` by dividing `totalSeconds` by **60**.
5. Compute the current minute from `totalMinutes % 60`.
6. Obtain the total hours `totalHours` by dividing `totalMinutes` by **60**.
7. Compute the current hour from `totalHours % 24`.

**Listing 2.7 ShowCurrentTime.java**

```
1  public class ShowCurrentTime {  
2      public static void main(String[] args) {  
3          //Obtain the total milliseconds since midnight, Jan. 1, 1970  
4          long totalMilliseconds = System.currentTimeMillis();  
5  
6          //Obtain the total seconds since midnight, Jan. 1, 1970  
7          long totalSeconds = totalMilliseconds / 1000;  
8  
9          //Compute the current second in the minute in the hour  
10         long currentSecond = totalSeconds % 60;  
11  
12         //Obtain the total minutes  
13         long totalMinutes = totalSeconds / 60;  
14  
15         //Compute the current minute in the hour  
16         long currentMinute = totalMinutes % 60;  
17  
18         //Obtain the total hours  
19         long totalHours = totalMinutes / 60;  
20  
21         //Compute the current hour  
22         long currentHour = totalHours % 24;  
23  
24         //Display results  
25         System.out.println("Current time is " + currentHour + ":"  
26                         + currentMinute + ":" + currentSecond + " GMT");  
27     }  
28 }
```

```
run:  
Current time is 23:37:37 GMT  
BUILD SUCCESSFUL (total time: 0 seconds)
```