

Navigation Formulae

Sight Reduction (Intercept Method)

$$H_c = \sin^{-1}(\sin(\text{Dec.}) \cdot \sin(\text{Lat.}) + \cos(\text{Dec.}) \cdot \cos(\text{LHA}) \cdot \cos(\text{Lat.}))$$

$$Z = \cos^{-1}((\sin(\text{Dec.}) \cdot \cos(\text{Lat.}) - \cos(\text{Dec.}) \cdot \cos(\text{LHA}) \cdot \sin(\text{Lat.})) / \cos(H_c))$$

$$Z_n = \text{If LHA} < 180^\circ, 360^\circ - Z \text{ otherwise } Z_n = Z$$

Sight Reduction (Sumner Line Method)

$$t = \cos^{-1}(\sin(H_c) / \cos(\text{Dec.}) / \cos(\text{Lat.}) - \tan(\text{Dec.}) \cdot \tan(\text{Lat.}))$$

In western longitudes, if the body is east, lon. = GHA + t otherwise lon. = GHA - t.

In eastern longitudes, subtract the above from 360°.

Time Sight

$$t = \cos^{-1}((\sin(H_c) - \sin(\text{Dec.}) \cdot \sin(\text{Lat.})) / (\cos(\text{Dec.}) \cdot \cos(\text{Lat.})))$$

(Note: This formula can also be used for the Sumner line method.)

Ex-Meridian

$$\text{haversine(MZD)} = \text{haversine(TZD)} - \text{haversine(LHA)} \cdot \cos(\text{Dec.}) \cdot \cos(\text{Lat.})$$

...where:

- haversine = $(1 - \cos(\theta)) / 2$
- MZD = meridian zenith distance
- TZD = true zenith distance

Dip

$$-0.0293^\circ \cdot \sqrt{h}$$

...where:

- h = height of eye in meters
- $m = \text{ft.} \cdot 0.3048$

-or-

$$-0.97' \cdot \sqrt{h}$$

...where:

- h = height of eye in ft.

Refraction

$$R = fR_0$$

...where:

- $R_0 = -0.0167^\circ / \tan(H_a + 7.32^\circ / (H_a + 4.32^\circ))$
- $f = 0.28 \cdot P / (T + 273)$
- P = pressure in mb
- $\text{mb} = \text{inHg} \cdot 33.86$
- T = temperature in $^\circ\text{C}$
- $^\circ\text{C} = (^\circ\text{F} - 32) \cdot (5/9)$

Parallax in Altitude

$$\text{HP} \cdot \cos(H_a)$$

...where:

- HP = horizontal parallax
- $\text{HP} = \sin^{-1}(\text{radius of Earth} / \text{distance to body})$
- radius of Earth = 6371 km or 4.25875×10^{-5} AU

Semi-diameter of the Moon

$$0.2724 \cdot HP$$

Lunars

$$LD_c = \cos^{-1}(\sin(\text{Dec. 1}) \cdot \sin(\text{Dec. 2}) + \cos(\text{Dec. 1}) \cdot \cos(\text{Dec. 2}) \cdot \cos(\text{GHA 2} - \text{GHA 1}))$$

$$LD_a = LD_s \pm IC \pm SD^*$$

$$LD_o = LD_a + -dh_m \cdot A + -dh_s \cdot B + Q$$

...where

- dh_m = refraction + parallax in altitude
- dh_s = refraction
- $A = (\sin(h_s) - \cos(LD) \cdot \sin(h_m)) / (\cos(h_m) \cdot \sin(LD))$
- $B = (\sin(h_m) - \cos(LD) \cdot \sin(h_s)) / (\cos(h_s) \cdot \sin(LD))$
- $Q = (0.5 \cdot (dh_m - dh_s)^2 \cdot \cot(LD) \cdot (1 - A^2)) / 3438$

*Note: Include the augmentation of the Moon's $SD = 0.3' \cdot \sin(H \text{ Moon})$.

Great Circle Routes

Use the intercept sight reduction formulae. Substitute latitude of destination for declination and difference in longitude for LHA.

$$\text{G.C. distance in NM} = (90^\circ - H_c) \cdot 60$$

$$\text{Initial G.C. course angle} = Z_n$$

Points Along the Great Circle Route

Substitute $90^\circ - \text{distance between points}$ for declination and initial course angle for LHA.

$$\text{Latitude of Point} = H_c$$

$$\text{Difference in Longitude of Point} = Z$$

Rhumb Line Course Between Points

$$\tan(C) = \text{departure} / \text{difference in latitude}$$

...where:

- departure = difference in longitude · cos(mid latitude)

Vertex of the Great Circle Route

$$\cos(\text{Lat}_v) = \cos(\text{Lat}_1) \cdot \sin(C)$$

$$\sin(d\text{Lon}) = \cos(C) / \sin(\text{Lat}_v)$$

-or-

$$\cos(d\text{Lon}) = \tan(\text{Lat}_1) \cdot \cot(\text{Lat}_v)$$

Composite Sailing

Use the dLon vertex formula to find longitude of limiting latitude point.

Dead Reckoning

$$\text{Lat}_1 = \text{Lat}_f + t \cdot (V / 60) \cdot \cos(C)$$

$$\text{Lon}_1 = \text{Lon}_f + t \cdot (V / 60) \cdot \sin(C) / \cos(\text{Lat}_f)$$

...where:

- t = time interval
- V = speed in kts.
- Lat₁, Lon₁ = DR position
- Lat_f, Lon_f = position of last fix

Distance Between Points

$$60 \cdot \sqrt{((\text{Lon}_1 - \text{Lon}_f)^2 \cdot \cos^2(\text{Lat}_f) + (\text{Lat}_1 - \text{Lat}_f)^2)}$$

Position of the Fix

$$\text{Lat}_1 = \text{Lat}_f + (C \cdot D - B \cdot E) / G$$

$$\text{Lon}_1 = \text{Lon}_f + (A \cdot E - B \cdot D) / (G \cdot \cos(\text{Lat}_f))$$

...where:

- $A = \cos^2(Z_1) + \cos^2(Z_2) + \dots$
- $B = \cos(Z_1) \cdot \sin(Z_1) + \cos(Z_2) \cdot \sin(Z_2) + \dots$
- $C = \sin^2(Z_1) + \sin^2(Z_2) + \dots$
- $D = p_1 \cdot \cos(Z_1) + p_2 \cdot \cos(Z_2) \dots$
- $E = p_1 \cdot \sin(Z_1) + p_2 \cdot \sin(Z_2) \dots$
- $G = A \cdot C - B^2$
- $p_n = \text{intercept and } Z_n = \text{azimuth}$

Note: If the distance between the AP and fix exceeds 20 NM (see distance formula above), set $\text{Lat}_f = \text{Lat}_1$, $\text{Lon}_f = \text{Lon}_1$ and repeat the calculation (incl. sight reduction) until the distance between points is less than 20 NM.

Phase of the Moon

Haversine of the lunar distance $[(1 - \cos(\text{LD})) / 2]$

Amplitude

Celestial horizon:

$$\sin(A) = \sin(\text{Dec.}) / \cos(\text{Lat.})$$

*Sun LL $\frac{2}{3}$ of diameter above visible horizon; Moon UL on visible horizon; stars & planets 1 Sun diameter above visible horizon

Visible Horizon:

$$\sin(A) = (\sin(\text{Dec.}) - \sin(\text{Lat.}) \cdot \sin(H)) / (\cos(\text{Lat.}) \cdot \cos(H))$$