

Finding the intersection of two position circles by haversines only  
 Lars Bergman, 11 September 2018

A stationary observer is assumed. East longitude positive. I have only derived the formulas for one geometry, there exist cases where these formulas have to be modified. Also, I give only one of the generally two intersections.

Call the Greenwich hour angles  $GHA_i$   $i=1,2$   
 Call the declinations  $\delta_i$   
 Call the true altitudes  $h_i$

Calculate

$$F = \text{hav}(\delta_2 - \delta_1)$$

$$G = \text{hav}(\delta_2 + \delta_1)$$

$$\Delta t = GHA_1 - GHA_2$$

Calculate the distance  $D$  between the bodies:

$$\text{hav } D = F + [1 - (F + G)] \cdot \text{hav } \Delta t$$

Calculate the complement to the distance

$$D^* = 90^\circ - D$$

and the complement to the first altitude

$$z_1 = 90^\circ - h_1$$

Calculate

$$J = \text{hav}(h_2 - D^*)$$

$$K = \text{hav}(h_2 + D^*)$$

Now find angle  $\alpha$  from

$$\text{hav } \alpha = \frac{\text{hav } z_1 - J}{1 - (K + J)}$$

Calculate

$$L = \text{hav}(\delta_2 - D^*)$$

$$P = \text{hav}(\delta_2 + D^*)$$

$$p_1 = 90^\circ - \delta_1$$

Now find angle sum  $\alpha + \beta$  from

$$\text{hav}(\alpha + \beta) = \frac{\text{hav } p_1 - L}{1 - (P + L)}$$

Calculate

$$\beta = (\alpha + \beta) - \alpha$$

$$R = \text{hav}(\delta_2 - h_2)$$

$$S = \text{hav}(\delta_2 + h_2)$$

Find complement to latitude from

$$\text{hav } \varphi^* = R + [1 - (S + R)] \cdot \text{hav } \beta$$

and latitude from

$$\varphi = 90^\circ - \varphi^*$$

Calculate

$$U = \text{hav}(\delta_2 - \varphi)$$

$$V = \text{hav}(\delta_2 + \varphi)$$

$$z_2 = 90^\circ - h_2$$

Find local hour angle from

$$\text{hav } t_2 = \frac{\text{hav } z_2 - U}{1 - (V + U)}$$

And, finally, longitude from

$$\lambda = t_2 - GHA_2$$

An example, using 4-figure natural haversines:

	body 1		body 2	
	°	'	°	'
GHA	318	12	42	6
$\delta$	8	55	19	8
h	31	27	51	13
$\Delta t$	276	6		
F			0,0079	
G			0,0587	
hav D			0,425	
D	81	22		
D*	8	38		
$z_1$	58	33		
J			0,1319	
K			0,2488	
hav $\alpha$			0,1731	
$\alpha$	49	10		
L			0,0084	
P			0,0575	
$p_1$	81	5		
hav( $\alpha+\beta$ )			0,4433	
$\alpha+\beta$	83	29		

$\beta$	34	19	
R			0,0764
S			0,3319
hav $\phi^*$			0,1279
$\varphi^*$	41	55	
$\varphi$	<b>48</b>	<b>5</b>	
U			0,0625
V			0,3064
$z_2$	38	47	
hav $t_2$			0,0756
$t_2$	31	55	
			-
$\lambda$	<b>-10</b>	<b>11</b>	