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The following data are incorporated in this article: General Information, Mercator Computation, Great Circle Computation, Great Circle Positions, Great Circle Course Computation, Program Data, and Special Considerations.

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A CALCULATOR PROGRAM
FOR MIXING MERCATOR AND GREAT
CIRCLE SAILINGS

John G. Ulrich
Sailing Directions Branch
Defense Mapping Agency Hydrographic/Topographic Center

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**A CALCULATOR PROGRAM
FOR MIXING MERCATOR AND GREAT
CIRCLE SAILINGS**

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BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

The author graduated from Kings Point in 1951, sailed as 2nd and 3rd Mate from 1951 to 1955, and served in the U.S. Navy as navigator from 1955 to 1957. He was employed by the U.S. Naval Oceanographic Office from 1964 to 1972, the Defense Mapping Agency Hydrographic Center from 1972 to 1978, and presently is a Marine Information Specialist in the Navigation Publications Division, Defense Mapping Agency Hydrographic/Topographic Center.

ABSTRACT

The Navigation Department, Defense Mapping Agency Hydrographic/Topographic Center (DMAHTC) has developed a calculator program, self-contained on one magnetic card, which automatically determines course, distance, and total run in Mercator and Great Circle Sailings. This program will list Great Circle positions every 10° of longitude and then print course and distance of each leg. Labels designating latitudes and longitudes, and program sections are also shown. The entire program is controlled by six label keys and can be shifted between Mercator and Great Circle at will. It is prepared on a programmable TI-59 with Marine Navigation Module software and printer capability. The program is in use at DMAHTC for compiling distance tables, and navigational publications and answering public inquiries.

The following data are incorporated in this article: General Information, Mercator Computation, Great Circle Computation, Great Circle Positions, Great Circle Course Computation, Program Data, and Special Considerations.

**A CALCULATOR PROGRAM
FOR MIXING MERCATOR AND
GREAT CIRCLE SAILINGS**

Introduction

The program was developed in the Navigation Department of the Defense Mapping Agency Hydrographic/Topographic Center for computing distances and Great Circle tracks. It is suitable for programmable calculators with Marine Navigation Module software and printer capability, and will provide Mercator harbor and coastal courses and distances; Great Circle positions, courses, and distances; and total runs from dock to dock. It can be used for any individual sequence or with any combination of Mercator and Great Circle Sailings.

General Information

The overall program was designed on a TI-59 calculator* (See Fig. 1) with parts of Program 11 (Mercator) and Program 26 (Great Circle), either downloaded and adjusted, or ordered directly from the Marine Navigation Module. With it, the user has the convenience and accuracy of using the module without pressing numerous keys and without reloading repetitive positions. When using the module directly, operators have frequently reloaded such positions incorrectly and have also over-

*Any mention herein of a commercial product does not constitute endorsement by the U.S. Government.

run the calculator's computations before it was ready for additional information. With the designed program, after the initial entering of the first position, the calculator is controlled by one or two basic label keys per program section, making it considerably easier to call the correct sequence. All latitudes are parked on the T-register key and all longitudes are situated in the display before initiation of the Sailing sequence. There are 461 locations in the program. Initial programming requires about 1 hour; however, once on a magnetic card, loading requires only 10 to 15 seconds.

All positions are keyed: degrees, decimal (.), minutes, and seconds.

Thus, $39^{\circ}02'N$ is 39.02

$39^{\circ}02'11"N$ is 39.0211

$39^{\circ}N$ is 39 (decimal inferred)

N and W are + (inferred)

S and E are - (+/-key)

Thus, 39.02 +/- displays as -39.02

Mercator

Label keys A' and A are used in the Mercator sequence. A' is used for initiation and only used once; all further positions go directly to A. The last position is repeated for continuity of the program; this is an automatic A' return. The Mercator sequence is normally run in degrees and minutes; seconds may be added if more accuracy is desired.

Example:

1st	40°42'N	2nd	40°33'N.
Posit	74°02'W	Posit	74°02'W.
3rd	40°30'N	4th	40°27'N.
Posit	73°58'W	Posit	73°43'W.

Key as follows:

1st	40.42	Press x + t
Posit	74.02 in display	Press 2nd A
40.4200 LAT1		(PRINTED)
74.0200 LO1		

2nd	40.33	Press x + t
Posit	74.02 in display	Press A

40.3300 LAT2

74.0200 LO2

180.00 CO

9.00 MI (PRINTED)

9.00 TOT

40.3300 LAT1

74.0200 LO1

(4)

4

3rd 40.30 Press x & t

Posit 73.58 in display Press A

40.3000 LAT2

73.5800 LO2

134.62 CO (PRINTED)

4.27 MI

13.27 TOT

40.3000 LAT1

73.5800 LO1

4th 40.27 Press x & t

Posit 73.43 in display Press A

40.2700 LAT2

73.4300 LO2

104.73 CO

11.80 MI (PRINTED)

25.07 TOT

40.2700 LAT1

73.4300 LO1

Course and distance are therefore given for each leg and
total distance is maintained throughout.

Bottom of chart page 1

Bottom of sounding head and page 10.

Top of next page 1

Full Printout of Mercator Example

40.4200 LAT1

74.0200 L01

40.3300 LAT2

74.0200 L02

180.00 CO

9.00 MI

9.00 TOT

40.3300 LAT1

74.0200 L01

40.3000 LAT2

73.5800 L02

134.62 CO

4.27 MI

13.27 TOT

40.3000 LAT1

73.5800 L01

40.2700 LAT2

73.4300 L02

104.73 CO

11.80 MI

25.07 TOT

40.3200 LAT1

73.4300 L01

Great Circle

Label keys C and C' control the Great Circle sequence; C is used for the initial departure; C' is used for the arrival position. The last position of the Mercator sequence is auto-

matically entered if the user wishes. All Great Circle positions are run in the four-digit mode but still entered in the two-digit degree, decimal (.), minute mode.

Example: New York to Capetown (See Fig. 2)

Dep: $40^{\circ}27'N$ Arr: $33^{\circ}51'S$
 $73^{\circ}43'W$ $18^{\circ}15'E$

40.2700 - Still in

73.4300 calculator memory

Press C

GRT CIRCLE

4027.00 (PRINTED) -

7343.00

Arr: -33.51 Press $x \neq t$

-18.15 in display Press 2nd C

-3351.00

-1815.00

6751.46 (PRINTED)

6776.53 TOT

-33.5100 LAT1

-18.1500 LO1

Full Printout of Great Circle Example

GREAT CIRCLE	
4022.00	
7343.00	
3351.00	
1815.00	
6751.46	
6776.53	DT
3351.00	LAT1
1815.00	LON

The figure immediately below the arrival position is the Great Circle distance; the total is the Great Circle distance added to the total of any preceding Mercator distances.

At this point the user may either return to Mercator to his final destination, to another Great Circle, or he may call for the positions on the above Great Circle example.

Great Circle Positions

All Great Circle positions are run in even 10° of longitude in the direction the user wishes to proceed. The normal sequence is 6 positions but by pressing SBR twice, the number of Great Circle positions may be increased to 13. This may be done before doing the initial Great Circle work and will show in the display at the end of the Great Circle sequence.

If the user has not initiated the 13-position sequence before running the Great Circle, he may do so afterwards, but before running the Great Circle positions. The number 13 will again show in the display.

The initial Great Circle position was:

40°27'N. 73°43'W.

Enter even longitude divisible by 10, the next such meridian in direction of arrival. This must show in the display. No decimal is required.

Thus: 70 in display Press E

GRT. CIRCLE POS

7000.0000
3858.7344

6000.0000
3403.6856

5000.0000
2735.0067

4000.0000
1926.2700

3000.0000
947.7389

2000.0000
-44.1478

1000.0000
-1111.7944

0.0000
-2039.4789

-1000.0000
-2834.5289

-2000.0000
-3449.6789

-3000.0000
-3932.7567

-4000.0000
-4256.3633

-5000.0000
-4512.1978

-33.5100 LAT1
-18.1500 L01

four
The last ~~three~~ positions are beyond the arrival position but still part of the same Great Circle. As can be seen, the longitude is on top and the latitude on the bottom. The four decimal places are for accuracy; all numbers to the right of the decimal are decimal minute. Therefore, 3858.7344 is read as $38^{\circ}58.73'N$.

Great Circle Courses

The calculator will recall each of the Great Circle positions and automatically print out the Mercator course and distance for each leg. The total distance is reset to 0 for these calculations and not added to the original totals. These courses are called by D' (2nd D). No other input is required.

Press 2nd D

Partial Run of Great Circle Courses

GRT CIRCLE CO

40.2700	LAT1
73.4300	LD1
38.5844	LAT2
70.0000	LD2

117.23	CO
192.91	MI
192.91	TOT

38.5844	LAT1
70.0000	LD1
34.0341	LAT2
60.0000	LD2

121.48	CO
565.03	MI
757.94	TOT

34.0341	LAT1
60.0000	LD1
27.3500	LAT2
50.0000	LD2
127.05	CD
645.04	MI
1402.93	TOT
27.3500	LAT1
50.0000	LD0M

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Fig. 1. A Programmable Calculator

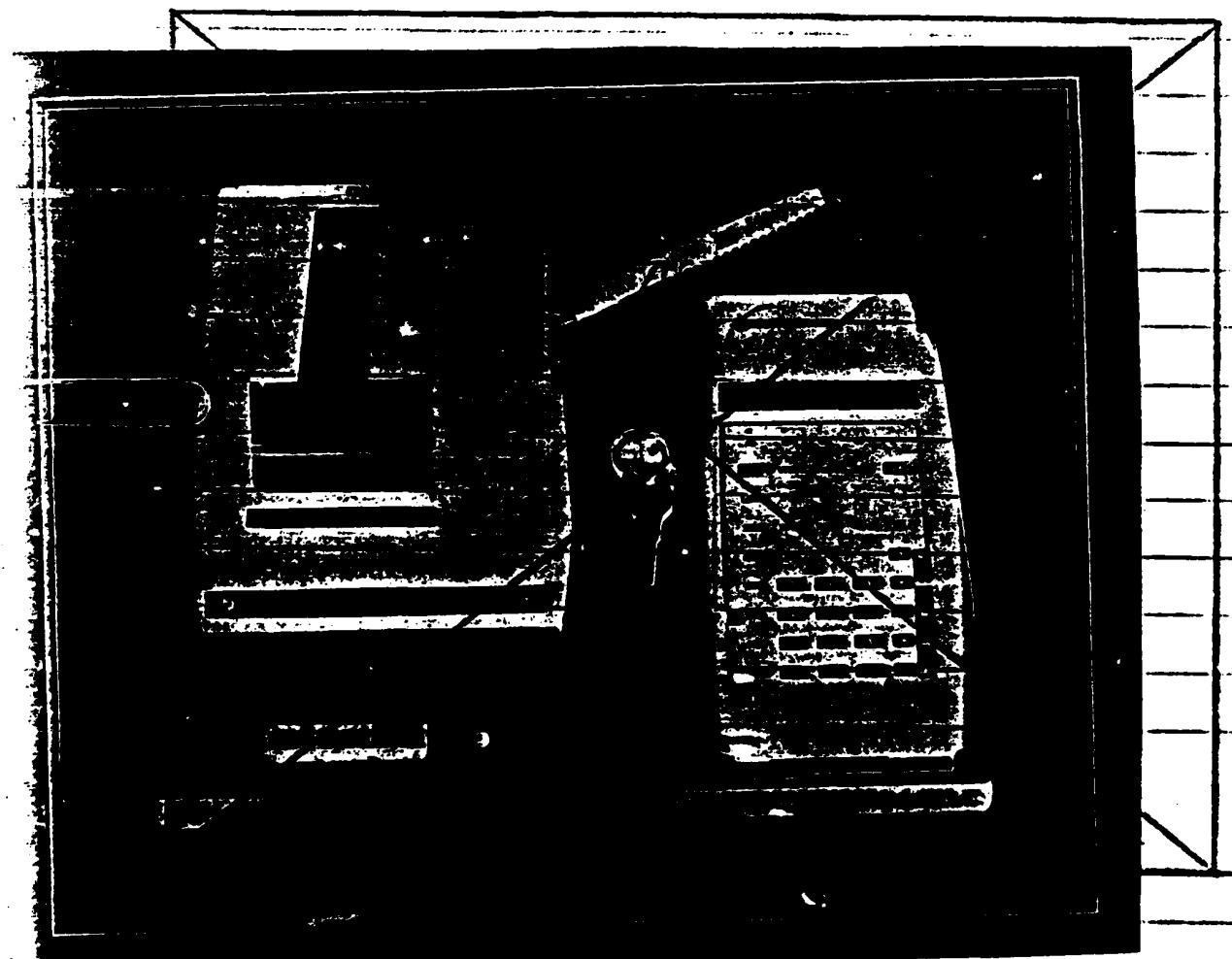
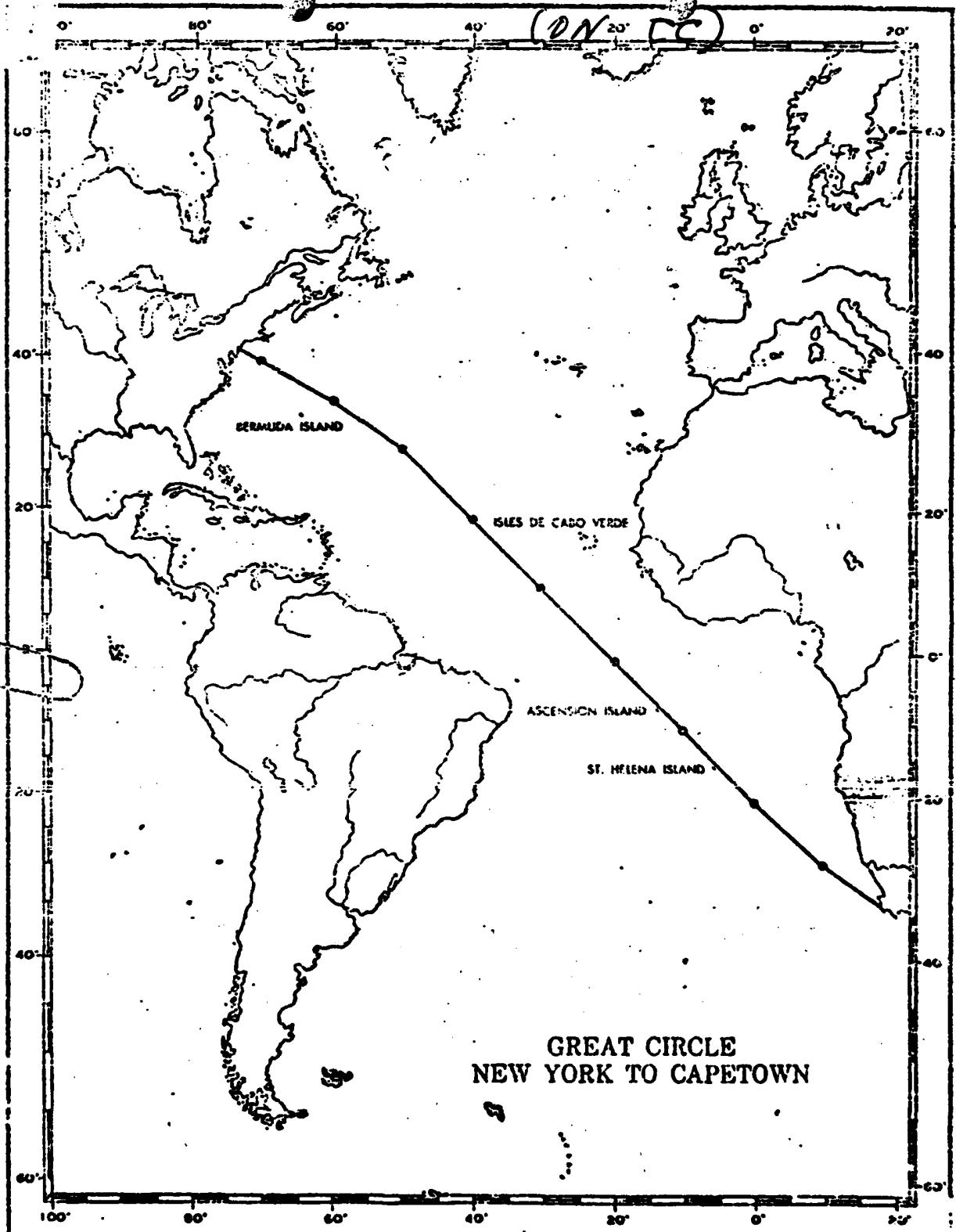


FIG. 2 CHART OF GREAT CIRCLE TRIP



LAWRENCE
L. M. THOMAS

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Fig. 2. Chart of Great Circle Track

(12)

Bottom of runways point east

Top of runway take off

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Program Data

000	76	LBL	045	69	OP	090	02	02
001	16	A	046	06	06	091	43	RCL
002	98	ADV	047	22	INV	092	18	18
003	98	ADV	048	58	FIX	093	22	INV
004	32	X:T	049	92	RTN	094	27	GE
005	22	INV	050	76	LBL	095	17	B
006	58	FIX	051	11	A	096	6	GTO
007	42	STD	052	32	X:T	097	01	01
008	04	04	053	42	STD	098	07	07
009	88	DMS	054	04	04	099	92	RTN
010	42	STD	055	42	STD	100	76	LBL
011	02	02	056	24	24	101	17	B
012	02	2	057	88	DMS	102	85	-
013	02	7	058	42	STD	103	03	3
014	01	1	059	21	21	104	06	6
015	03	3	060	02	2	105	00	0
016	03	3	061	07	7	106	95	-
017	07	7	062	01	1	107	98	ADV
018	00	0	063	03	3	108	42	STD
019	02	2	064	03	3	109	18	18
020	71	SBR	065	07	7	110	01	1
021	52	EE	066	00	0	111	05	5
022	32	X:T	067	03	3	112	03	3
023	42	STD	068	71	SBR	113	02	2
024	04	04	069	52	EE	114	69	OP
025	88	DMS	070	32	X:T	115	04	04
026	42	STD	071	42	STD	116	43	RCL
027	03	03	072	04	04	117	18	18
028	02	2	073	42	STD	118	69	OP
029	07	7	074	25	25	119	06	06
030	03	3	075	88	DMS	120	03	3
031	02	2	076	42	STD	121	00	0
032	00	0	077	22	22	122	02	2
033	02	2	078	02	2	123	04	4
034	71	SBR	079	07	7	124	69	OP
035	52	EE	080	03	3	125	04	04
036	92	RTN	081	02	2	126	43	RCL
037	76	LBL	082	00	0	127	15	15
038	52	EE	083	03	3	128	69	OP
039	69	OP	084	71	SBR	129	06	06
040	04	04	085	52	EE	130	71	SBR
041	43	RCL	086	36	PGM	131	68	NOP
042	04	04	087	11	11	132	43	RCL
043	58	FIX	088	13	C	133	24	24
044	04	04	089	58	FIX	134	32	X:T

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Program Data

135	43	RCL		180	26	26		225	36	PGM
136	25	25		181	12	B		226	26	26
137	61	GTO		182	92	RTN		227	14	D
138	16	A		183	76	LBL		228	71	SBR
139	576	LBL		184	43	RCL		229	68	NOP
140	68	NOP		185	69	DP		230	10	E
141	44	SUM		186	00	00		231	76	LBL
142	27	27		187	02	2		232	14	D
143	03	3		188	02	2		233	03	3
144	07	7		189	03	3		234	01	1
145	03	3		190	05	5		235	42	STO
146	02	2		191	03	3		236	17	17
147	03	3		192	07	2		237	04	4
148	07	7		193	00	0		238	05	5
149	69	DP		194	00	0		239	42	STO
150	04	04		195	01	1		240	23	23
151	43	RCL		196	05	5		241	02	2
152	27	27		197	69	DP		242	42	STO
153	69	DP		198	02	02		243	08	08
154	06	06		199	02	2		244	01	1
155	92	RTN		200	04	4		245	04	4
156	76	LBL		201	03	3		246	42	STO
157	13	C		202	05	5		247	09	09
158	98	ADV		203	01	1		248	87	IFF
159	98	ADV		204	05	5		249	01	01
160	42	STO		205	02	2		250	02	02
161	45	45		206	07	7		251	55	55
162	32	X:T		207	01	1		252	07	7
163	42	STO		208	07	7		253	42	STO
164	31	31		209	69	DP		254	09	09
165	32	X:T		210	03	03		255	75	=
166	71	SBR		211	92	RTN		256	01	1
167	43	RCL		212	76	LBL		257	95	=
168	69	DP		213	18	C		258	92	RTN
169	05	05		214	42	STO		259	76	LBL
170	58	FIX		215	29	29		260	12	B
171	02	02		216	32	X:T		261	32	X:T
172	43	RCL		217	42	STO		262	65	X
173	45	45		218	30	30		263	01	1
174	12	B		219	32	X:T		264	00	0
175	36	PGM		220	12	B		265	00	0
176	26	26		221	36	PGM		266	95	=
177	11	A		222	26	26		267	88	DMS
178	12	B		223	13	C		268	92	RTN
179	36	PGM		224	12	B		269	76	LBL

Program Data

270	15	E		315	69	OP		360	95	=
271	42	STD		316	05	05		361	32	X:T
272	12	12		317	58	FIX		362	01	1
273	97	DSZ		318	04	04		363	08	8
274	09	09		319	98	ADV		364	00	0
275	02	02		320	43	RCL		365	67	EQ
276	82	82		321	12	12		366	03	03
277	87	IFF		322	72	ST*		367	75	75
278	02	02		323	23	23		368	94	+/-
279	19	D		324	32	X:T		369	67	EQ
280	61	GTO		325	12	B		370	03	03
281	10	E		326	36	PGM		371	75	75
282	01	1		327	26	26		372	32	X:T
283	44	SUM		328	15	E		373	61	GTO
284	17	17		329	22	INV		374	15	E
285	01	1		330	88	DMS		375	86	STF
286	44	SUM		331	55	÷		376	04	04
287	23	23		332	01	1		377	32	X:T
288	97	DSZ		333	00	0		378	94	+/-
289	08	08		334	00	0		379	61	GTO
290	02	02		335	95	=		380	15	E
291	95	95		336	72	ST*		381	76	LBL
292	61	GTO		337	17	17		382	10	E
293	03	03		338	43	RCL		383	43	RCL
294	20	20		339	01	01		384	30	30
295	22	INV		340	32	X:T		385	32	X:T
296	86	STF		341	43	RCL		386	43	RCL
297	04	04		342	12	12		387	29	29
298	22	INV		343	77	GE		388	61	GTO
299	86	STF		344	03	03		389	16	A
300	03	03		345	52	52		390	76	LBL
301	98	ADV		346	87	IFF		391	19	D
302	98	ADV		347	04	04		392	98	ADV
303	58	FIX		348	03	03		393	98	ADV
304	02	02		349	52	52		394	14	D
305	71	SBR		350	186	STF		395	58	FIX
306	43	RCL		351	03	03		396	04	04
307	03	3		352	75	-		397	71	SBR
308	03	3		353	01	1		398	43	RCL
309	03	3		354	00	0		399	01	1
310	02	2		355	87	IFF		400	05	5
311	03	3		356	03	03		401	03	3
312	06	6		357	03	03		402	02	2
313	69	OP		358	60	60		403	69	OP
314	04	04		359	94	+/-		404	04	04

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Program Data

405	69	DP	424	61	GTO	443	10	E
406	05	05	425	04	04	444	92	RTN
407	43	RCL	426	29	29	445	76	LBL
408	27	27	427	71	SBR	446	44	SUM
409	42	STO	428	44	SUM	447	61	GTO
410	28	28	429	01	L	448	00	00
411	00	0	430	44	SUM	449	03	03
412	42	STO	431	17	17	450	92	RTN
413	27	27	432	01	I	451	76	LBL
414	73	RC*	433	44	SUM	452	71	SBR
415	17	17	434	23	23	453	86	STF
416	32	X:T	435	97	DSZ	454	01	01
417	73	RC*	436	09	09	455	14	D
418	23	23	437	04	04	456	92	RTN
419	97	DSZ	438	14	14	457	76	LBL
420	08	08	439	43	RCL	458	61	GTO
421	04	04	440	28	28	459	86	STF
422	27	27	441	42	STO	460	02	02
423	11	A	442	27	27	461	92	RTN

Special Considerations

1. The run-stop (R/S) key will stop the program if held down for a few seconds.
2. Fifty-four memories are used in the program. The memories used for the totals (TOT) are memory 27 and memory 28. If an incorrect position is entered on A or C' the R/S key should be pressed before the computations are run to save the total memory. The calculator can then be restarted as necessary at A or C'.

3. The Great Circle positions (GCP's) run on Label E are based on the Great Circle memories and, when required, should be run immediately after the Great Circle sequence.
4. Label D may be pressed at any time between sequences to check the number of GCP's calculator is set to run.
5. If an incorrect longitude is entered on E, press R/S until program stops, then press D, enter the correct longitude, and press E.
6. The automatic sequence of Mercator for the Great Circle courses may be made to automatically follow the GCP's by pressing SBR GTO before pressing E. The user may then disregard the calculator for several minutes.
7. The GCP's run on E will cross the 180° meridian with no adjustment, provided 180 is printed in the sequence.
8. The normal six (6) GCP run can be reset at location 252 to any number between 2 and 9.
9. The 10° differential on the GCP run can be reset at location 353. It must be in a two digit form such as 05, 10, or 20.

10. If the user wishes to stop the program run on E (GCP's), E' (2nd E) will recall the last position for re-entering to Great Circle or Mercator. This is not necessary if the GCP's are run to completion.
11. When sequencing Great Circles, it is necessary to recall the last position (arrival) for the new departure. As above, press E' then C, etc.
12. If a full run on D' (GC CO's) is not anticipated, run D' last, after the final Mercator runs, so as not to lose the primary total memory. If all GC courses are run the memories will automatically transfer.
13. When the user intends to start an entirely new Mercator and/or Great Circle sequence, without reloading, the CM's key should be pressed to clear the total memories.
14. The program automatically changes decimal minutes in the Great Circle sequences to seconds of arc in the Mercator sequence, and seconds to decimal minutes in the reverse.