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NOAA Technical Memorandum NOS NGS 19



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HOACOS: A PROGRAM FOR ADJUSTING HORIZONTAL  
NETWORKS IN THREE DIMENSIONS

Rockville, Md.  
July 1979

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# HOACOS: A PROGRAM FOR ADJUSTING HORIZONTAL NETWORKS IN THREE DIMENSIONS

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ABSTRACT: Horizontal networks are adjusted in the simplest way in the height-controlled spatial system without reducing observations to the ellipsoid. The mathematical model of the adjustment is based on the known principles of three-dimensional geodesy. A computer program based on this method is described.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

HOACOS is an acronym for Horizontal Adjustment in Controlled Space. It is a computer program for adjusting geodetic networks in three dimensions, with heights and astronomic coordinates held fixed.

The pervading feature of the mathematical model for the adjustment is the forsaking of the ellipsoid as a reference surface. As used in the adjustment, distances are straight lines in space between reference points (marks on the ground), and directions are those observed in the plane of the astronomic horizon perpendicular to the direction of gravity.

Since this system was first proposed (Vincenty and Bowring 1978) it has undergone some modifications and acquired the designation of a height-controlled three-dimensional system (Vincenty 1979b). HOACOS puts this method to practical use.

## 2. NOTATION

X, Y, Z	Cartesian coordinates in the equatorial system
$\phi, \lambda$	astronomic latitude and longitude (ground level values), positive north and east respectively
A	astronomic azimuth, clockwise from north
S	spatial distance
B, L	geodetic latitude and longitude
H	height above the ellipsoid
a	equatorial radius of the ellipsoid

e	first eccentricity of the ellipsoid
M, N	principal radii of curvature
dx, dy	linear shifts of positions in an astronomic horizon plane, positive north and east respectively

### 3. MATHEMATICAL MODEL

The position of each point in space is defined by

$$\begin{aligned} X &= (N + H) \cos B \cos L \\ Y &= (N + H) \cos B \sin L \\ Z &= [N(1 - e^2) + H] \sin B. \end{aligned} \quad (1)$$

If the coordinates of two points and astronomic latitude and longitude of the standpoint are given, the length of the line and the astronomic azimuth at the standpoint can be computed by closed equations as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta X &= X_2 - X_1 & \Delta Y &= Y_2 - Y_1 & \Delta Z &= Z_2 - Z_1 \\ C_1 &= -\sin \phi_1 (\Delta X \cos \lambda_1 + \Delta Y \sin \lambda_1) + \Delta Z \cos \phi_1 \\ D_1 &= -\Delta X \sin \lambda_1 + \Delta Y \cos \lambda_1 \\ S^2 &= \Delta X^2 + \Delta Y^2 + \Delta Z^2 \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

$$\tan A_{12} = D_1 / C_1. \quad (3)$$

Similarly, we have for the reverse direction

$$\begin{aligned} C_2 &= \sin \phi_2 (\Delta X \cos \lambda_2 + \Delta Y \sin \lambda_2) - \Delta Z \cos \phi_2 \\ D_2 &= \Delta X \sin \lambda_2 - \Delta Y \cos \lambda_2 \\ \tan A_{21} &= D_2 / C_2. \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

The observation equations for azimuth and distance observations have the form

$$v = a_1 dx_1 + a_2 dy_1 + a_3 dx_2 + a_4 dy_2 + K, \quad (5)$$

in which the constant term K is the difference between the computed and the observed value.

Putting  $R_1^2 = C_1^2 + D_1^2$  and  $\Delta\lambda = \lambda_2 - \lambda_1$ , the coefficients of azimuth observation equations are computed by

$$\begin{aligned} a_1 &= D_1 / R_1^2 \\ a_2 &= -C_1 / R_1^2 \end{aligned}$$

$$a_3 = -[D_1(\cos \phi_1 \cos \phi_2 + \sin \phi_1 \sin \phi_2 \cos \Delta\lambda) + C_1 \sin \phi_2 \sin \Delta\lambda]/R_1^2$$

$$a_4 = (C_1 \cos \Delta\lambda - D_1 \sin \phi_1 \sin \Delta\lambda)/R_1^2.$$

The coefficients of distance observation equations are

$$a_1 = -C_1/S$$

$$a_3 = -C_2/S$$

$$a_2 = -D_1/S$$

$$a_4 = -D_2/S.$$

The azimuth observation equation is used also for unoriented horizontal directions, with the addition of an orientation unknown common to all members of the set, with a coefficient of -1.

Relative (unscaled) distances, used for determining the shape of the network, are treated in the same way as in program HAVAGO (Vincenty 1979a). Each such distance receives a scale unknown which is common to all members of the group, with a coefficient of -S. In a special case of this class of observations all distances may be assigned the same scale unknown.

Relative distances depend on a source of scale, such as at least one base line (a distance without scale unknown) or two or more fixed or constrained points. If no source of scale exists, a solution for average scale may be performed. In this case an observation equation is used to make the sum of the scale corrections equal to zero.

A position is constrained by two equations:

$$v_{dx} = dx + K_{dx} \tag{6a}$$

$$v_{dy} = dy + K_{dy} \tag{6b}$$

The constant terms of position equations are computed initially by

$$K_{dx} = (B - B_0)(M + H)$$

$$K_{dy} = (L - L_0)(N + H) \cos B,$$

where B, L are assumed coordinates and B<sub>0</sub>, L<sub>0</sub> are constraint values. After each iteration they are updated by adding the shifts dx and dy, respectively, as determined in the adjustment.

After each iteration the Cartesian coordinates are updated by

$$\begin{aligned}dX &= -\sin \phi \cos \lambda \, dx - \sin \lambda \, dy \\dY &= -\sin \phi \sin \lambda \, dx + \cos \lambda \, dy \\dZ &= \cos \phi \, dx.\end{aligned}\tag{7}$$

Adjusted Cartesian coordinates are transformed to geographic coordinates by

$$\tan B = (Z/p)/(1 - e_0^2)\tag{8}$$

$$\tan L = Y/X,\tag{9}$$

using

$$N \approx a(1 + \frac{1}{2} e^2 \sin^2 \phi)$$

$$e_0^2 = e^2 N / (N + H).$$

#### 4. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROGRAM

##### 4.1 Input Formats

The input was designed to be compatible with the existing formats of the TRAV10 program (Schwarz 1978). A set of input cards for TRAV10 is known as a "travdeck." HOACOS contains some additions to the formats of TRAV10 but they do not interfere with the structure of existing travdecks.

##### 4.2 Option Card

The option card contains the deck name and various option flags for the execution of the program. Some options applicable to TRAV10 are not used and some have been added. Among the added options are the following:

- A flag instructs the program to read a card containing the parameters of the ellipsoid on which the preliminary geodetic positions have been computed.
- The adjustment may be performed with a solution for a scale unknown common to all distance observations.
- A section of input containing relative distances has been added. Each group of such distances is assigned a separate scale unknown.
- If relative distances are used, an option may be exercised whereby a solution for the average scale of the distances will be performed.



### 4.3 Processing of Input Data

Before HOACOS can be executed, the input deck must be run through a preprocessor (QUIKPROC) that assigns consecutive numbers to the stations and places appropriate station numbers on observation records.

#### 4.3.1 Station Data

The data for each station include station name, preliminary geodetic latitude and longitude, height above sea level, geoid height, and some identifying information of no interest in the adjustment. As the cards are read in, the sines and the cosines of latitudes and longitudes are computed and stored in arrays. At this time the Cartesian coordinates of the points are computed and are also placed in arrays. Station names are stored on a disk unit.

#### 4.3.2 Constrained Positions

Each record of this section of the input consists of station name, constrained latitude and longitude, and standard deviations of the constraints. If the coordinates are left blank, the program assumes that they are the same as the corresponding preliminary values. Default values of standard deviations are 0.1 mm for latitude and longitude. The observations are written on a disk.

#### 4.3.3 Astronomic Coordinates

As astronomic coordinates are read in, their sines and cosines are computed and stored in arrays, overwriting the previously computed geodetic values. This means that if an astronomic latitude or longitude is not furnished, it is assumed to be the same as the corresponding preliminary geodetic value. Thereafter, the input values will not be used again by the program.

#### 4.3.4 Observations Between Stations

As the observations are read, their variances are computed using standard deviation codes (which may be furnished on the observation card or deduced from the observation type code on the card). All information that will be needed later for the formation of observation equations is stored on a disk.

Occasionally sea level distances are encountered. These are converted to mark-to-mark distances as follows:

$$q = (\sin \phi_1 + \sin \phi_2) / 2$$

$$N = \frac{a}{\sqrt{1 - e^2 q^2}}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 R &= \frac{N}{1 + e^2 (N/s)^2 (\sin \phi_2 - \sin \phi_1)^2 / (1-e^2)} \\
 D &= s - s^3 / (24 R^2) \\
 S &= \sqrt{D^2 (R + H_1) (R + H_2) + (R \Delta H)^2} / R,
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{10}$$

where  $s$  is sea level distance.

#### 4.4 Observation Equations

The observation equations are formed before the initial adjustment and before each iteration. The observation data previously stored on a disk are read sequentially, and the equations are formed and written on another unit for use by the adjustment package. The weight of each observation is the reciprocal of its variance.

No trigonometric functions are computed in forming the observation equations except for an arc tangent for each azimuth and unoriented direction (eq. 3).

Distances computed from most recent coordinates are needed only in distance observation equations. They are obtained without square roots from  $S^2$  and the observed value  $S_0$  by

$$S = (S^2/S_0 + S_0)/2. \tag{11}$$

#### 4.5 Adjustment

The adjustment is performed using an adjustment subroutine package prepared by William E. Dillinger. The package reads the observation equations, reorders the unknowns to reduce the profile of the matrix of normal equations, forms and solves normal equations, and after the last iteration inverts the matrix. Reordering of the unknowns may be suppressed as an option. The adjustment is assumed to have converged when the shift of each point from the previous to the current value is smaller than 0.01 m.

#### 4.6 Postadjustment Computations

The residuals are computed by substituting the values of the unknowns in the observation equations. Normalized residuals are also computed.

The full variance-covariance matrix of adjusted unknowns is used to determine the standard errors of adjusted unknowns and the standard errors of adjusted distances and azimuths over lines between any points specified in the input.

The adjusted distances are always printed as straight lines in space. The adjusted azimuths are astronomic if observed; otherwise they are given as normal section azimuths between points in space and referred to the chosen ellipsoid. Geodesic distances and azimuths are not computed.

## 5. CONCLUSION

The height-controlled three-dimensional method of adjusting geodetic networks differs from the general three-dimensional approach in two respects. It requires a previous determination of heights of all points and it treats astronomic coordinates as invariable.

The direction of gravity, expressed by astronomic coordinates, should be known at all stations from which directions are measured, which is also true of classical ellipsoidal geodesy. If it is not known at some stations, the results will be falsified to some extent, sometimes seriously, irrespective of what computational system is used.

The equations for computing distances and azimuths are exact and stable. The accuracy of coefficients of observation equations does not depend on the length of the line but only on the relative accuracy of preliminary coordinates. Thus the height-controlled method can be used safely in all situations, regardless of lengths of the lines.

Reductions of directions and distances to the ellipsoid are not used in the program. These reductions, while useful in adjustments by the method of conditions, are unnecessary in modern adjustments by variation of parameters.

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APPENDIX.--EXAMPLE

INPUT  
 GEODETIC POSITIONS  
 NO. NAME  
 1 STATION A  
 2 STATION B  
 3 STATION C  
 4 INTERSECTION

FRIDAY JULY 13,1979 PAGE 1

LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	ELEVATION	G.H.	CLASS
30 40 0.0	40 10 0.0	1002.00	-2.0	11
30 10 0.20000	40 0 0.10000	1497.50	2.5	11
30 0 0.0	41 0 0.20000	2501.50	-1.5	11
30 50 0.30000	40 40 0.50000	3000.00	0.0	11

INPUT  
 CONSTRAINED POSITIONS  
 L.N. NO. NAME  
 5 1 STATION A

FRIDAY JULY 13,1979 PAGE 2

LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	CONSTRAINTS
		0.0 0.0

INPUT  
 ASTRONOMIC COORDINATES  
 L.N. NO. NAME  
 6 1 STATION A  
 7 2 STATION B  
 8 3 STATION C

FRIDAY JULY 13,1979 PAGE 3

LATITUDE	LONGITUDE
30 40 10.00	40 10 20.00
30 10 15.00	40 0 15.00
30 0 20.00	41 0 10.00



TEST WUAD

JOB STATISTICS

A = 6378388.000 1/F = 297.00000000

S.E. OF UNIT WEIGHT = 0.939, VARIANCE = 0.881, 6 DEGREES OF FREEDOM.

LONGITUDE POSITIVE EAST.  
 AZIMUTH FROM NORTH.  
 OBSERVED AZIMUTHS ARE ASTRONOMIC.  
 AZIMUTHS COMPUTED FROM ADJUSTED COORDINATES ARE NORMAL SECTION AZIMUTHS TO FOREPOINTS IN SPACE.  
 DISTANCES ARE STRAIGHT LINES BETWEEN MARKS.

- 1 ITERATION
- 4 STATIONS
- 1 CONSTRAINED POSITION
- 3 ASTRONOMIC LATITUDES
- 3 ASTRONOMIC LONGITUDES
- 9 DIRECTIONS
- 3 AZIMUTHS
- 3 DISTANCES
- 0 RELATIVE DISTANCES
- 3 LISTS OF DIRECTIONS
- 0 GROUPS OF DISTANCES
- 11 UNKNOWNNS
- 17 OBSERVATIONS

ADJUSTED DATA

ADJUSTED POSITIONS

NO.	NAME	LATITUDE	STD.ERROR	LONGITUDE	STD.ERROR	ELEVATION	GEOID HT.	GEOD.HT.
1	STATION A	30 40 0.00000	0.00000	40 10 0.00000	0.00000	1002.00	-2.0	1000.00
2	STATION B	30 9 59.99955	0.00508	40 0 0.01127	0.00870	1497.50	2.5	1500.00
3	STATION C	29 59 59.98322	0.01278	40 59 59.99715	0.01352	2501.50	-1.5	2500.00
4	INTERSECTION	30 50 0.01280	0.01093	40 40 0.02837	0.01519	3000.00	0.0	3000.00





ADJUSTED DATA  
DISTANCES

L.N.	FROM	TO	DISTANCE	V	V'	AZIMUTH
21	STATION A	STATION B	57711.0801	0.0801	0.46	196 9 21.849
22	STATION A	STATION C	109054.2052	0.0952	0.02	132 28 21.552
23	STATION B	STATION C	98198.3601	-0.1399	-0.47	100 35 53.234

ADJUSTED DATA  
ACCURACIES

L.N.	FROM	TO	AZIMUTH	S.E.	DISTANCE	S.E. CORR. COEF.
24	STATION A	STATION B	196 9 21.849	0.84	57711.0801	0.152
25	STATION A	STATION C	132 28 21.552	0.92	109054.2052	0.220
26	STATION A	INTERSECTION	68 46 7.627	1.20	51375.9096	0.433
27	STATION B	STATION C	100 35 53.234	0.93	98198.3601	0.217
28	STATION B	INTERSECTION	40 43 20.937	0.96	97814.1993	0.420
29	STATION C	INTERSECTION	340 57 51.488	1.26	97822.2863	0.311

CPU TIMES

SECONDS	ACTION
0.06	PROCESSING INPUT DATA
0.00	REORDERING UNKNOWNNS
0.03	AVERAGE PER ADJUSTMENT (2 ADJUSTMENTS)
0.04	FORMING OBSERVATION EQUATIONS
0.01	FORMING NORMAL EQUATIONS
0.00	SOLVING NORMAL EQUATIONS
0.02	UPDATING COORDINATES
0.06	COMPUTING MATRIX INVERSE, SOLUTION VECTOR, AND PRECISION OF UNKNOWNNS
	AND TRANSFORMING X,Y,Z TO GEODETIC COORDINATES
0.01	COMPUTING ACCURACIES
0.30	TOTAL IN HOACUS

(Continued from inside front cover)

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