

EE6900 Flight Management Systems

“Flight Management System Introduction”

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Flight Management System (FMS)

- Basic FMS functions:

- **Navigation**

- responsible for determining the best estimate of the current nav state of the aircraft.

- **Flight planning**

- allows the crew to establish a specific routing for the aircraft

- **Trajectory prediction**

- responsible for computing the predicted aircraft profile along the entire specified routing

- **Performance computations**

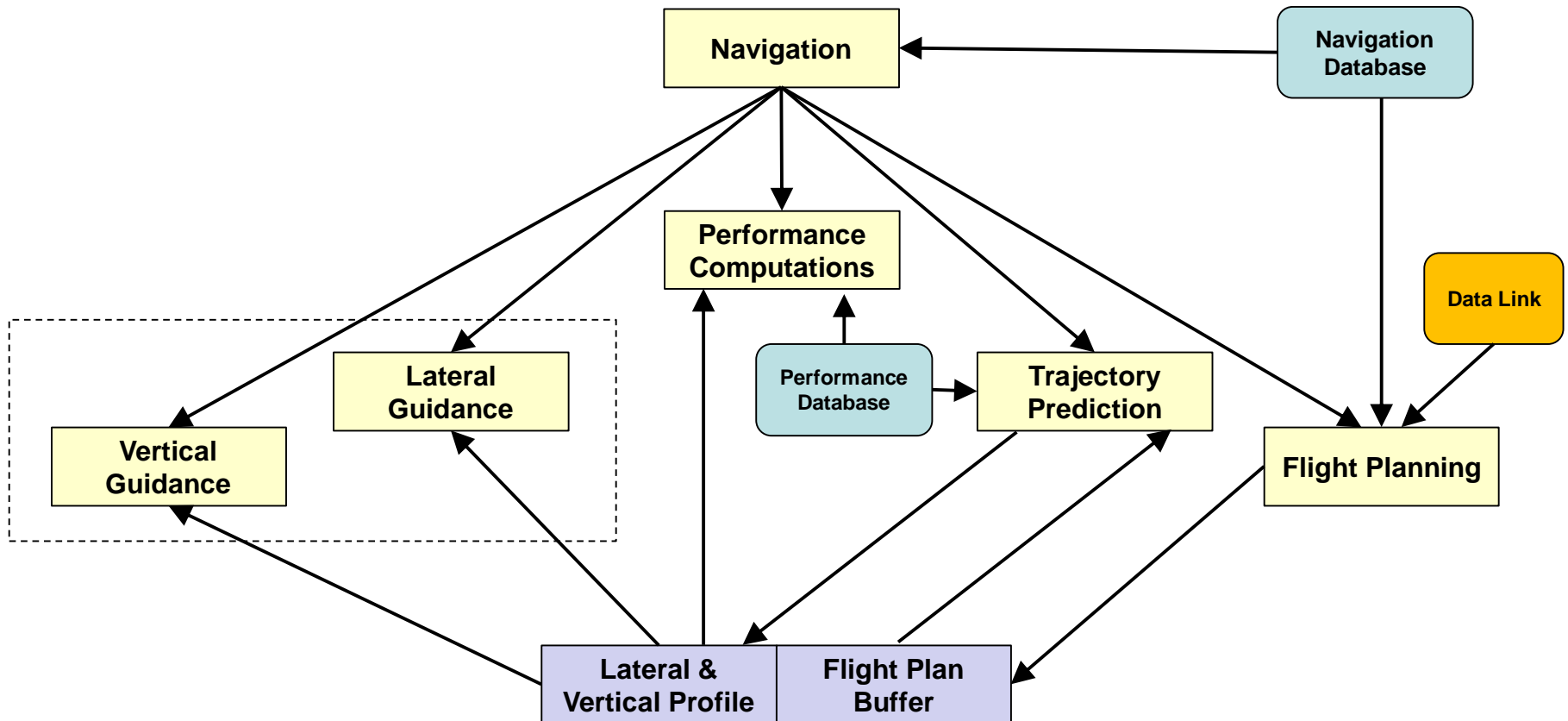
- provides the crew with aircraft unique performance information such as takeoff speeds, altitude capability, and profile optimization advisories

- **Guidance**

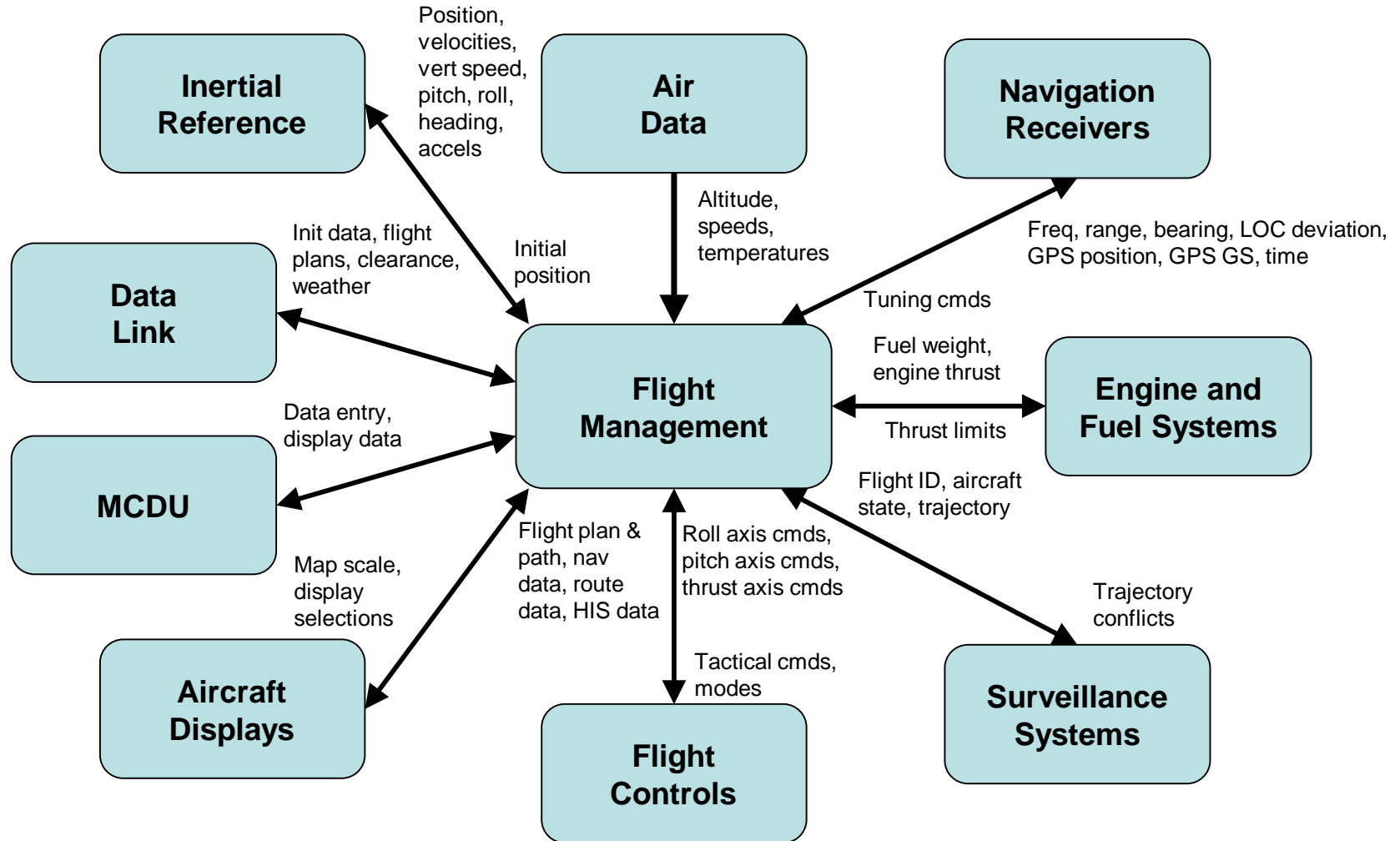
- responsible for producing commands to guide the aircraft along both the lateral and vertical computed profiles



FMS- Functional Block Diagram



Flight Management – Typical



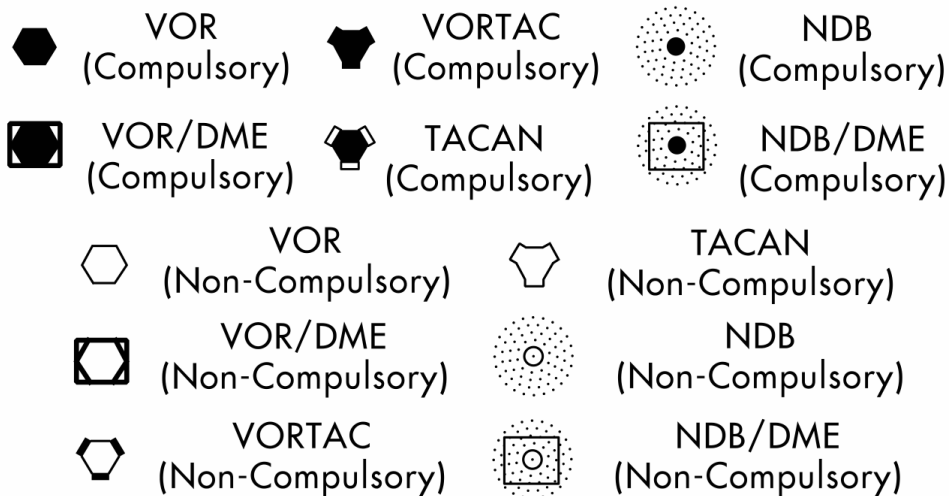
Navigation - Nav aids

| Location | Avionics | Provides |
|--------------------|---|---|
| Onboard | Air data (ADC) | pressure altitude, density altitude, OAT, TAS, EAS, AOA, etc. |
| | Inertial (INS) | attitude, true heading, magnetic heading, position, velocity, groundspeed, track etc. |
| Space-based | Global Positioning System (GPS) | position, velocity, groundspeed, track etc. |
| Terrestrial | Non-Directional Beacon (NDB) | bearing angle w.r.t. magnetic heading |
| | Distance Measuring Equipment (DME) | slant range |
| | Tactical Air Navigation System (TACAN) | slant range |
| | VHF Omnidirectional Range (VOR) | bearing angle w.r.t. magnetic North. |
| Landings | Instrument Landing System (ILS) | localizer and glideslope deviations |
| | Ground-Based Augmentation System (GBAS) | localizer and glideslope deviations (ILS) corrections, integrity indicators |
| | Microwave Landing System (MLS) | azimuth, elevation |

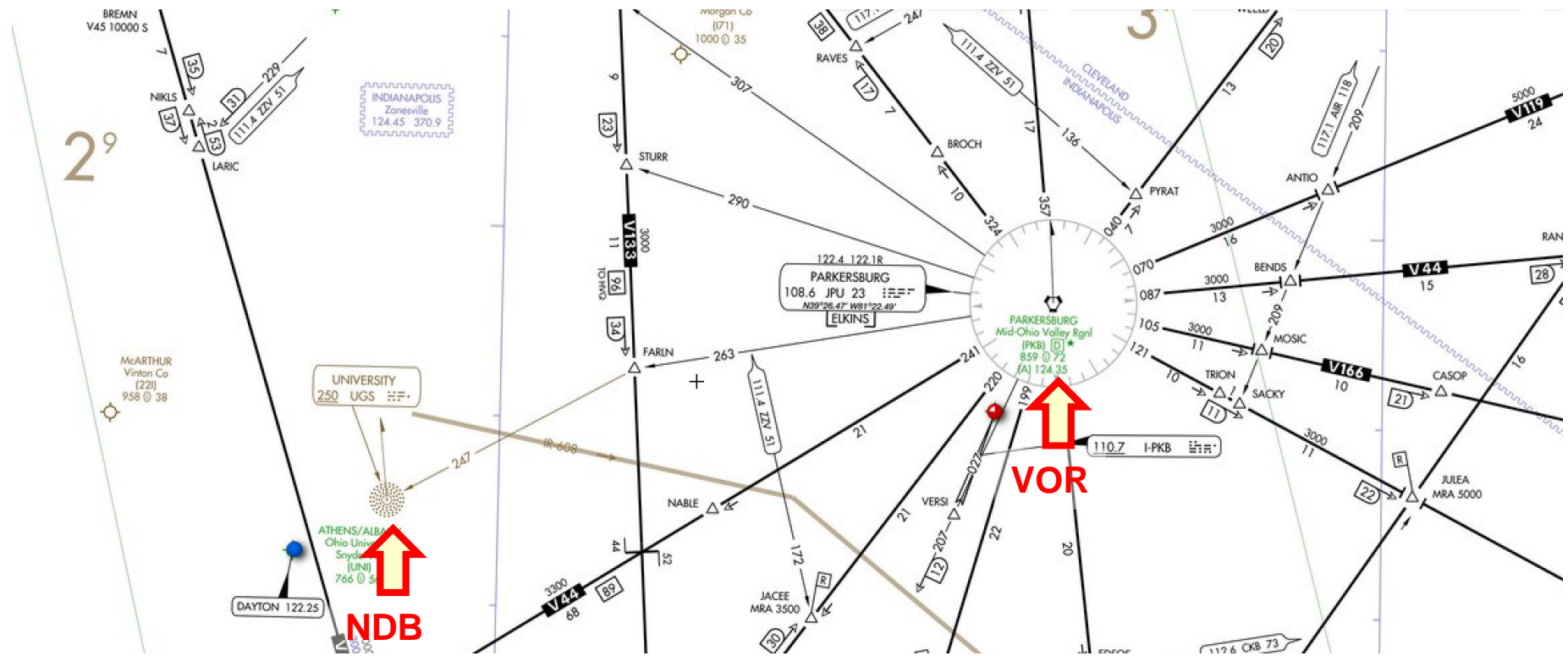
Guest lecture next week on DME/DME!

Navigation – Navaid Symbols

| Location | Avionics | Provides |
|-------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| Terrestrial | Non-Directional Beacon (NDB) | bearing angle w.r.t. magnetic heading |
| | Distance Measuring Equipment (DME) | slant range |
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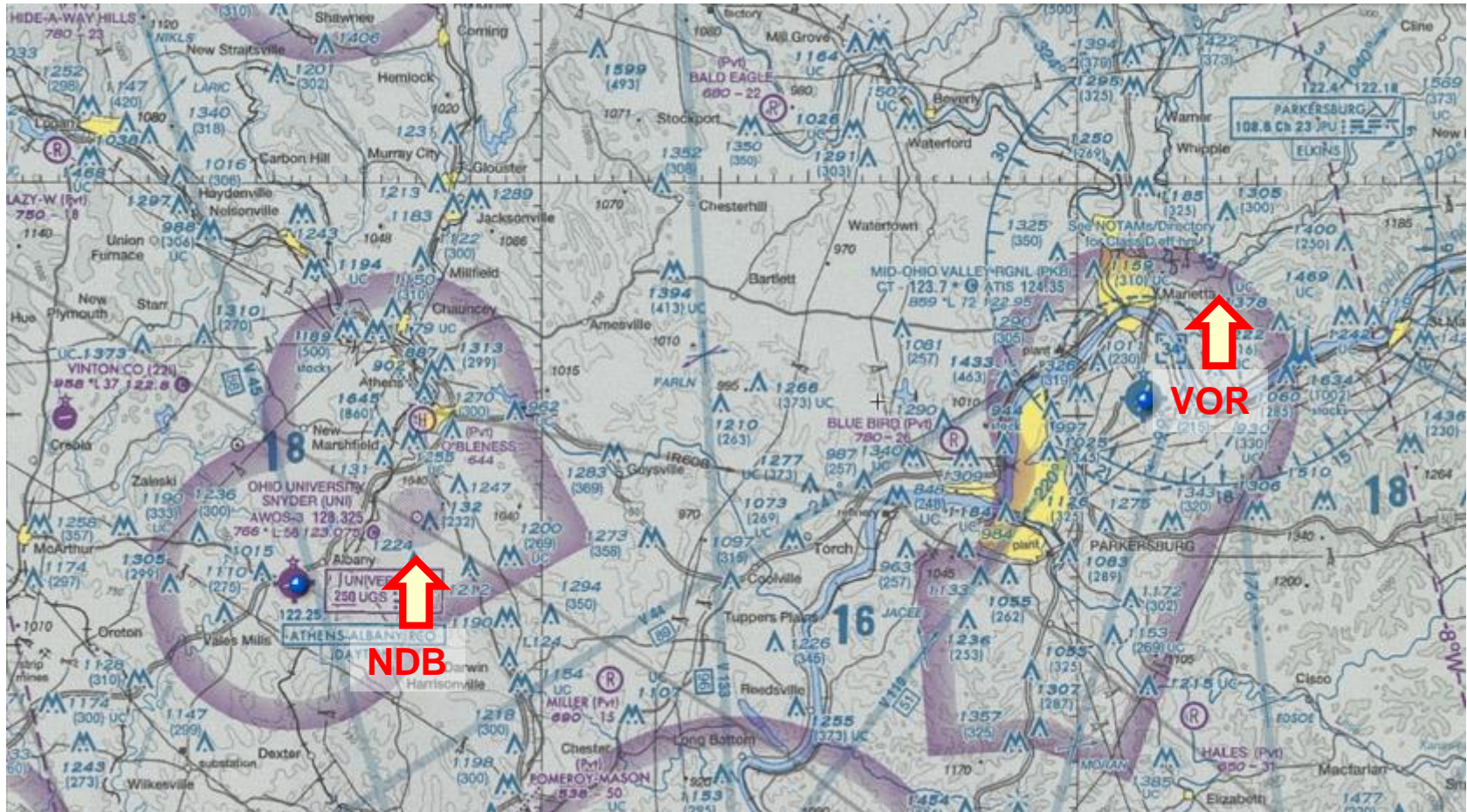


Low Altitude Enroute Chart

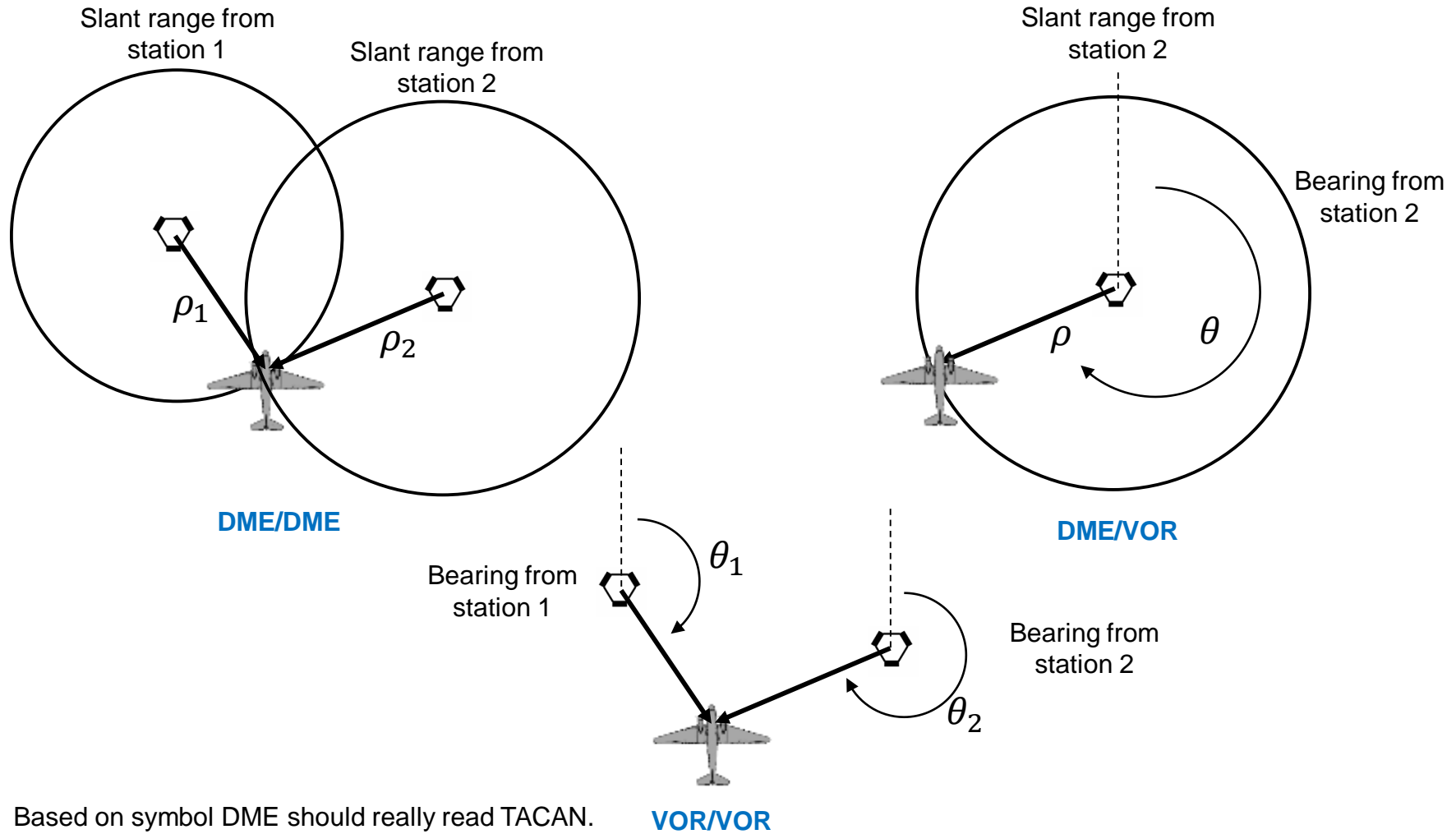


From: <http://skyvector.com>

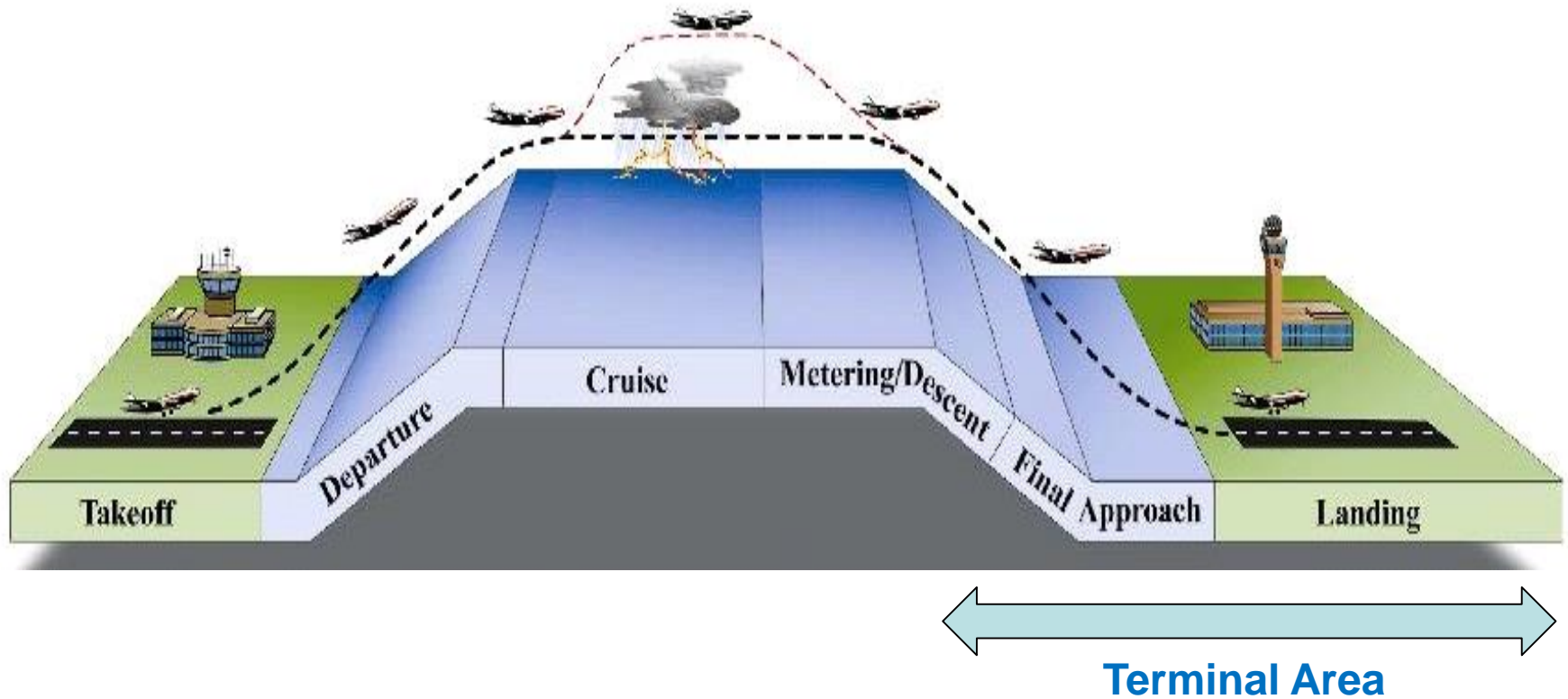
Navigation Charts - Sectional



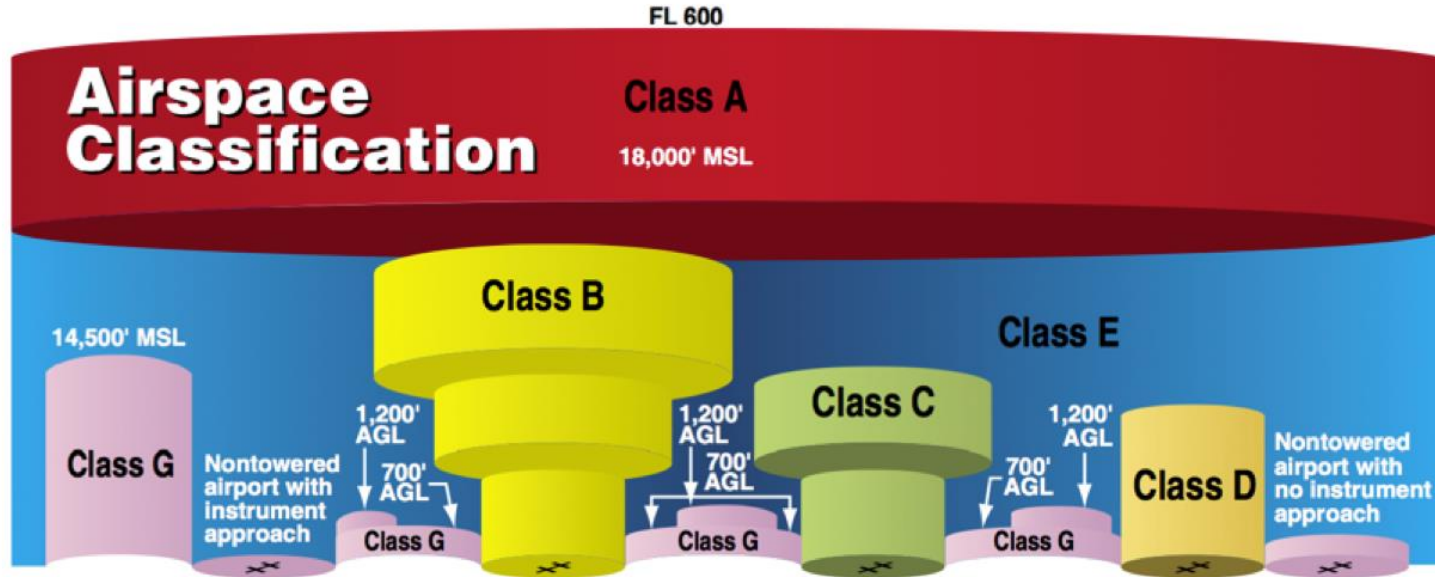
Navigation



Navigation – Phases of Flight

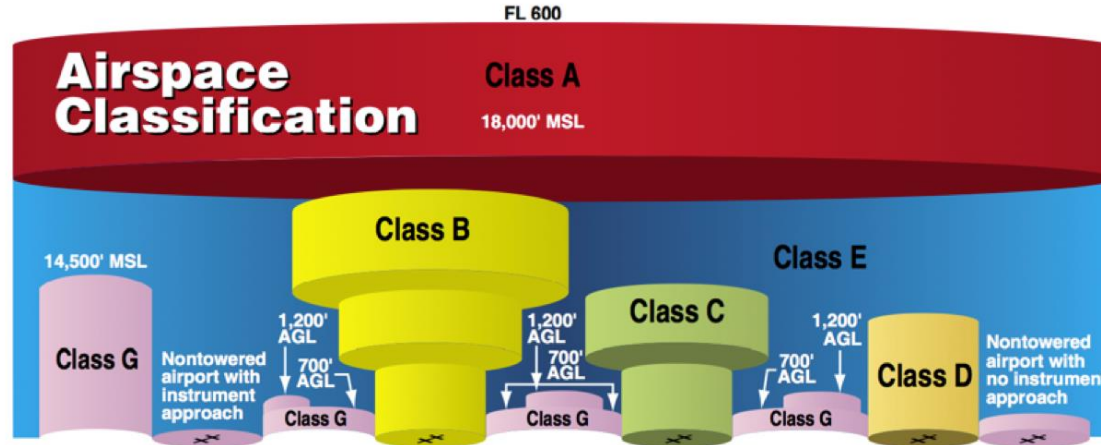


Navigation - Airspace



| Airspace | Class A | Class B | Class C | Class D | Class E | Class G |
|------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|--|--|--|---|
| Entry requirements | ATC clearance | ATC clearance | ATC clearance for IFR; all require radio contact | ATC clearance for IFR; all require radio contact | ATC clearance for IFR; all require radio contact | None |
| Minimum pilot qualifications | Instrument rating | Private or student certification. | Student certificate. | Student certificate | Student certificate | Student certificate |
| Two-way radio communications | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes, under IFR flight plan | Not required |
| VFR Visibility Minimum | N/A | 3 statute miles | 3 statute miles | 3 statute miles | < 10,000': 3 miles > 10,000': 5 miles | < 10,000': 1 (day)/3(night) miles > 10,000': 5 miles |

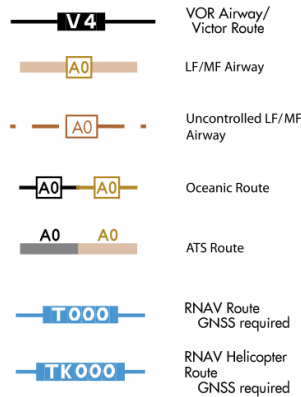
Navigation - Routes



LOW ALTITUDE AIRWAYS (in Class E airspace)

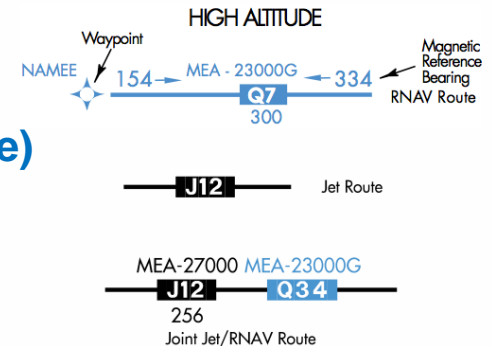
LOW/HIGH ALTITUDE

VHF / UHF Data is depicted in Black
LF / MF Data is depicted in Brown
RNAV Route data is depicted in Blue

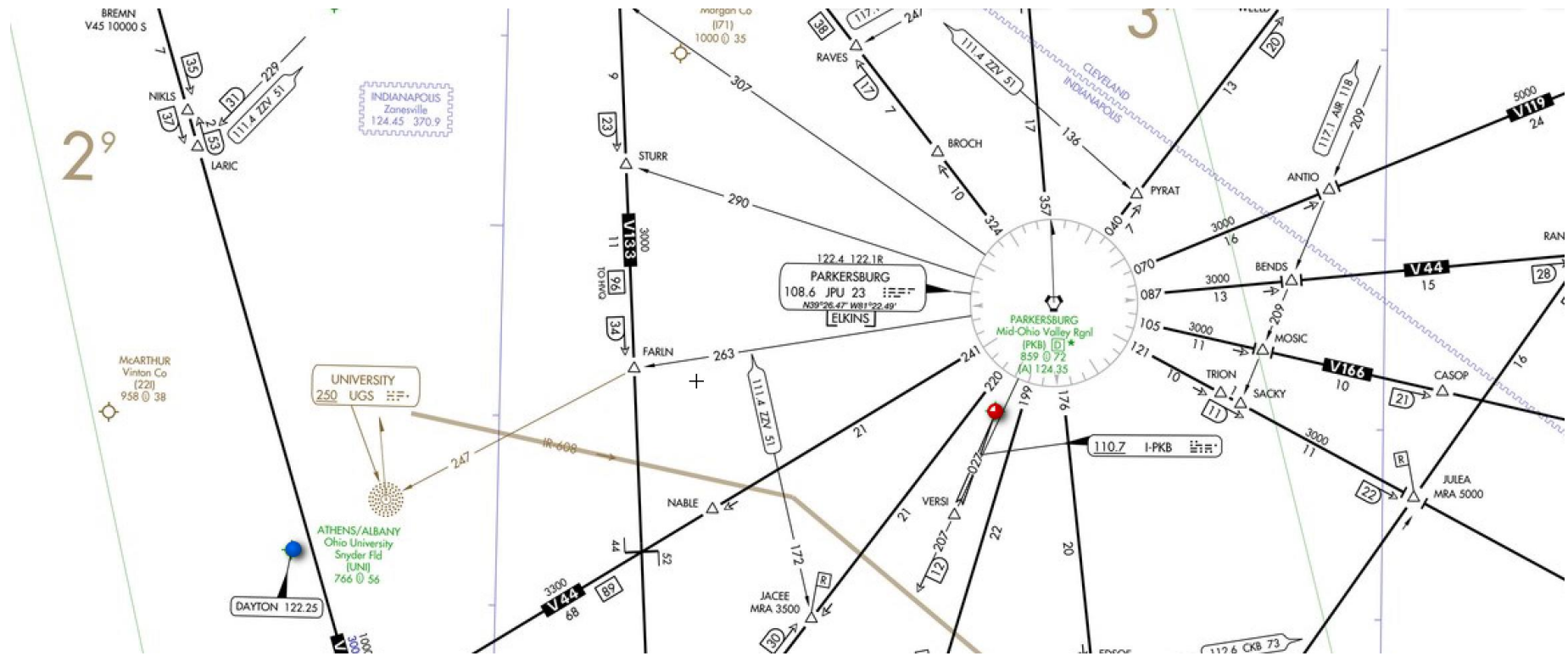


HIGH ALTITUDE ROUTES

(in Class A airspace)

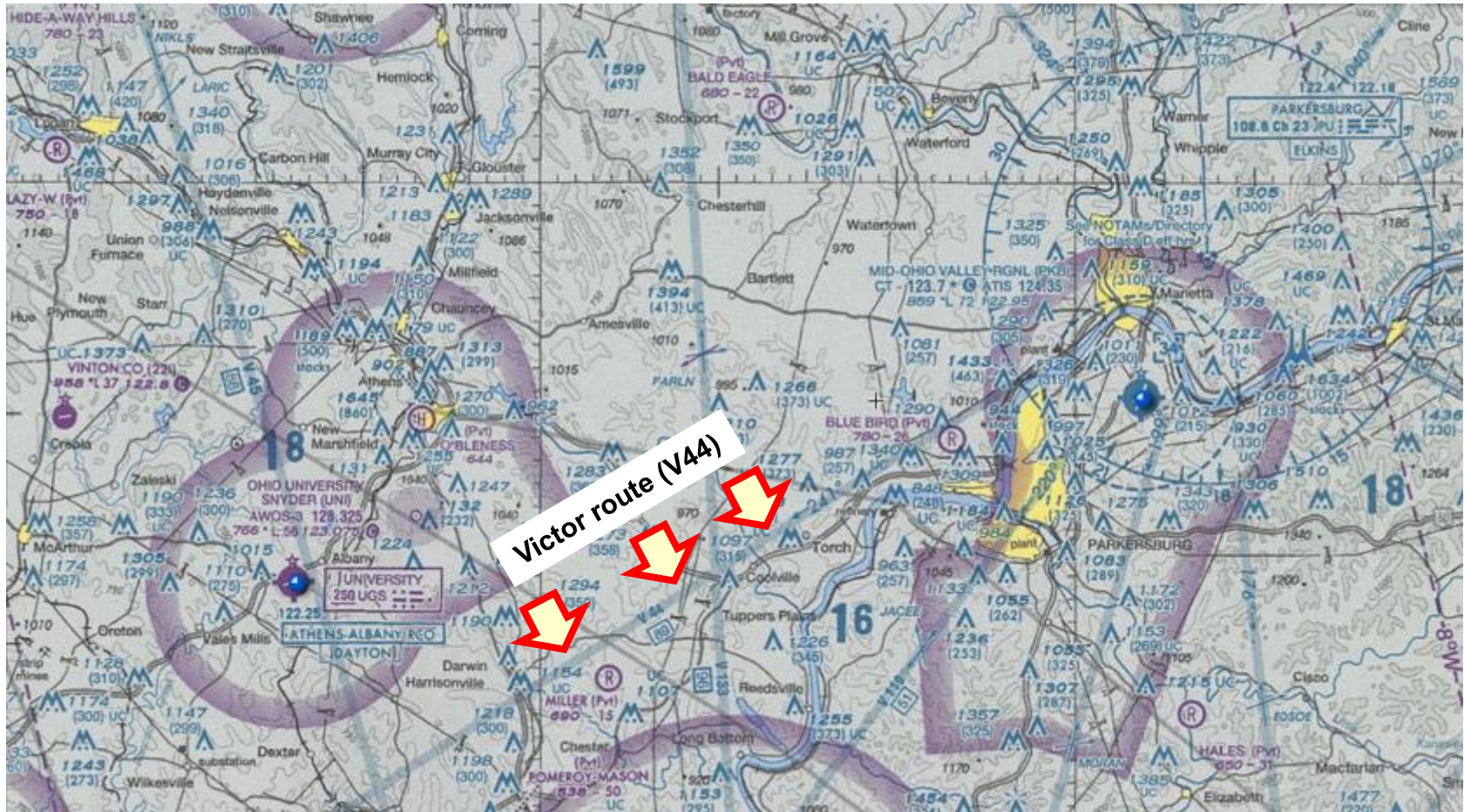


Low Altitude Enroute Chart

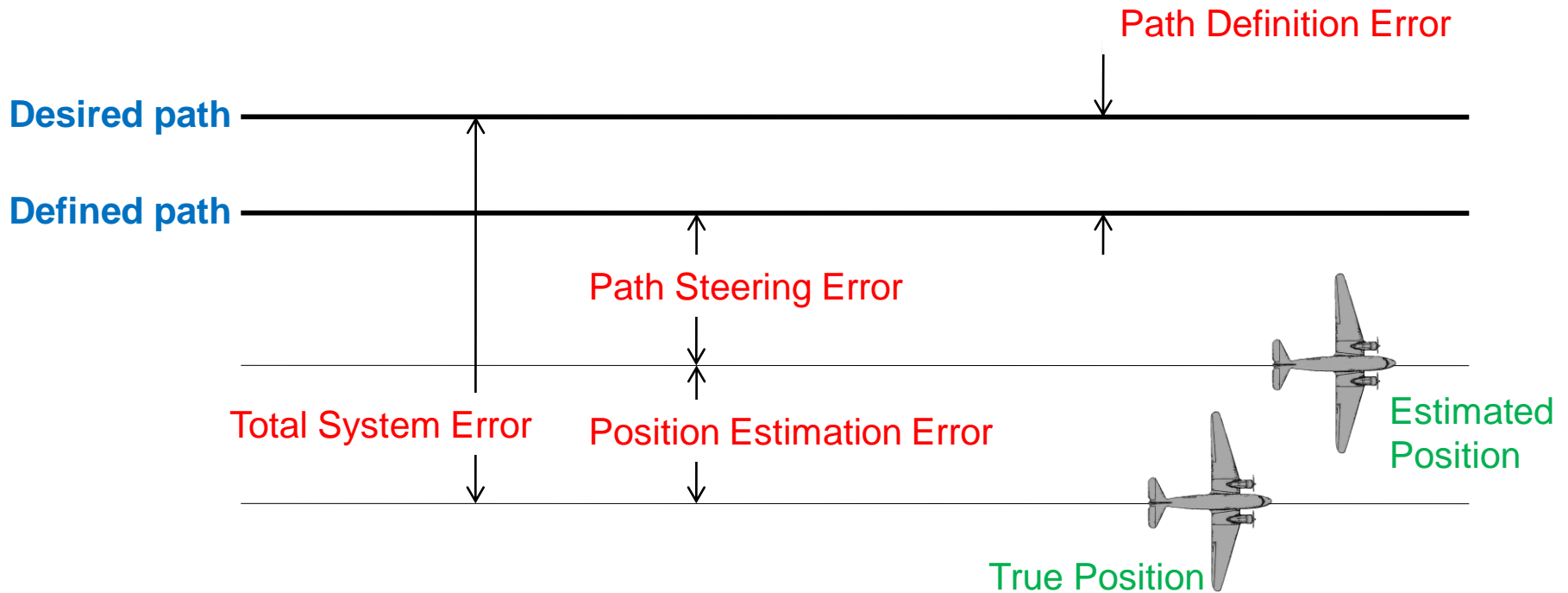


From: <http://skyvector.com>

Navigation Charts - Sectional



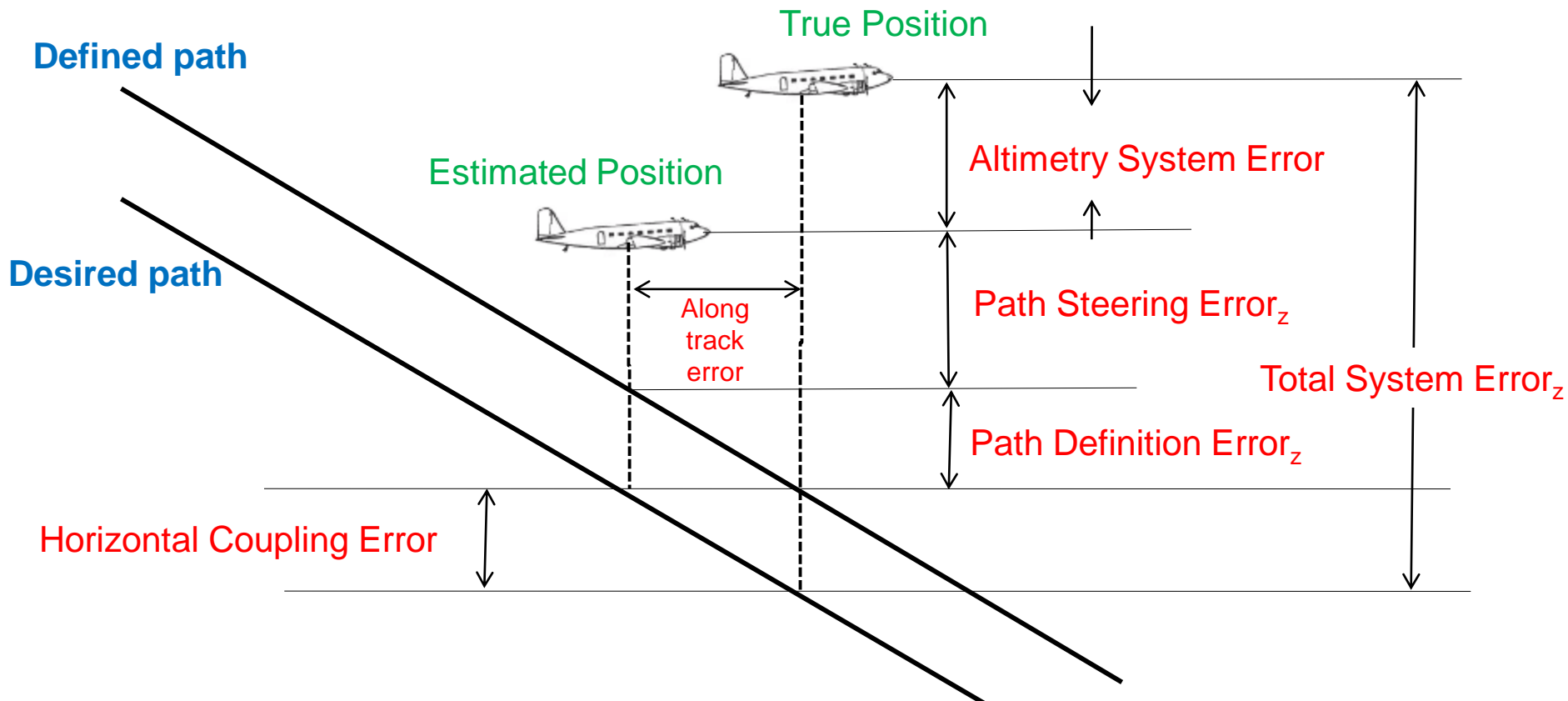
Navigation Error Terms - Lateral



Path Steering Error components: flight technical error and display error

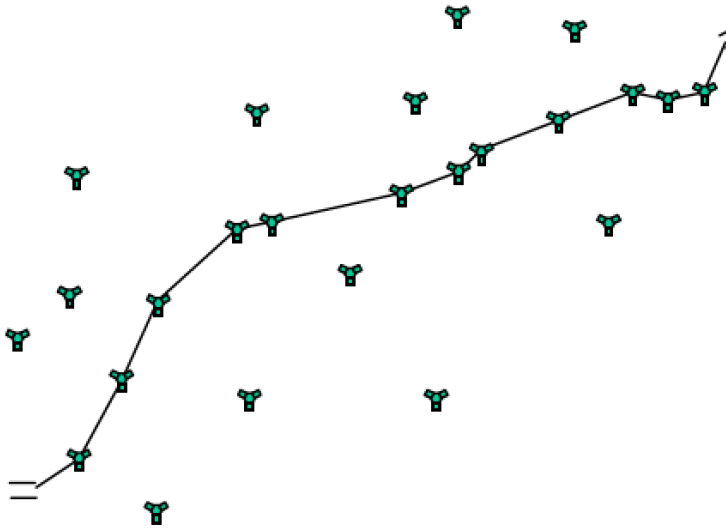
Based on: DO-283A, "Minimum Operational Performance Standards for Required Navigation Performance for Area Navigation," RTCA Inc., 2003

Navigation Error Terms - Vertical

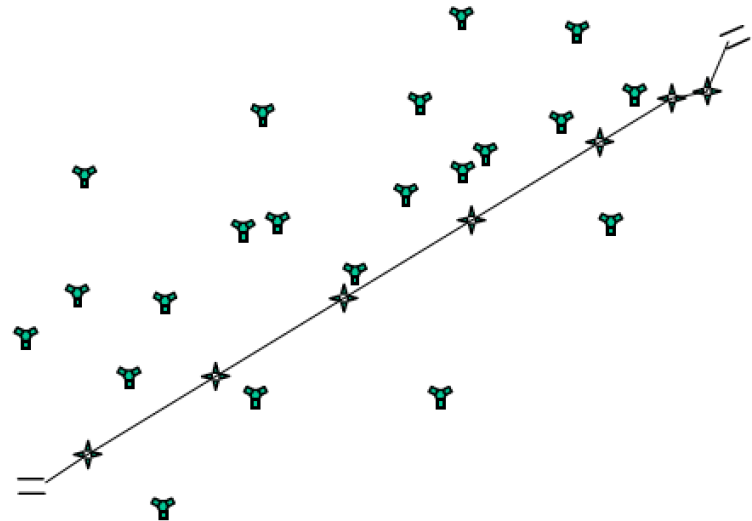


Based on: DO-236B, "Minimum Aviation System Performance Standards: Required Navigation Performance for Area Navigation," RTCA Inc., 2003

Navigation - RNAV



Traditional: routes strongly based on ground navaids



**Area Navigation (RNAV)
Fly a trajectory/route through a set of waypoints that do not coincide with ground navaid**

Lateral component: LNAV
Vertical component: VNAV

Required Navigation Performance (RNP)

- CONOPS Definition:

A statement of the **navigation performance** necessary for operation within a defined airspace.

Performance-Based Navigation (PBN)

Navigation Applications Without Onboard Monitoring and Alerting (**RNAV**)

Navigation Applications With Onboard Monitoring and Alerting (**RNP**)

Meet **Accuracy, Integrity, Availability and Continuity** Requirements

RNAV versus RNP

- RNAV

- Lateral Navigation (LNAV).

- A function of area navigation (RNAV) equipment which calculates, displays, and provides lateral guidance to a profile or path.

- Vertical Navigation (VNAV)

- A function of area navigation (RNAV) equipment which calculates, displays, and provides vertical guidance to a profile or path.

- RNP

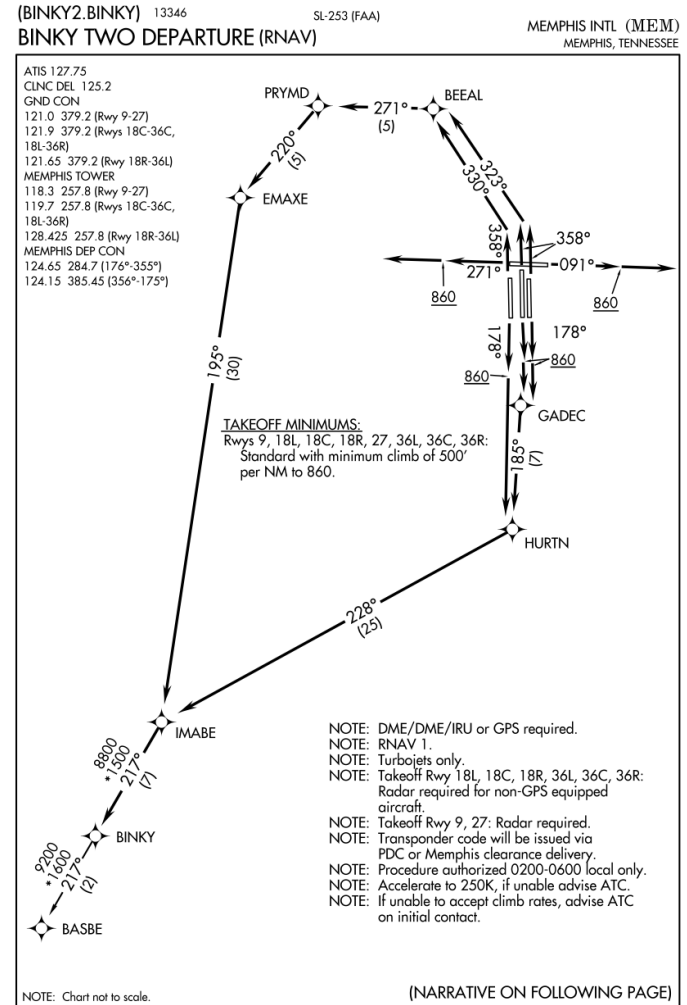
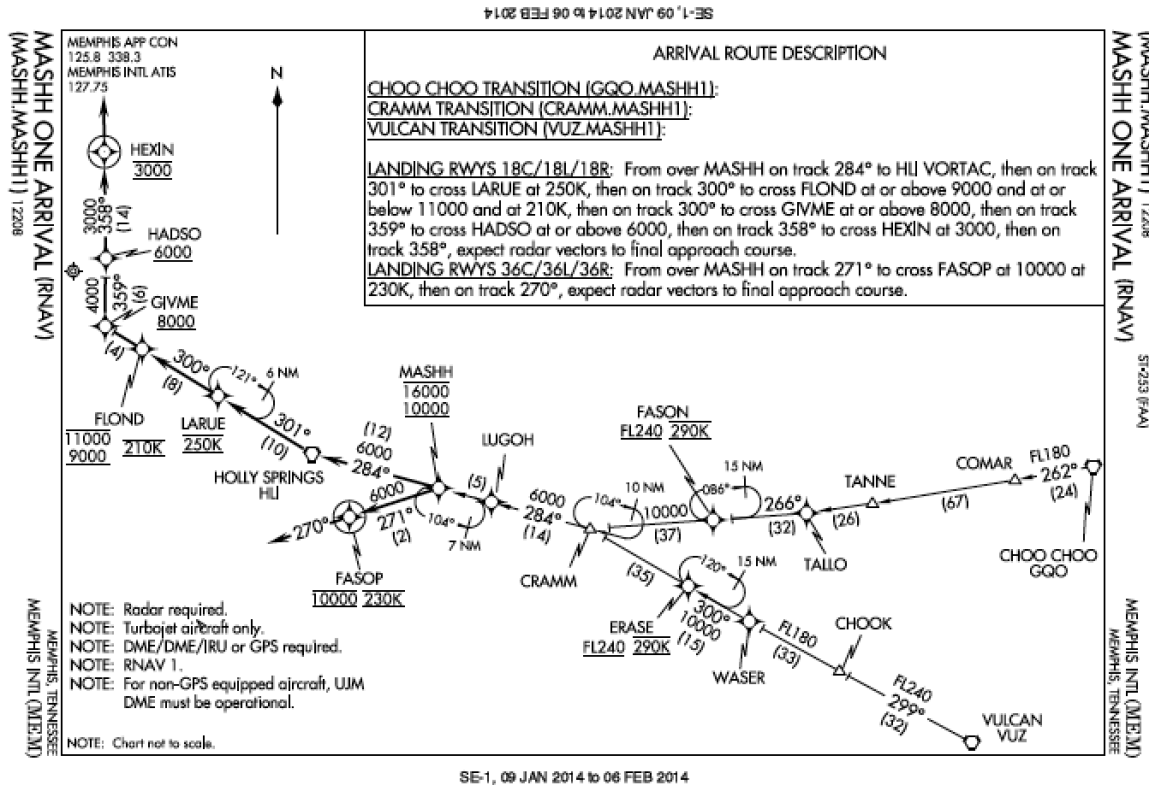
- Required Navigation Performance Level or Type (RNP-X).

- A value, in nautical miles (NM), from the intended horizontal position within which an aircraft would be at least 95-percent of the total flying time.

- Required Navigation Performance (RNP) Airspace.

- A generic term designating airspace, route(s), leg(s), operation(s), or procedure(s) where minimum required navigational performance (RNP) have been established.

Arrival and Departure Routes



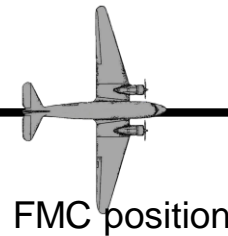
Navigation – Cross-track Containment

Containment Limit 99.999%

2 x RNP

RNP 95%

Desired path (RNAV route)



RNP 95%

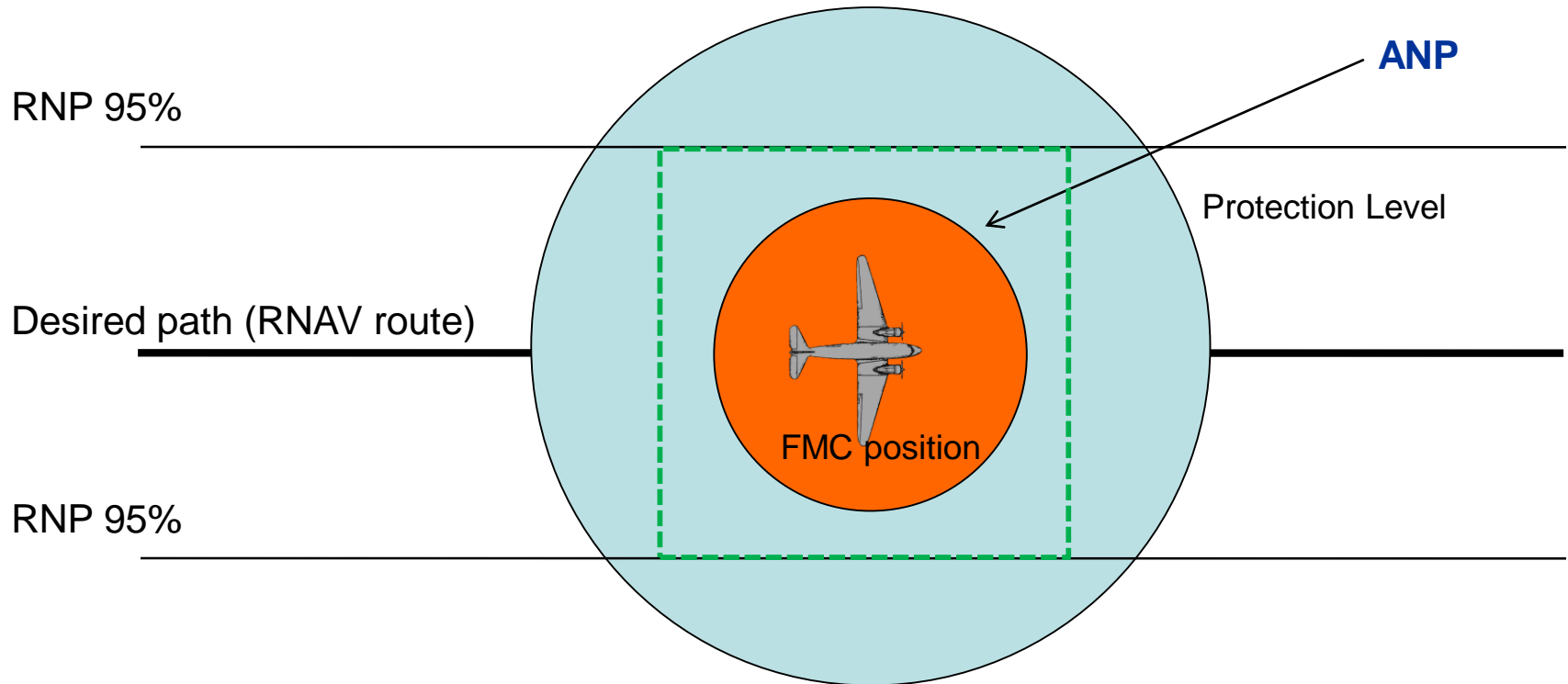
Containment Limit 99.999%

Referenced to desired path, based on **position estimation error, path definition error and flight technical error**, detected and undetected faults.

Navigation – Cross-track Containment

Containment Limit 99.999%

2 x RNP



Containment Limit 99.999%

Actual Navigation Performance (ANP):

A measure of the current estimated navigational performance (95% performance). Also referred to as Estimated Position Error (EPE).

Navigation – RNP RNAV Types

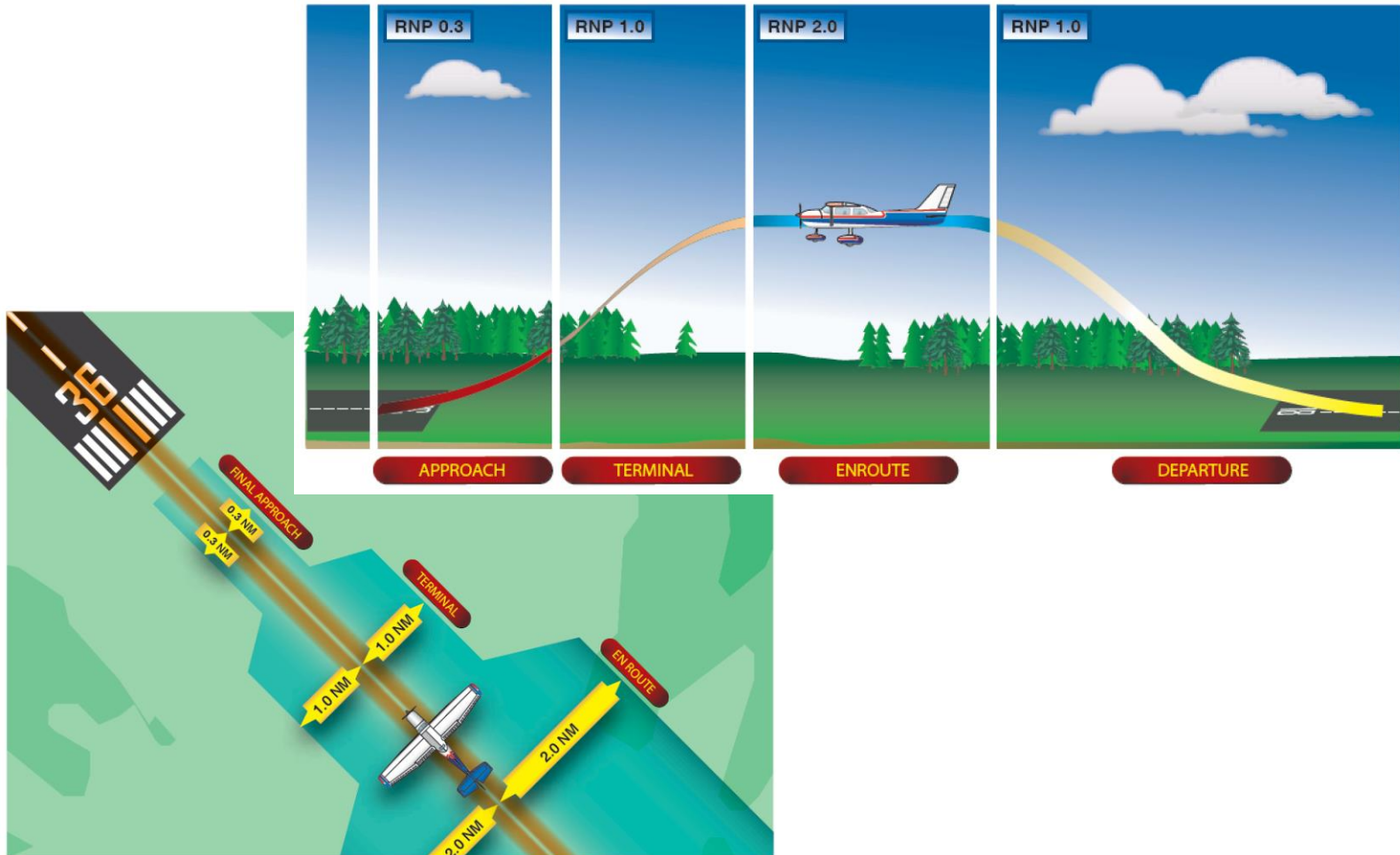
| Flight phase | |
|---------------------|--------------|
| Oceanic | RNP-4.0 RNAV |
| En route (domestic) | RNP-2.0 RNAV |
| Terminal | RNP-1.0 RNAV |
| Approach | RNP-0.3 RNAV |

Assumed Flight Technical Error

| Flight phase | Manual (NM) | Coupled (NM) | |
|--------------|-------------|-----------------|-----------|
| | | Flight director | Autopilot |
| Oceanic | 2.0 | 0.5 | 0.25 |
| En route | 1.0 | 0.5 | 0.25 |
| Terminal | 1.0 | 0.5 | 0.25 |
| Approach | 0.5 | 0.25 | 0.125 |

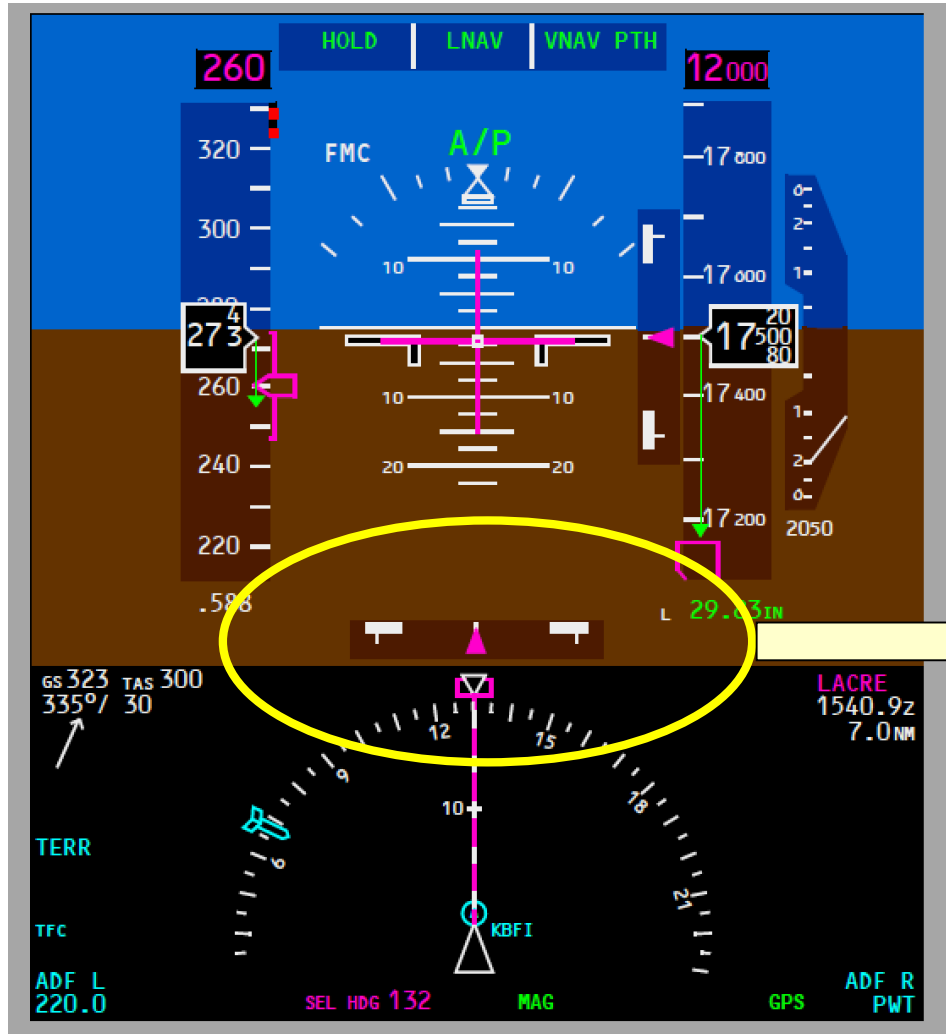
See: ICAO Manual on RNP

Navigation – RNP RNAV Types



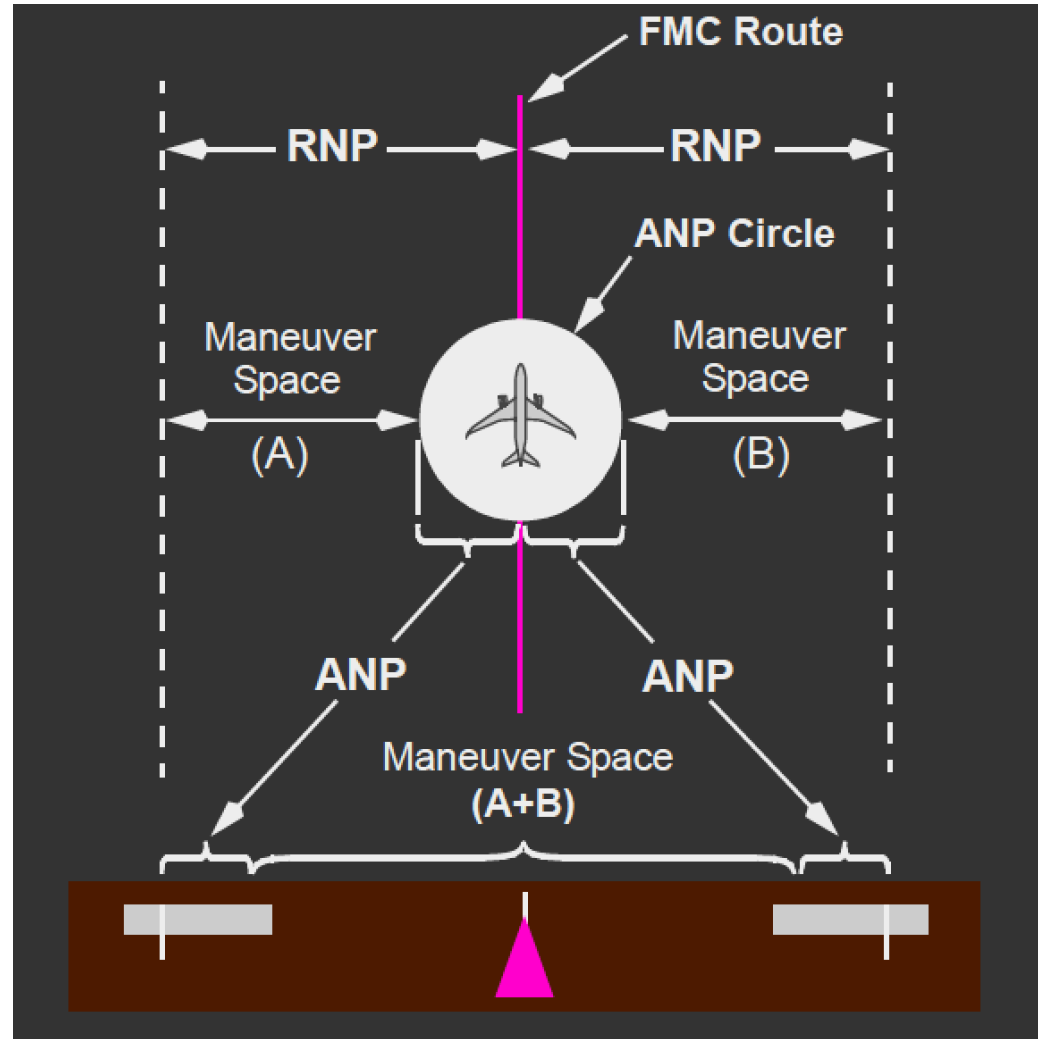
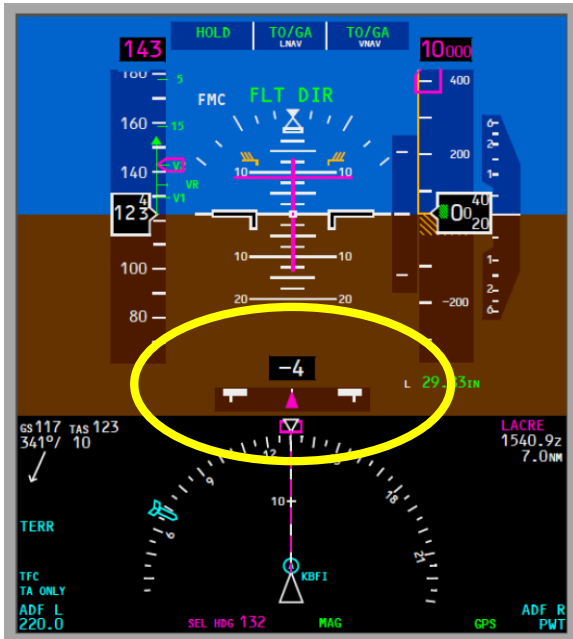
From: FAA-H-8083-15B

RNP RNAV - Displays

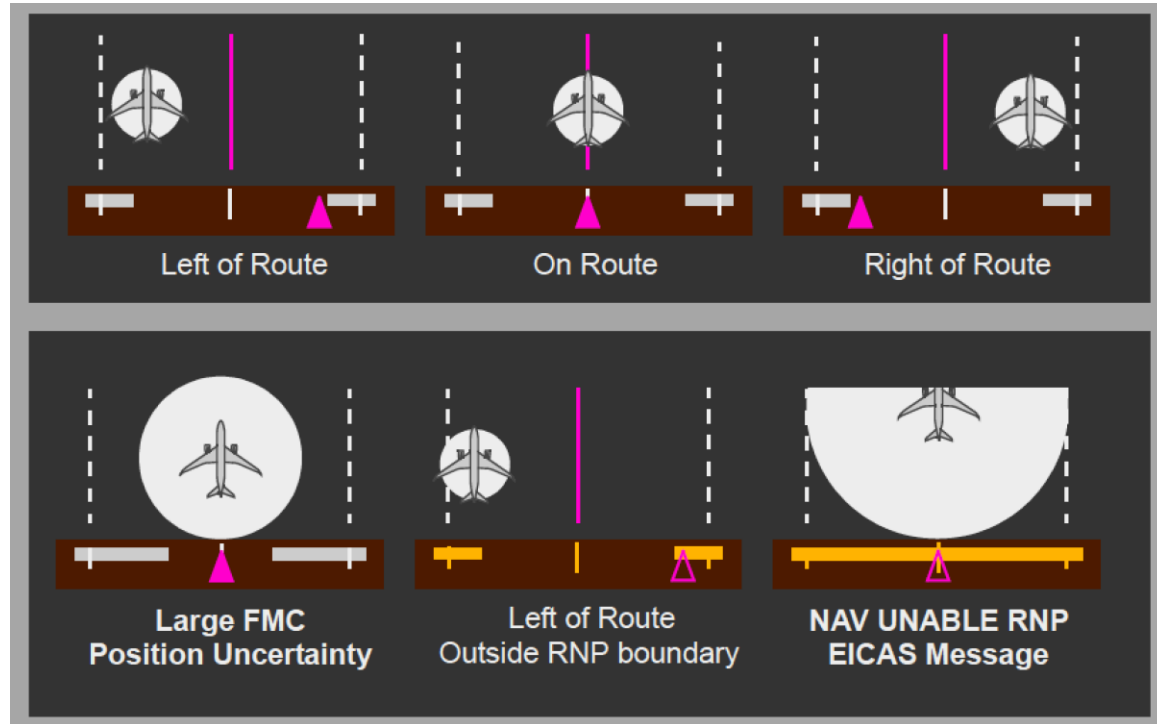
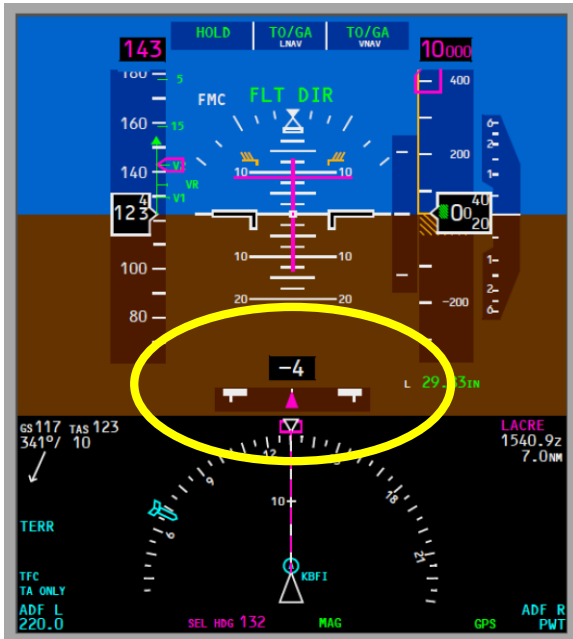


RNP RNAV:
Lateral component
(Lateral navigation, LNAV)

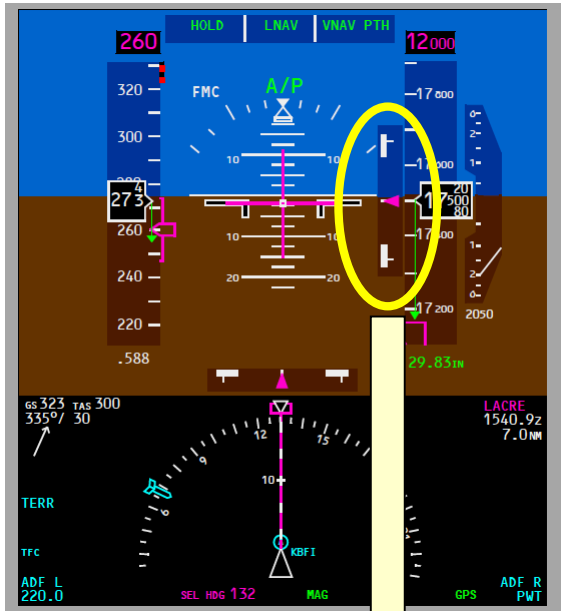
RNP RNAV – Display Concept



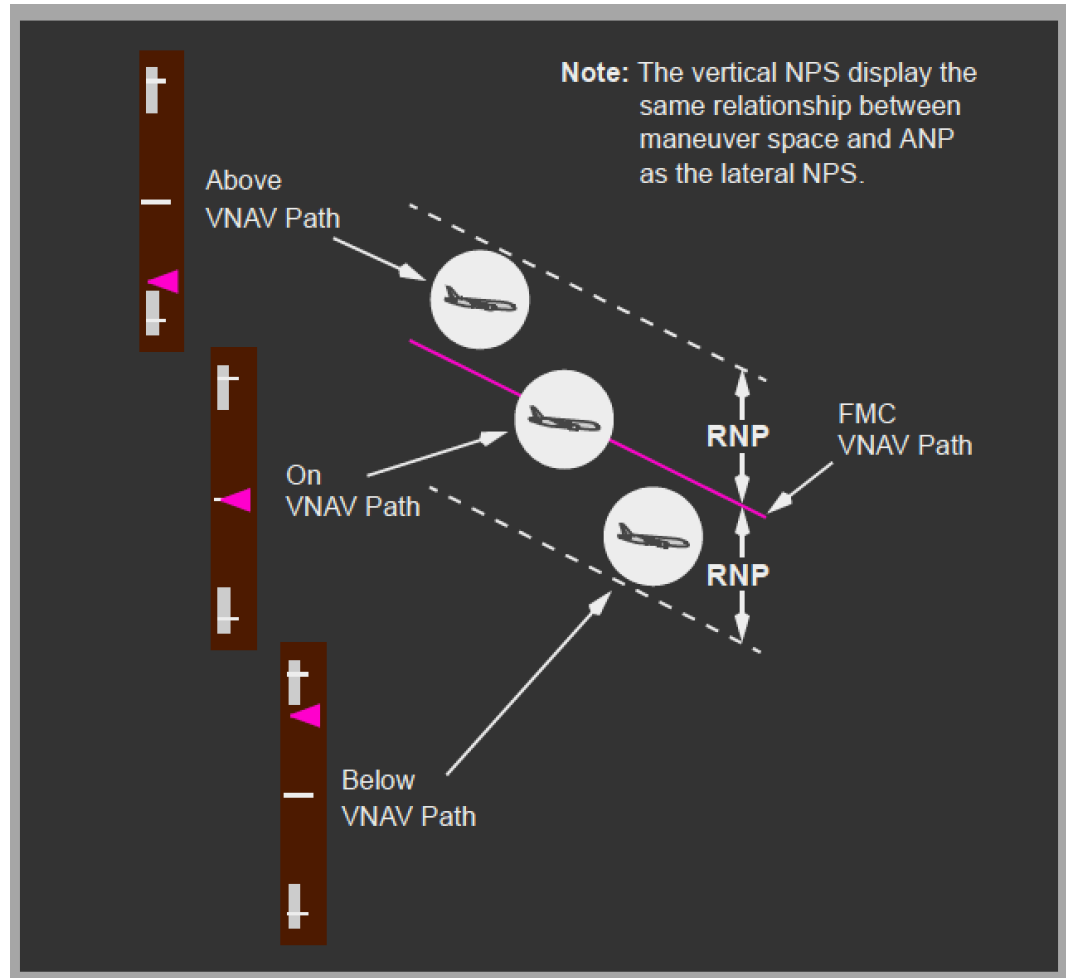
RNP RNAV – Display Concept



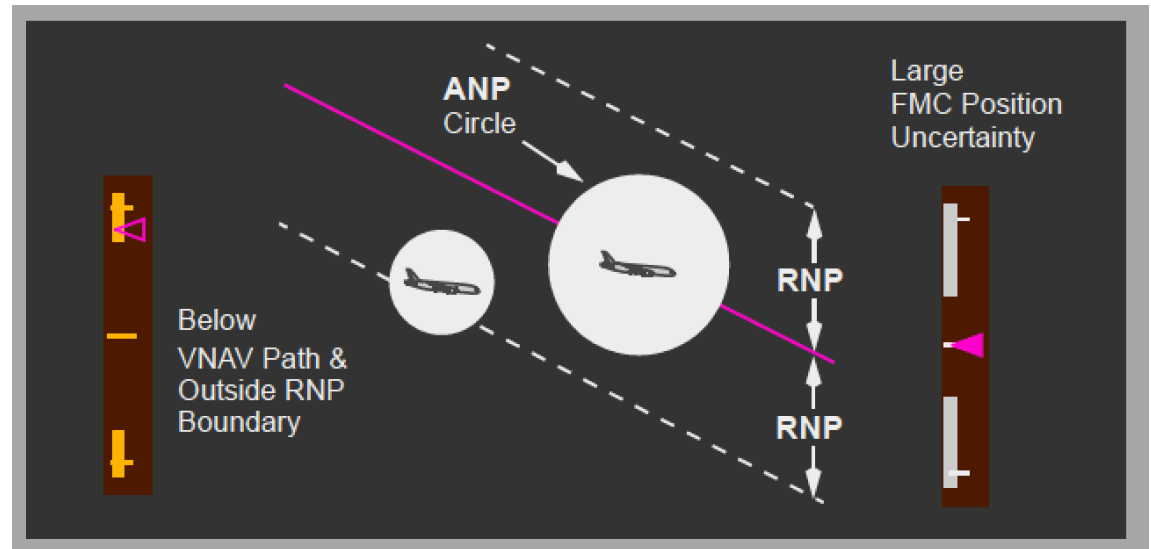
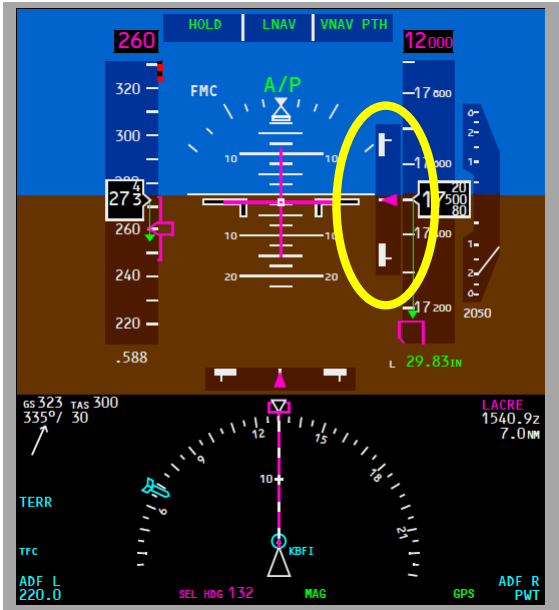
RNP RNAV – Display Concept



**RNP RNAV:
Vertical component
(vertical navigation, VNAV)**



RNP RNAV – Display Concept



Approach Phase of Flight

- **Visual Flight Rules: VFR**
 - Ceiling > 1000 ft
 - Horizontal visibility > 3 NM
- **Instrument Flight Rules: IFR**
 - **Non-precision**: lateral guidance only
 - **Precision**: lateral and vertical guidance
 - Category I,II,IIIA-B-C

Landing Minimums

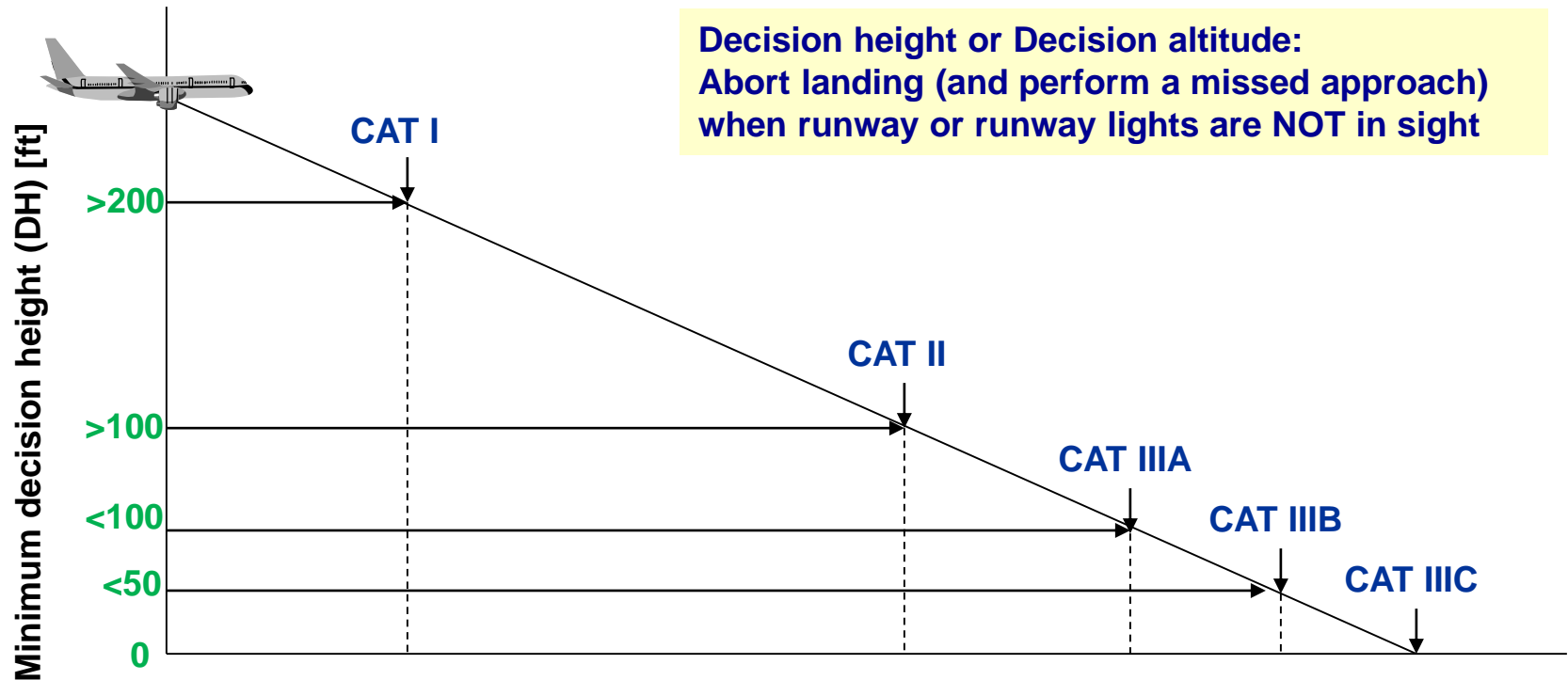
- **Precision Approach**

- Decision Height (DH): height above threshold (HAT) at which a decision must be made during an instrument landing system (ILS), microwave landing system (MLS), or precision approach radar (PAR) instrument approach to either continue the approach or to execute a missed approach.
- or Decision Altitude (DA)

- **Non-precision Approach**

- Minimum Descent Altitude (MDA): the lowest altitude, expressed in feet above mean sea level (MSL), to which descent is authorized on final approach, or during circle-to-land maneuvering, in execution of a standard instrument approach procedure (SIAP) where no electronic glideslope is provided
- MDA/H differs from a DA/H in that the aircraft must be flown in such a way that it does not descend below the MDA/H unless the required visual reference has been established.

Geometry of the Precision Approach



- Instrument Landing System (ILS)
- Ground Based Augmentation System (GBAS)

Categories of Service

| | Performance Category I | Performance Category II | Performance Category IIIA | Performance Category IIIB | Performance Category IIIC |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Decision Height | >200ft 30m | >100ft 15m | <100ft 15m | <50ft | N/A |
| Runway Visual Range (RVR) | ≥1,800ft | ≥1,200ft | ≥700ft | ≥150ftm | N/A |
| Comments | Majority of all approaches | | | | Most stringent |

- Category of Approach
 - Depends on weather minimum
 - Cloud Ceiling
 - Performing the approach depends upon aircraft and ground equipment and certification

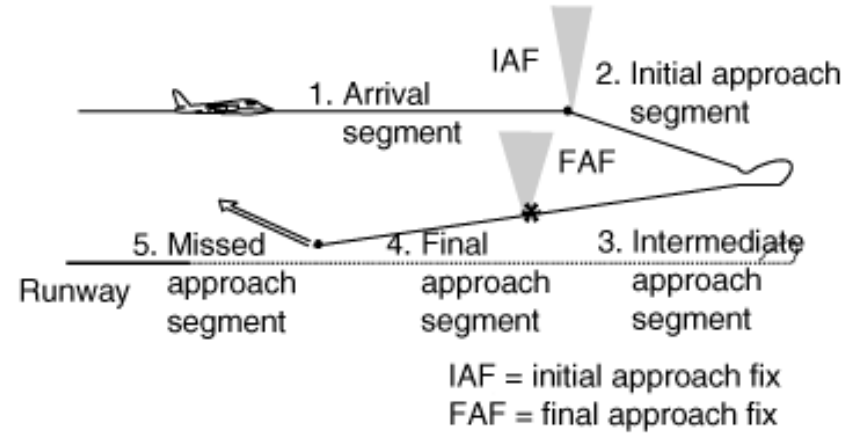
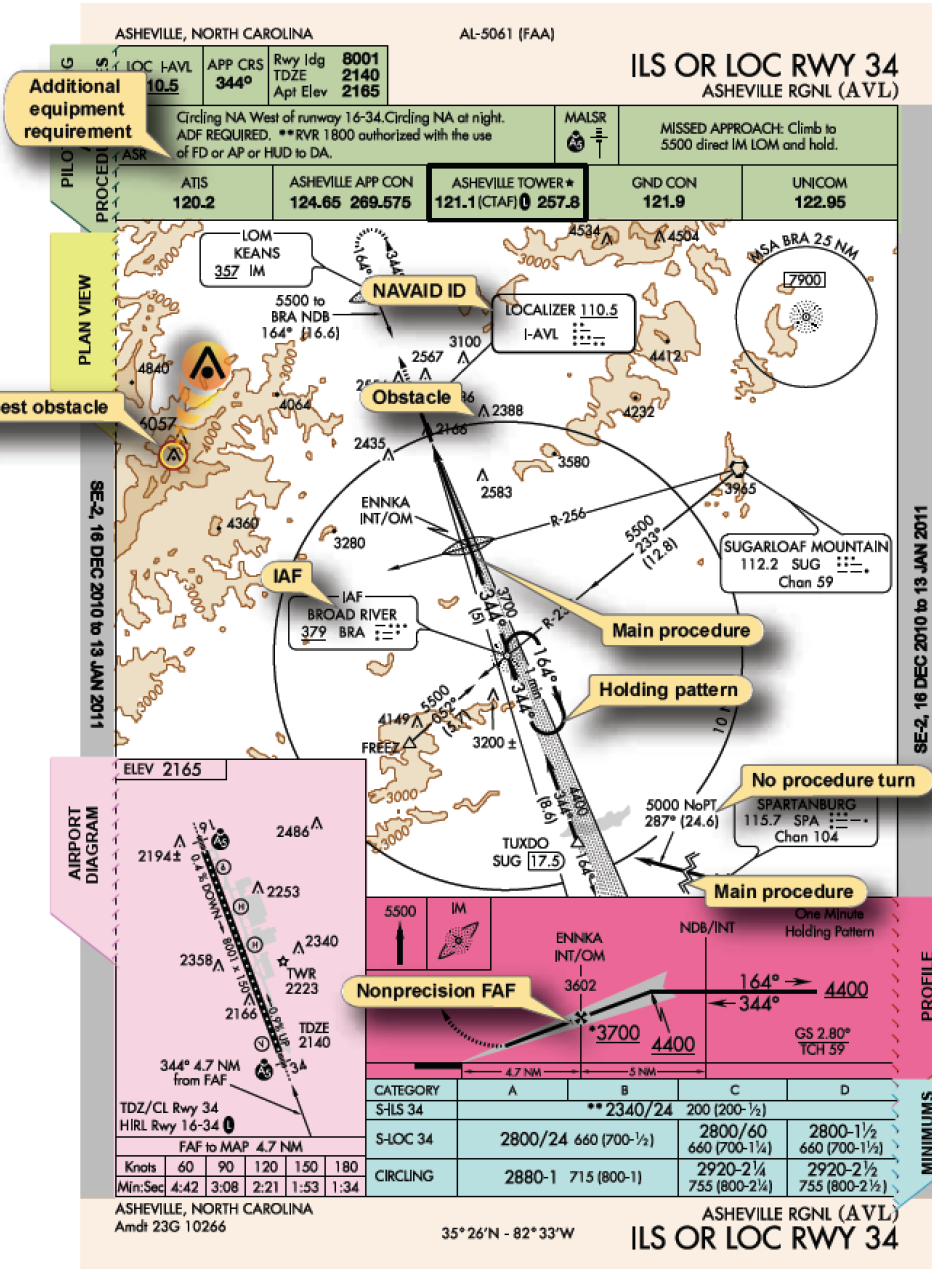
See: *FAA-H-8261-1A*

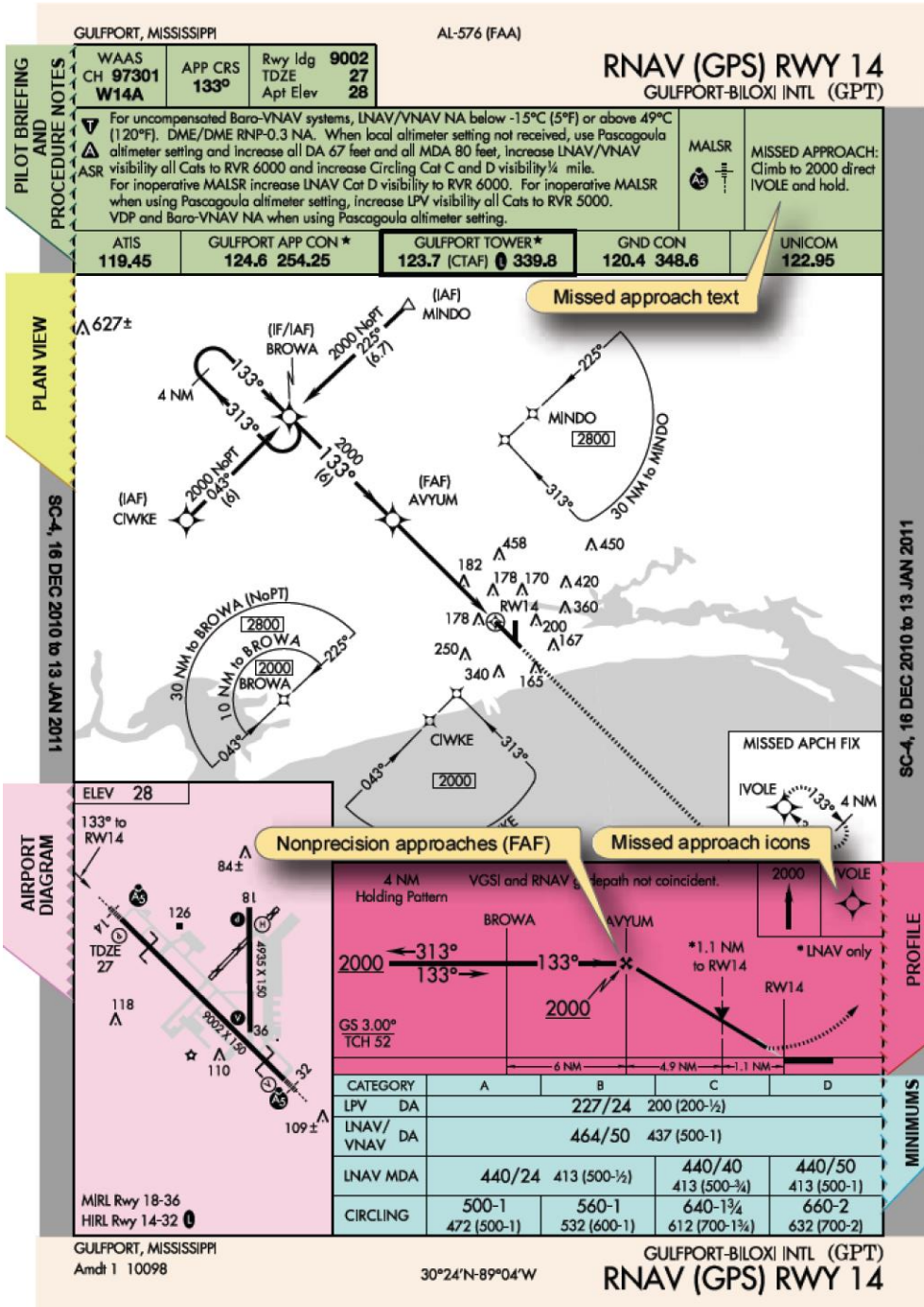
Space-Based Augmentation System* (SBAS)

- **GPS NPA (LNAV)**
 - Non-Precision Approach (NPA) procedure which uses GPS and/or WAAS for Lateral Navigation (LNAV)
- **LNAV/VNAV (Lateral Navigation / Vertical Navigation)**
 - Approaches using lateral guidance (556m lateral limit) from GPS and/or WAAS and vertical guidance provided by either the barometric altimeter or WAAS.
- **LPV (Localizer Performance with Vertical guidance)**
 - Like LNAV/VNAV but more precise (40m lateral limit),
 - Enables descent to 200-250 feet above the runway, and
 - Can only be flown with a WAAS receiver.
- **LP (Localizer Performance)** is a future NPA procedure that uses the high precision of LPV for lateral guidance and barometric altimeter for vertical guidance

**in USA: Wide Area Augmentation System (WAAS)*

Approach Plates





Approach Plates

Aircraft Approach categories
(see next slide)

| CATEGORY | A | B | C | D |
|--------------|----------------------|----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| LPV DA | | 227/24 | 200 (200-½) | |
| LNAV/VNAV DA | | 464/50 | 437 (500-1) | |
| LNAV MDA | 440/24 | 413 (500-½) | 440/40 413 (500-¾) | 440/50 413 (500-1) |
| CIRCLING | 500-1 472 (500-1) | 560-1 532 (600-1) | 640-1¾ 612 (700-1¾) | 660-2 632 (700-2) |

DA/RVR

Decision Altitude/Runway Visual Range

HAT
(Height Above Threshold)

| CATEGORY | A | B | C | D |
|--------------|----------------------|----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| LPV DA | | 227/24 | 200 (200-½) | |
| LNAV/VNAV DA | | 464/50 | 437 (500-1) | |
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| CIRCLING | 500-1 472 (500-1) | 560-1 532 (600-1) | 640-1¾ 612 (700-1¾) | 660-2 632 (700-2) |

MDA/RVR

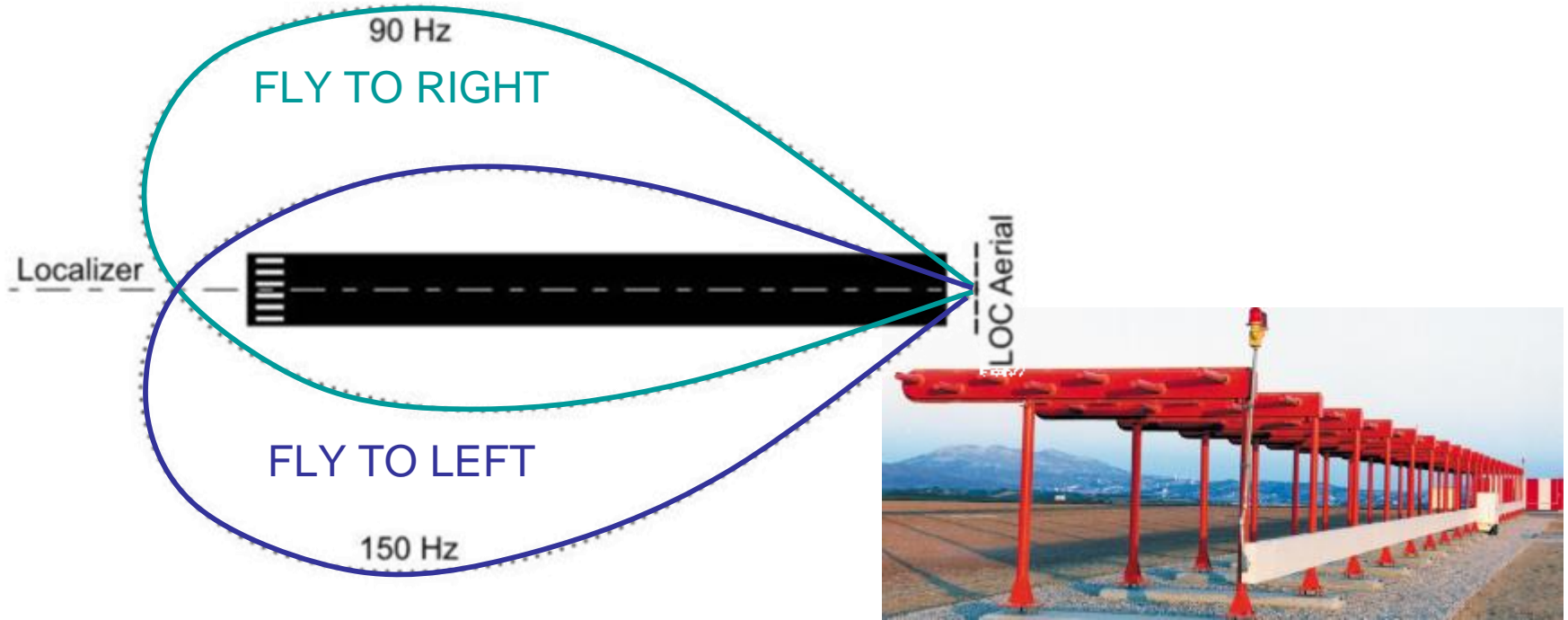
Minimum Descent Altitude/Runway Visual Range

Aircraft Approach Categories

| Aircraft category | 1.3*stall speed | Range of IA speeds | Range of FA speeds | Max circling speeds | Max intermediate MA speeds | Max final MA speeds | Typical Aircraft |
|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| A | <91 | 90-150 | 70-110 | 100 | 100 | 110 | Small single engine |
| B | 91-120 | 120-180 | 85-130 | 135 | 130 | 150 | Small multi engine |
| C | 121-140 | 160-240 | 115-160 | 180 | 160 | 240 | Airline jet |
| D | 141-165 | 185-250 | 130-185 | 205 | 185 | 265 | Large jet/military jet |
| E | 166-210 | 185-250 | 155-230 | 240 | 230 | 275 | Special military |

IA = Initial Approach
 FA = Final Approach
 MA = Missed Approach

ILS: Localizer



Localizer
(Lateral Guidance - VHF Frequencies)

Provides lateral guidance: guides the plane along the center line of the runway

Frequency: 108-112 MHz

Range: 25 NM at 10° , 17 NM at 35°

Antenna located at the end of runway, on the center line

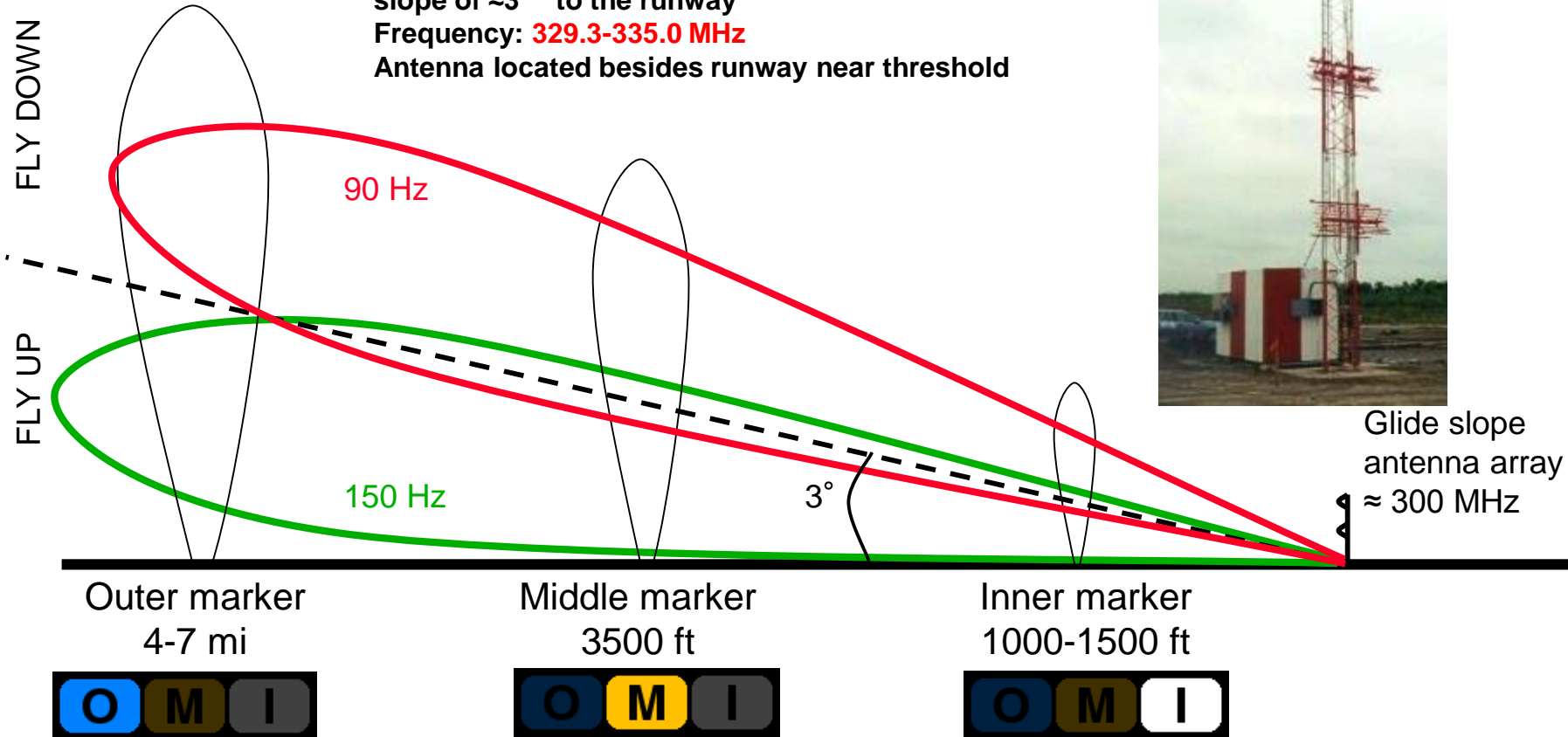
ILS: Glideslope

Glide slope:

Provides vertical guidance: guides plane with descent slope of $\approx 3^\circ$ to the runway

Frequency: **329.3-335.0 MHz**

Antenna located besides runway near threshold



ILS: Difference in Depth of Modulation

Total signal modulation:
$$M = \frac{A_{150\text{Hz}} + A_{90\text{Hz}}}{A_{\text{carrier}}}$$
 (A=received signal amplitude)

Difference in Depth of Modulation
$$DDM = \frac{A_{150\text{Hz}} - A_{90\text{Hz}}}{A_{\text{carrier}}}$$

- 90 Hz dominant: DDM negative → Fly right
- At centerline: DDM zero → on course
- 150 Hz dominant: DDM positive → Fly right



Cross-pointer
Course Deviation Indicator
(CDI)

Full scale LOC = 0.155 DDM = 0.5xwidth = 350' at threshold = 2 dots = 150uA

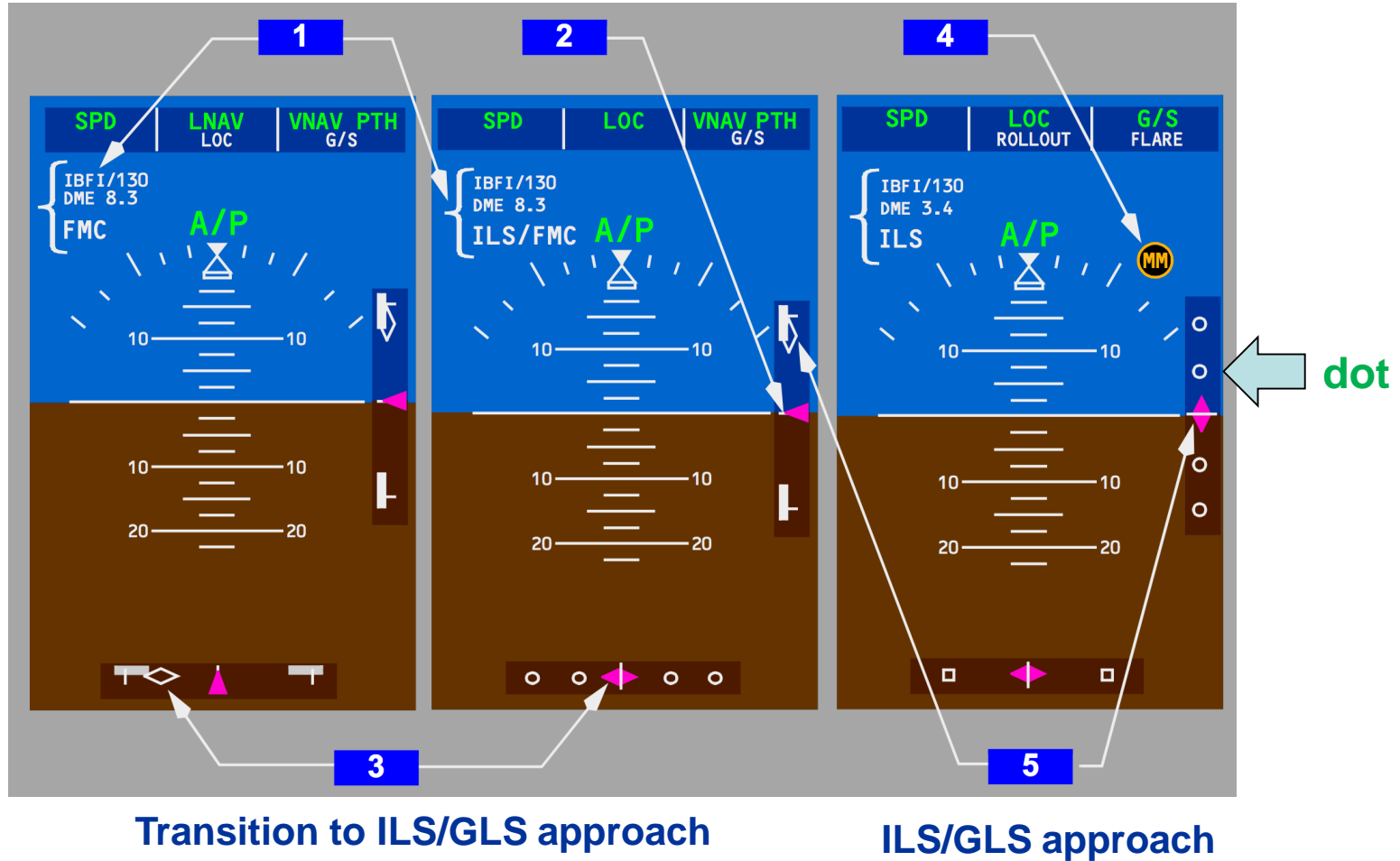
Full scale Cat I GS = 0.175DDM = 0.14xGPA = 2 dots = 150uA = 0.82 deg.

Full scale Cat II/III GS = 0.175 DDM = 0.12xGPA = 2 dots = 150uA = 0.7 deg

ILS Tone Ratio/DDM Conversion Chart

| TONE Ratio (dB) | LOCALIZER (LOC) | | | GLIDESLOPE (GS) | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| | *DDM | % Mod (Larger/Smaller) | RCVR Deflection (uA) | *DDM | % Mod (Larger/Smaller) | RCVR Deflection (uA) |
| 0.0 | 0.000 | 20.00/20.00 | 0 | 0.000 | 40.00/40.00 | 0 |
| 0.5 | 0.012 | 20.58/19.42 | 12 | 0.023 | 41.15/38.85 | 20 |
| 0.98 | 0.023 | 21.13/18.87 | 22 | 0.045 | 42.25/37.75 | 39 |
| 1.98 | 0.0456 | 22.28/17.72 | 44 | 0.091 | 44.55/35.45 | 78 |
| 2.00 | 0.0458 | 22.29/17.71 | 44 | 0.092 | 44.59/35.41 | 79 |
| 2.01 | 0.046 | 22.30/17.70 | 45 | 0.092 | 44.60/35.40 | 79 |
| 3.86 | 0.087 | 24.37/15.63 | 84 | 0.175 | 48.75/31.25 | 150 |
| 4.00 | 0.091 | 24.53/15.47 | 88 | 0.181 | 49.05/30.95 | 155 |
| 4.11 | 0.093 | 24.65/15.35 | 90 | 0.186 | 49.30/30.70 | 159 |
| 7.10 | 0.155 | 27.75/12.25 | 150 | 0.310 | 55.50/24.50 | 266 |
| 7.50 | 0.163 | 28.14/11.86 | 158 | 0.325 | 56.27/23.73 | 279 |
| 9.54 | 0.200 | 30.00/10.00 | 194 | 0.400 | 60.00/20.00 | 343 |
| ∞ | 0.400 | 40.00/00.00 | 387 | 0.800 | 80.00/00.00 | 686 |

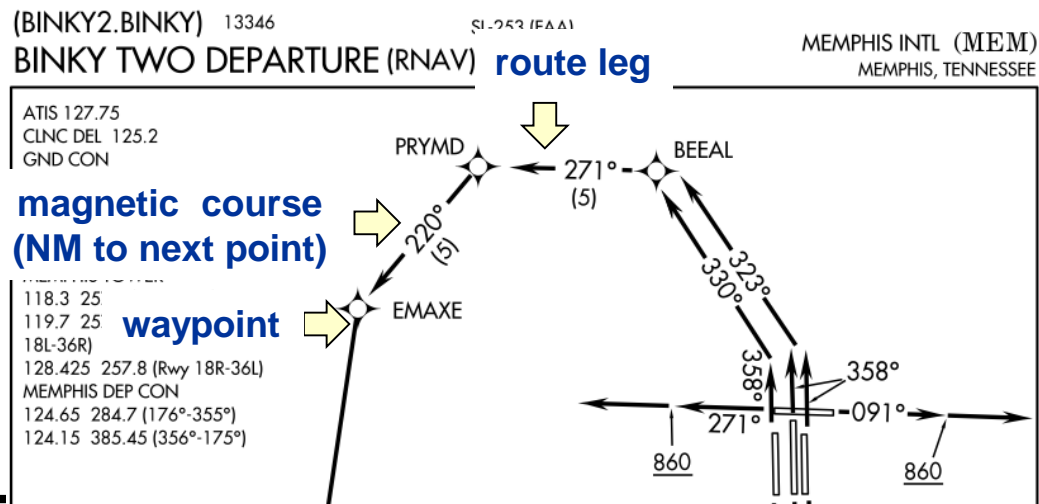
Instrument Landing System Indications



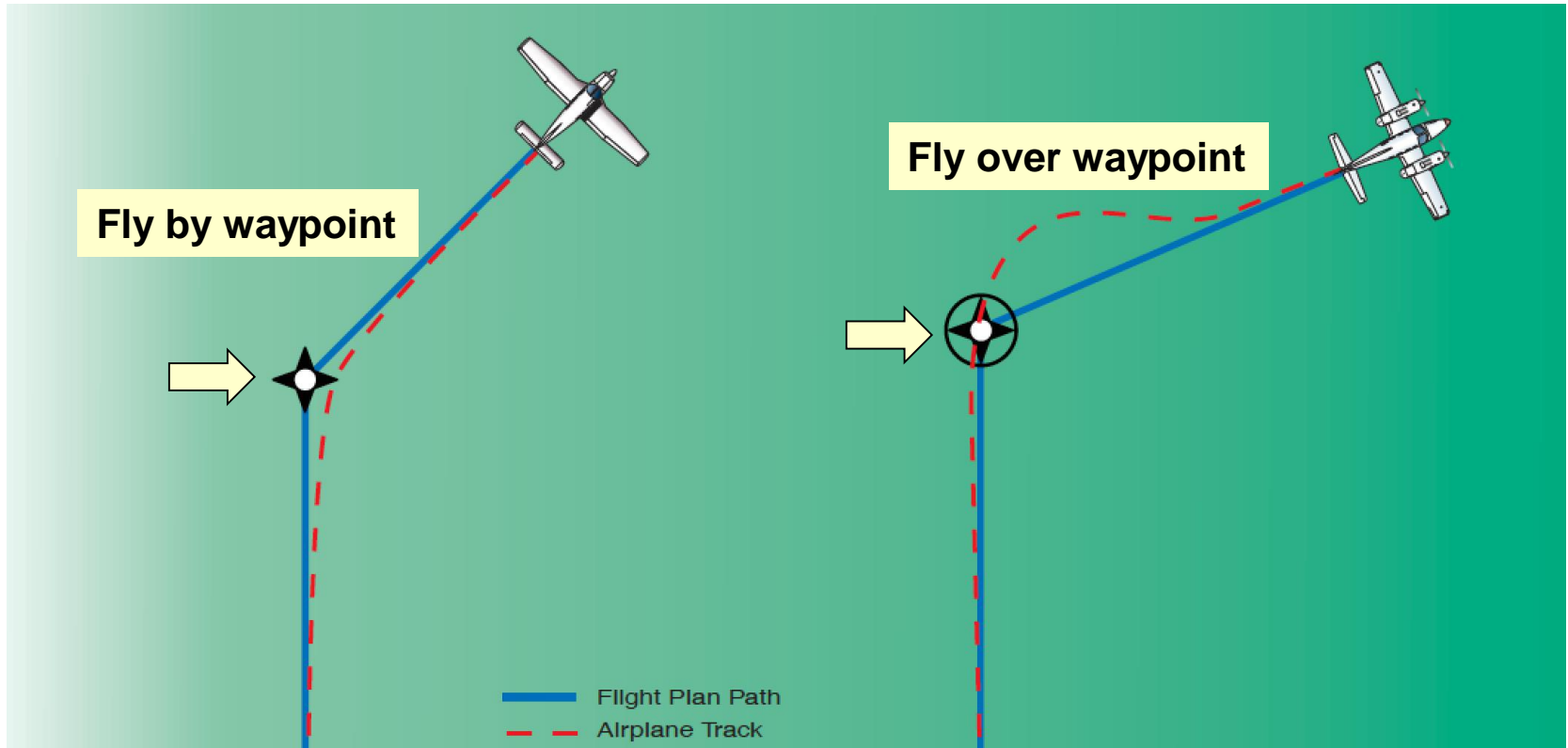
See: B787 FCOM pp. 850

Flight Planning: Routes

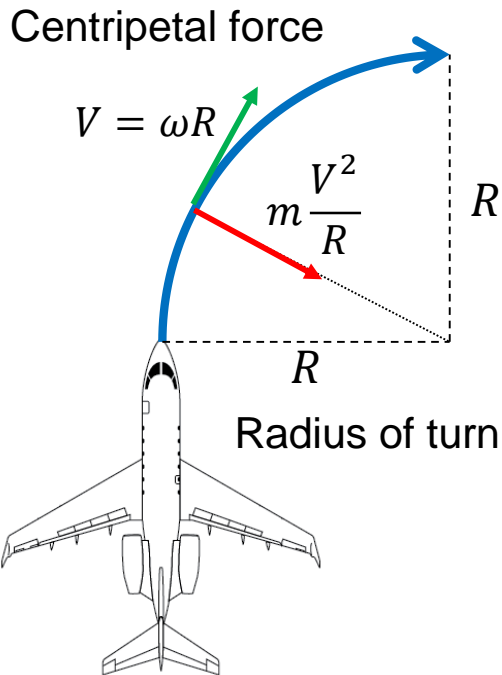
- Desired paths:
 - Routes (e.g. airways, oceanic tracks)
 - User preferred trajectories/company routes
 - Standard instrument departure (SID) procedures
 - Standard Terminal Arrival (STAR) procedures
 - Instrument approach procedures



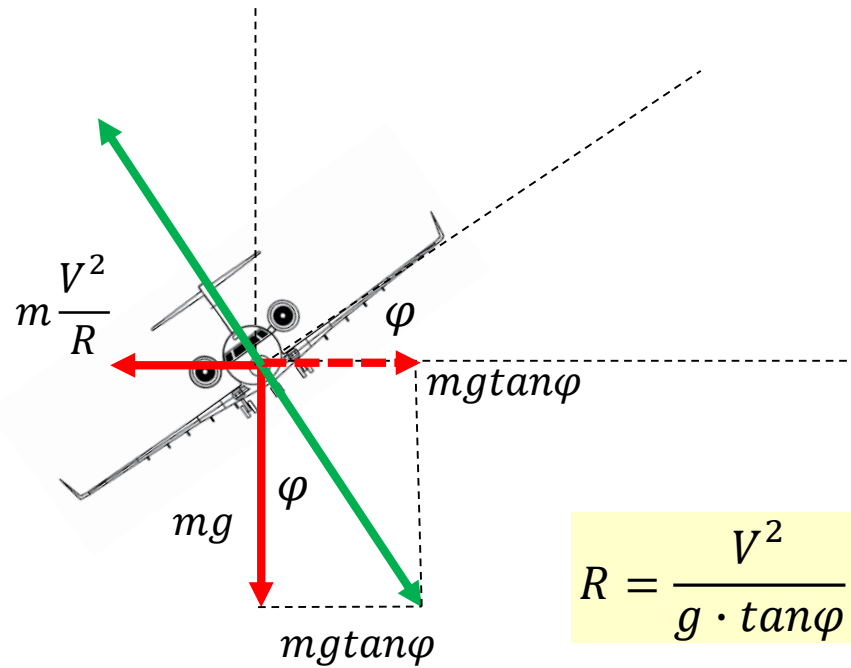
Waypoint Types



Aircraft Bank Maneuver

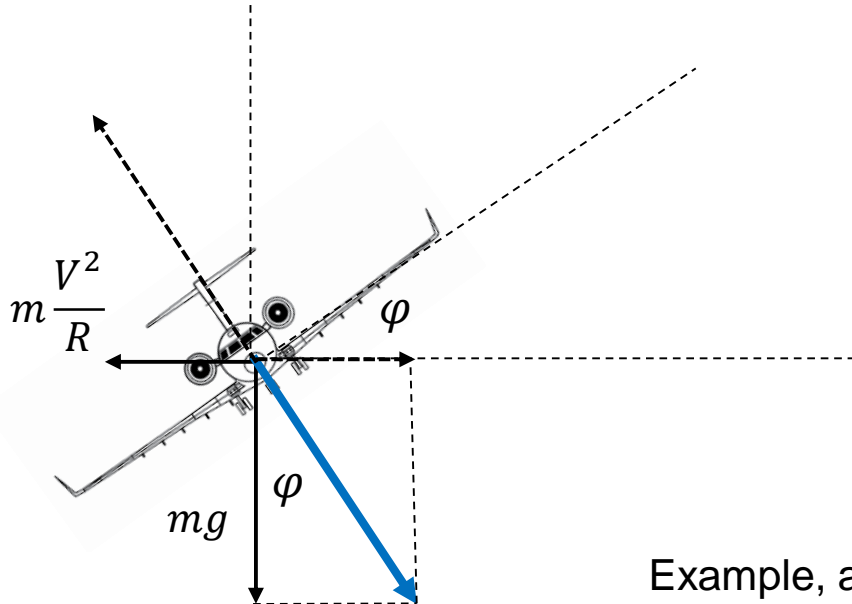


$$F = m \frac{V^2}{R} = m\omega^2 R$$
$$V = \omega R$$



$$R = \frac{V^2}{g \cdot \tan \varphi}$$

Aircraft Bank Maneuver



For example, in a 60° turn: $a = \frac{g}{0.5} = 2g$; the 2g turn

For light aircraft a **standard-rate-turn** or **rate one turn (ROT)** is defined as a $3^\circ/\text{second}$ turn.



Perform a 360° turn in 2 minutes.

Example, aircraft at a speed to 150kts performing a ROT:

$$F = \frac{mg}{\cos\phi} \Rightarrow a = \frac{g}{\cos\phi}$$

$$\text{Radius of turn: } R = \frac{v}{\omega} = \frac{77}{\left(\frac{3\pi}{180}\right)} \approx 1,474\text{m}$$

$$\text{Bank angle: } \phi = \tan^{-1} \frac{V^2}{gR} = \tan^{-1} \frac{V\omega}{g} = \tan^{-1} \frac{(77)\left(\frac{3\pi}{180}\right)}{9.81} \approx 22.4^\circ$$

$$\text{Acceleration: } a = \frac{g}{\cos\phi} \approx 1.08g$$



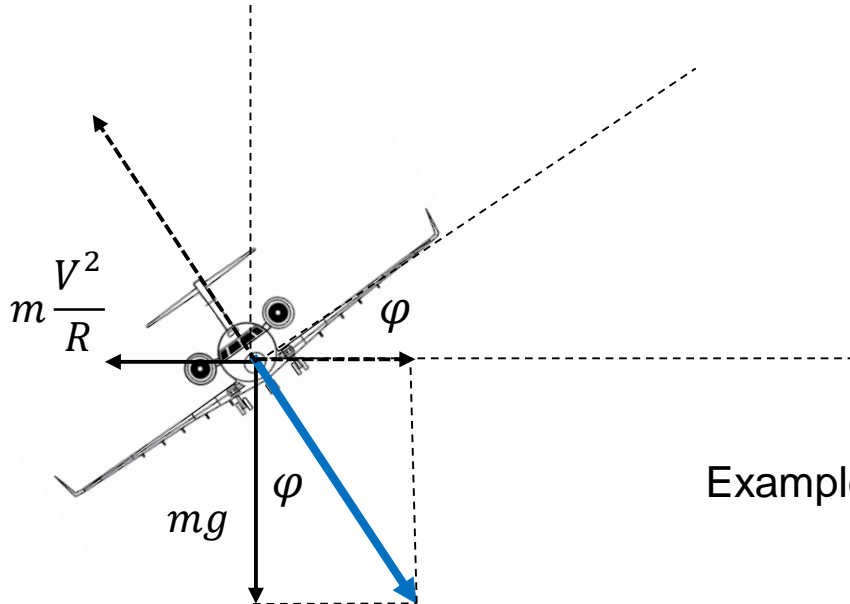
Close to '1g'

Aircraft Bank Maneuver

For heavy aircraft we use a **rate half turn** is defined as a $1.5^\circ/\text{second}$ turn.



Perform a 360° turn in 4 minutes.



$$F = \frac{mg}{\cos\phi} \Rightarrow a = \frac{g}{\cos\phi}$$

Example, aircraft at a speed to 250kts performing a RHT:

$$\text{Radius of turn: } R = \frac{v}{\omega} = \frac{129}{\left(\frac{1.5\pi}{180}\right)} \approx 4,913m$$

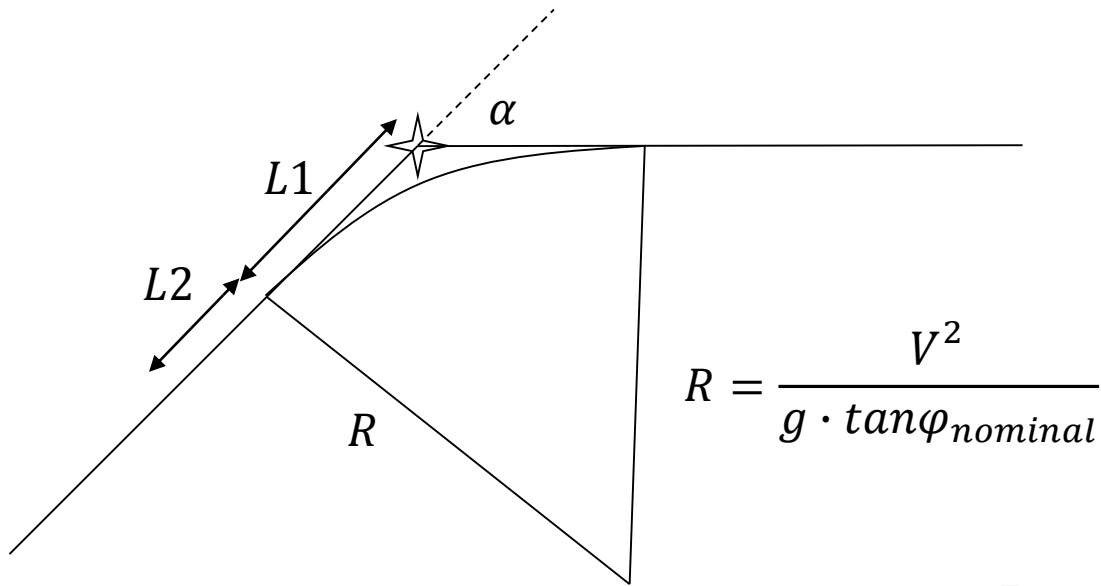
$$\text{Bank angle: } \phi = \tan^{-1} \frac{V^2}{gR} = \tan^{-1} \frac{V\omega}{g} = \tan^{-1} \frac{(129)\left(\frac{1.5\pi}{180}\right)}{9.81} \approx 18.9^\circ$$

$$\text{Acceleration: } a = \frac{g}{\cos\phi} \approx 1.06g$$



Close to '1g'

Fly-by Waypoint



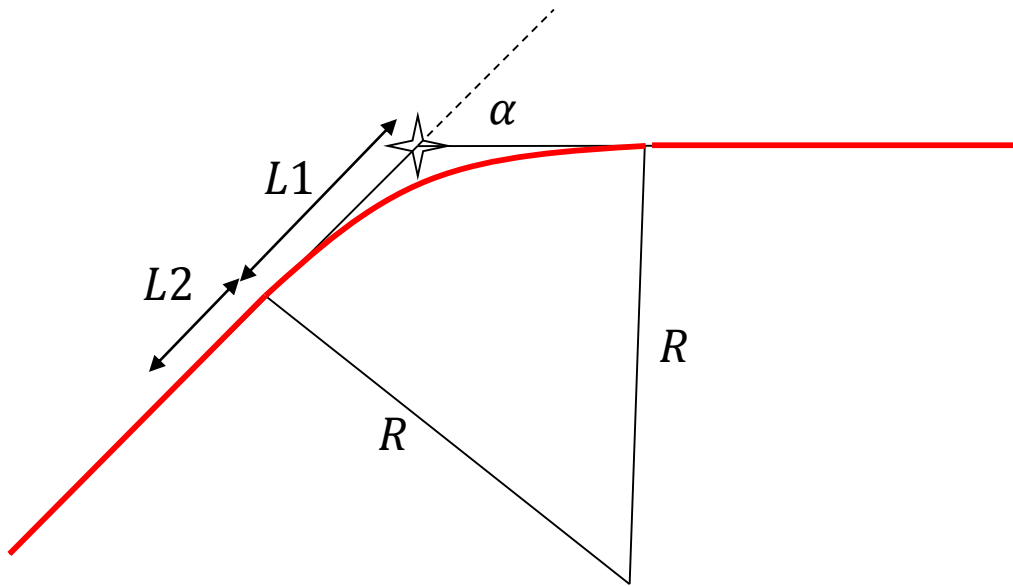
Track/course change: α
Turn initiation distance: L

5 second bank establishment time

$$L = \underbrace{R \cdot \tan(0.5\alpha)}_{L1} + \underbrace{\text{roll in distance}}_{L2}$$

$\Rightarrow L2 = cV$
 (where c is derived from a 5 second bank establishment time and V is speed in m/s)

Fly By Waypoint



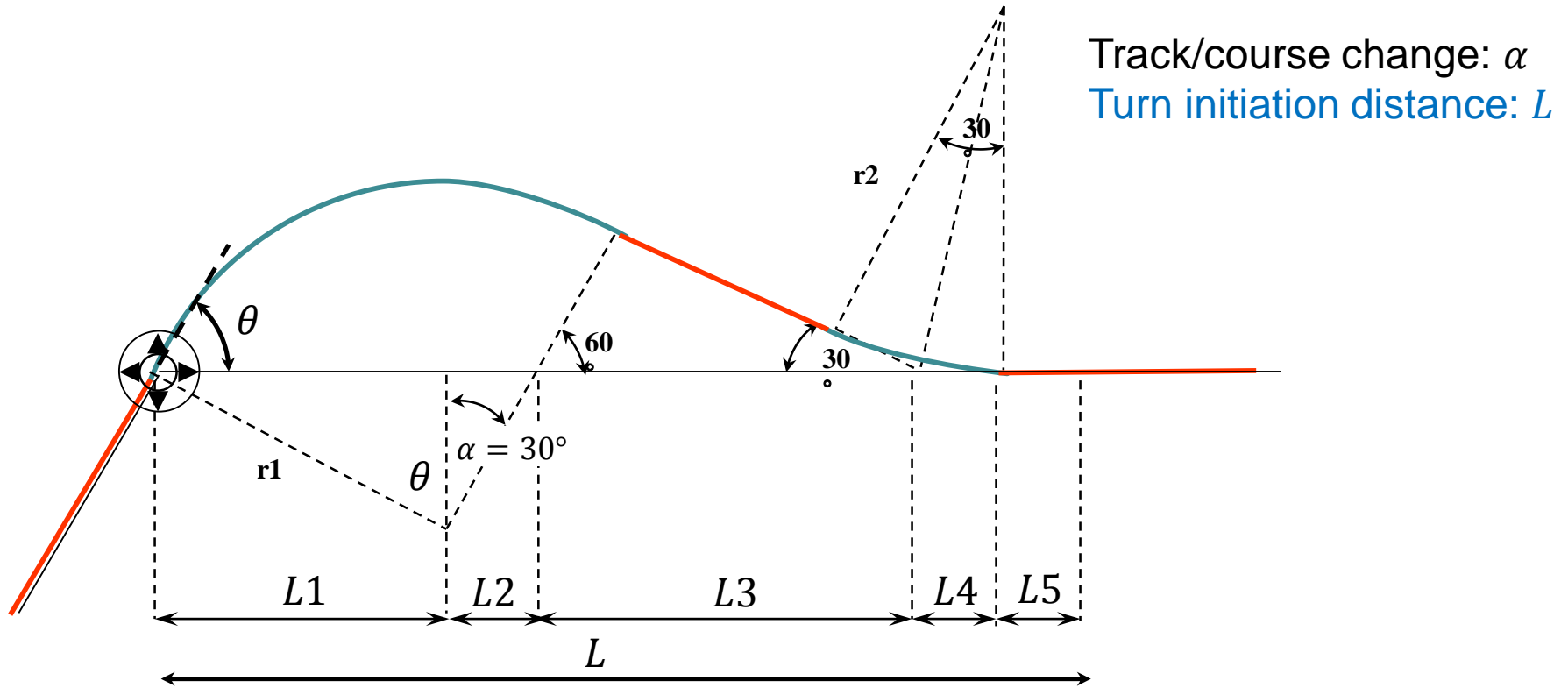
Track/course change: α
Turn initiation distance: L

Example – course change is 70 degrees, nominal bank angle of 25 degrees,
no wind and TAS is 200kts

$$R = \frac{(102.889)^2}{9.81 \cdot \tan(0.4363)} = 2,315m \quad L2 = 5 \cdot (102.889) = 514m$$

$$L1 = R \cdot \tan(0.5 \cdot 1.2217) = 1,621m \quad L = L1 + L2 \approx 2,135m = 1.2NM$$

Fly-over Waypoint



1. An initial roll-in at the flyover point; followed by
2. A straight 30 degree intercept course with next leg;
3. A roll-out at the new course; and
4. A 10-second delay to account for bank establishing time

Fly-By Waypoint Example

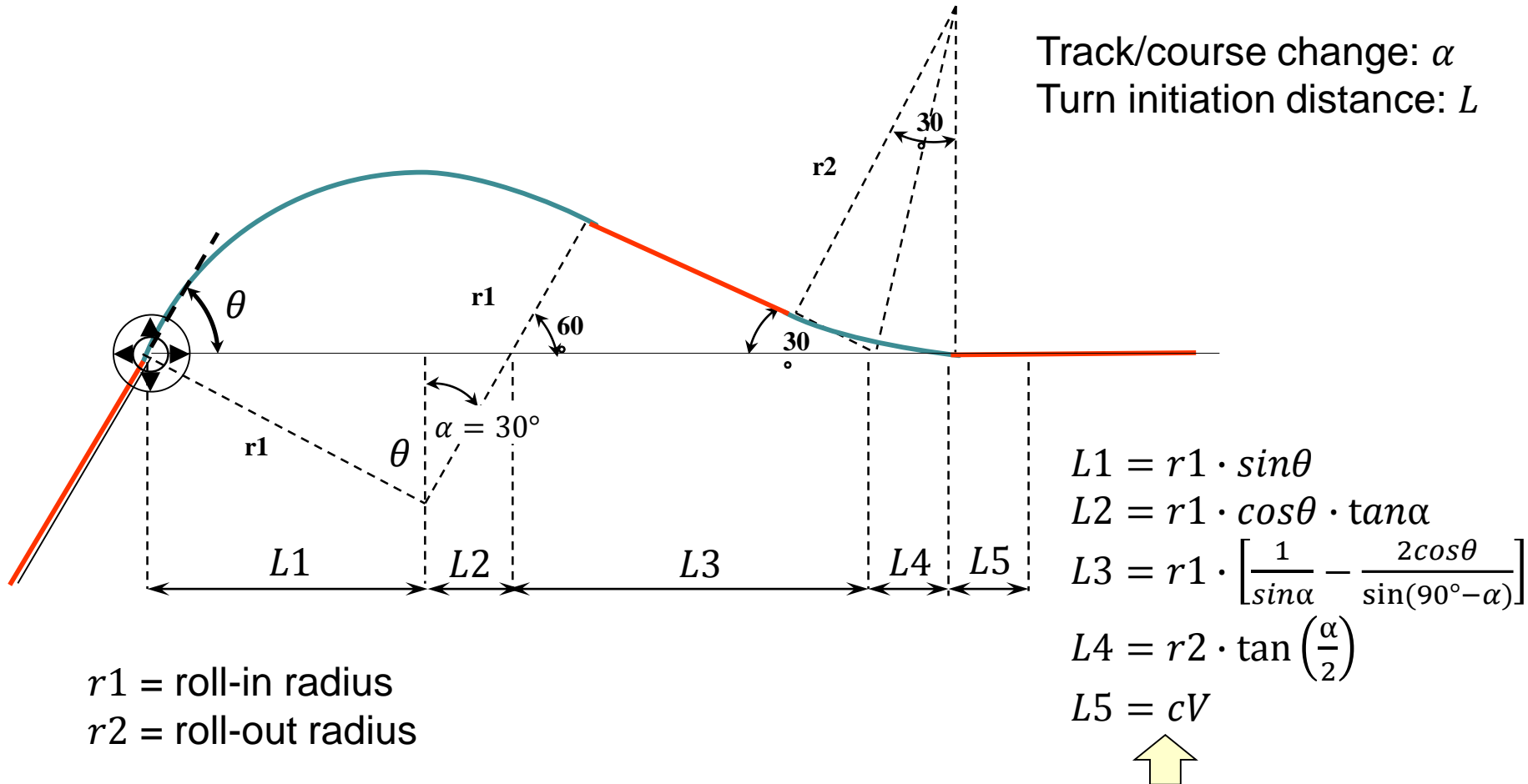
**Table III-2-1-9. Minimum stabilization distance between fly-by waypoints
(Non-SI units, 25° bank angle*)**

| <i>Course change** (Degrees)</i> | <i>< or =</i> | <i>True airspeed (kt)</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|------------------|---------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | | <i>130</i> | <i>140</i> | <i>150</i> | <i>160</i> | <i>170</i> | <i>180</i> | <i>190</i> | <i>200</i> | <i>210</i> | <i>220</i> | <i>240</i> | <i>260</i> | <i>280</i> | <i>300</i> |
| 50 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.7 | 0.7 | 0.8 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 1.0 | 1.2 | 1.3 | 1.5 | 1.7 | 2.2 |
| 55 | 0.5 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.7 | 0.7 | 0.8 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 1.0 | 1.1 | 1.3 | 1.5 | 1.7 | 1.9 | 2.4 |
| 60 | 0.5 | 0.6 | 0.7 | 0.7 | 0.8 | 0.8 | 0.9 | 1.0 | 1.1 | 1.2 | 1.4 | 1.6 | 1.8 | 2.0 | 2.6 |
| 65 | 0.5 | 0.7 | 0.7 | 0.8 | 0.8 | 0.9 | 1.0 | 1.1 | 1.2 | 1.3 | 1.5 | 1.7 | 1.9 | 2.2 | 2.8 |
| 70 | 0.6 | 0.7 | 0.8 | 0.8 | 0.9 | 1.0 | 1.1 | 1.2 | 1.3 | 1.4 | 1.6 | 1.8 | 2.1 | 2.4 | 3.0 |
| 75 | 0.6 | 0.8 | 0.8 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 1.0 | 1.1 | 1.2 | 1.3 | 1.5 | 1.7 | 2.0 | 2.3 | 2.6 | 3.2 |
| 80 | 0.7 | 0.8 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 1.0 | 1.1 | 1.2 | 1.3 | 1.4 | 1.6 | 1.8 | 2.1 | 2.4 | 2.8 | 3.5 |
| 85 | 0.7 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 1.0 | 1.1 | 1.2 | 1.3 | 1.4 | 1.6 | 1.7 | 2.0 | 2.3 | 2.6 | 3.0 | 3.8 |
| 90 | 0.7 | 0.9 | 1.0 | 1.1 | 1.1 | 1.3 | 1.4 | 1.5 | 1.7 | 1.8 | 2.1 | 2.5 | 2.8 | 3.2 | 4.1 |
| 95 | 0.8 | 1.0 | 1.1 | 1.1 | 1.2 | 1.4 | 1.5 | 1.6 | 1.8 | 2.0 | 2.3 | 2.7 | 3.1 | 3.5 | 4.4 |
| 100 | 0.8 | 1.1 | 1.2 | 1.2 | 1.3 | 1.5 | 1.6 | 1.8 | 1.9 | 2.1 | 2.5 | 2.9 | 3.3 | 3.8 | 4.8 |
| 105 | 0.9 | 1.2 | 1.2 | 1.3 | 1.4 | 1.6 | 1.7 | 1.9 | 2.1 | 2.3 | 2.7 | 3.1 | 3.6 | 4.1 | 5.2 |
| 110 | 1.0 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 1.4 | 1.5 | 1.7 | 1.9 | 2.1 | 2.3 | 2.5 | 2.9 | 3.4 | 3.9 | 4.4 | 5.6 |
| 115 | 1.1 | 1.4 | 1.5 | 1.6 | 1.7 | 1.8 | 2.0 | 2.2 | 2.5 | 2.7 | 3.2 | 3.7 | 4.2 | 4.8 | 6.1 |
| 120 | 1.2 | 1.5 | 1.6 | 1.7 | 1.8 | 2.0 | 2.2 | 2.4 | 2.7 | 2.9 | 3.5 | 4.0 | 4.6 | 5.3 | 6.7 |

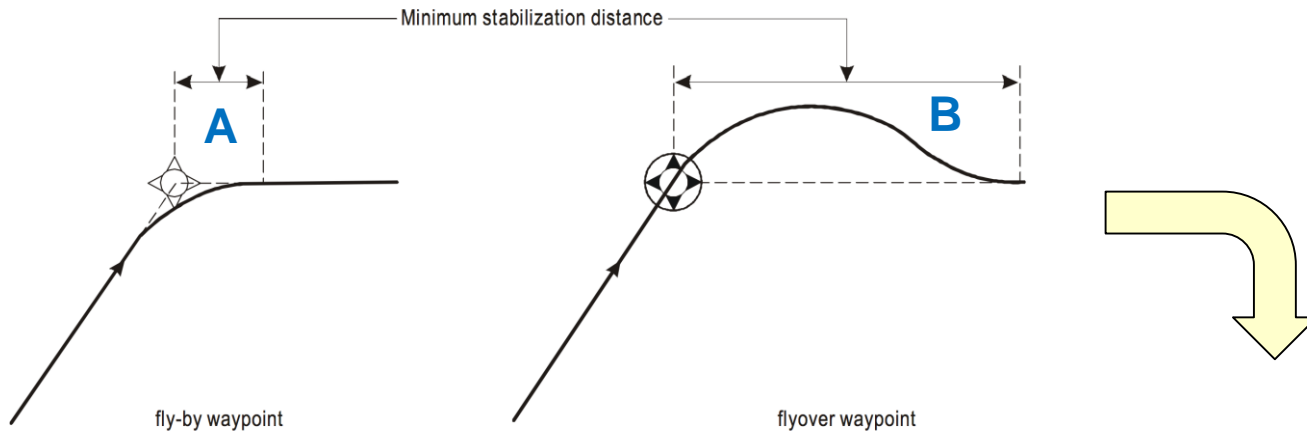
* 25° or 3°/s

** Use the value of 50° for course changes lower than 50°.

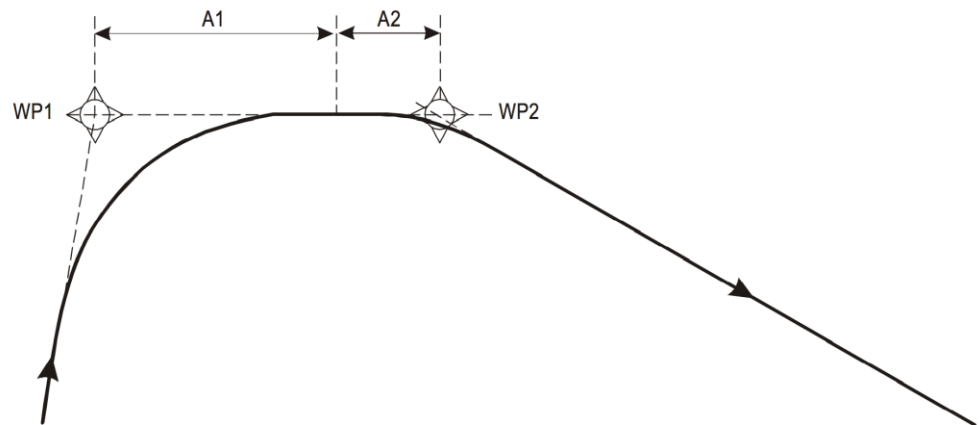
Fly-over Waypoint



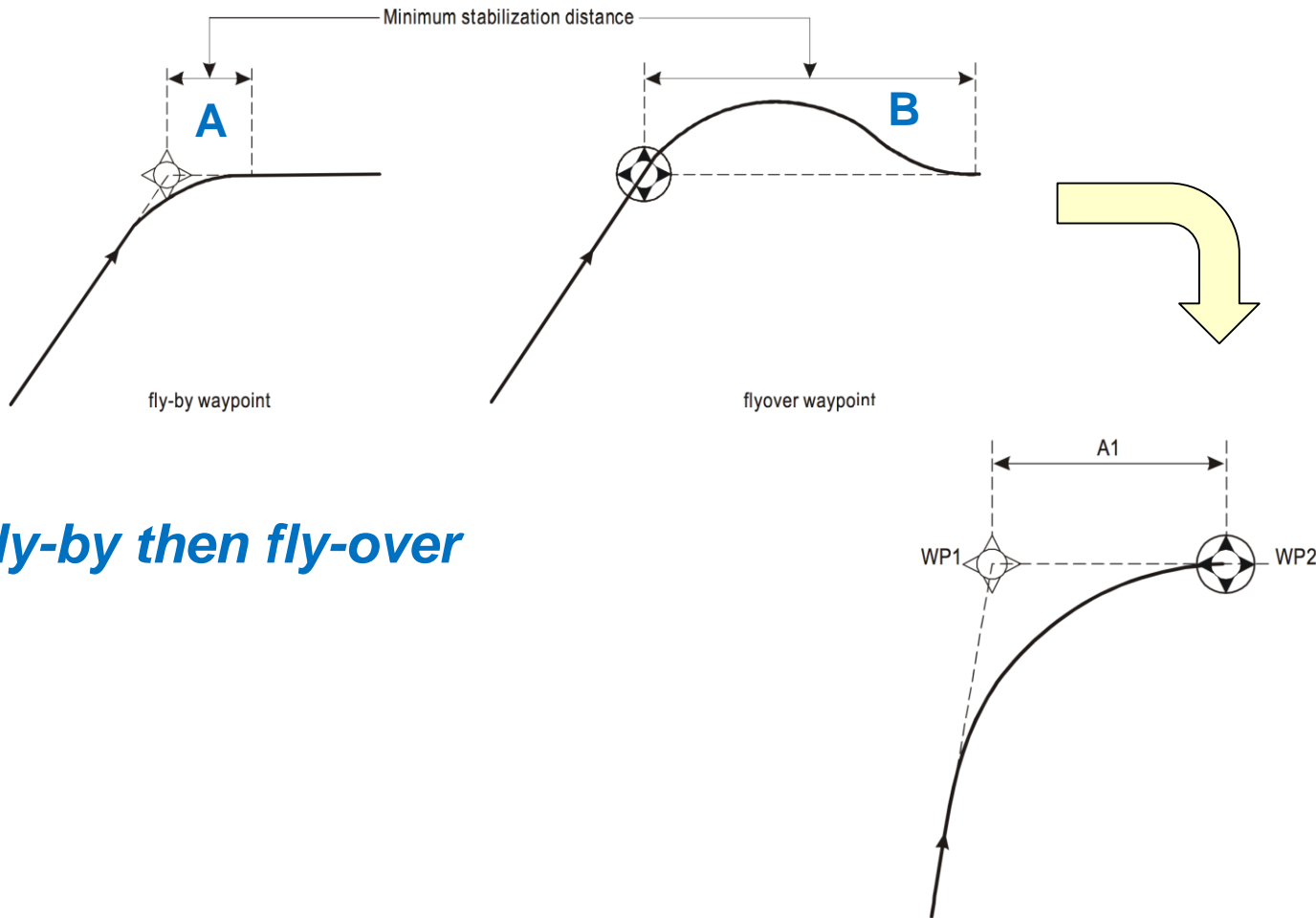
Waypoint Combinations



Two fly-by waypoints

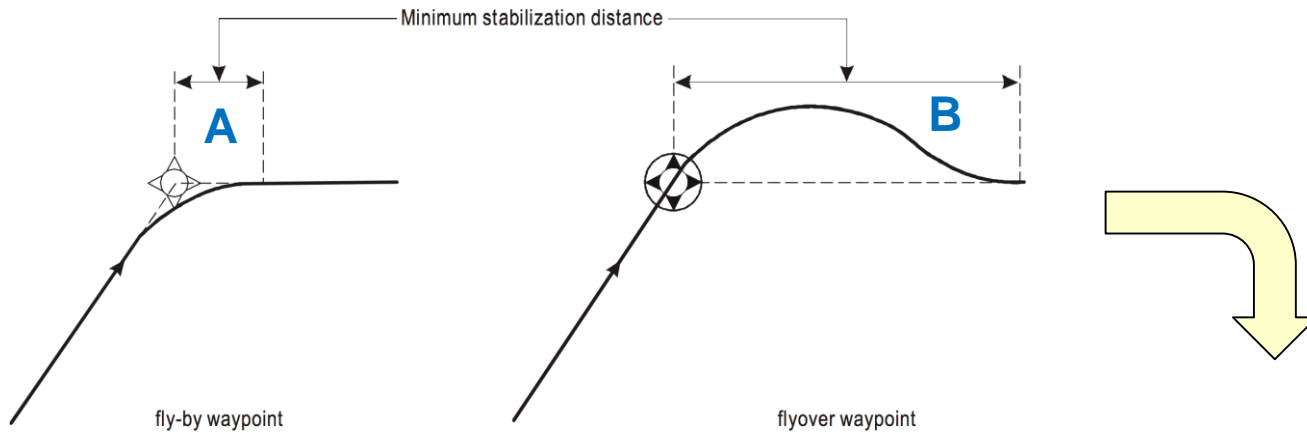


Waypoint Combination

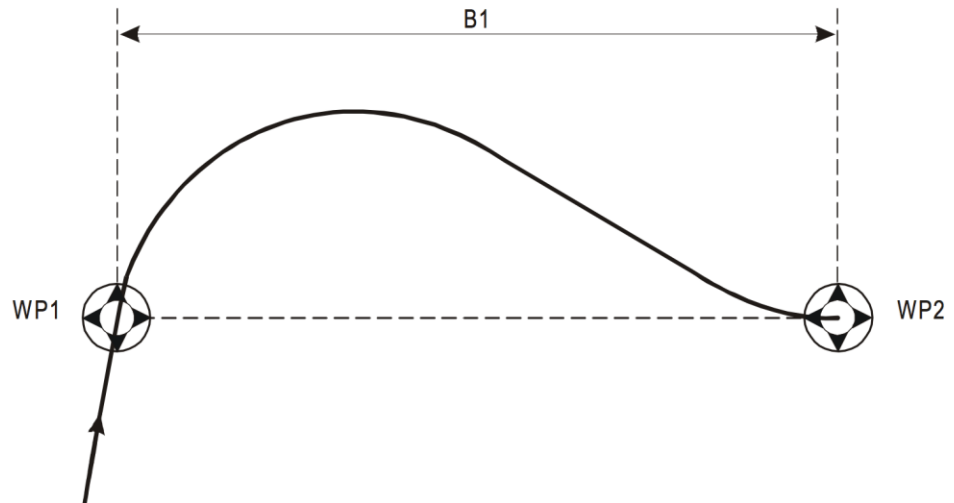


Fly-by then fly-over

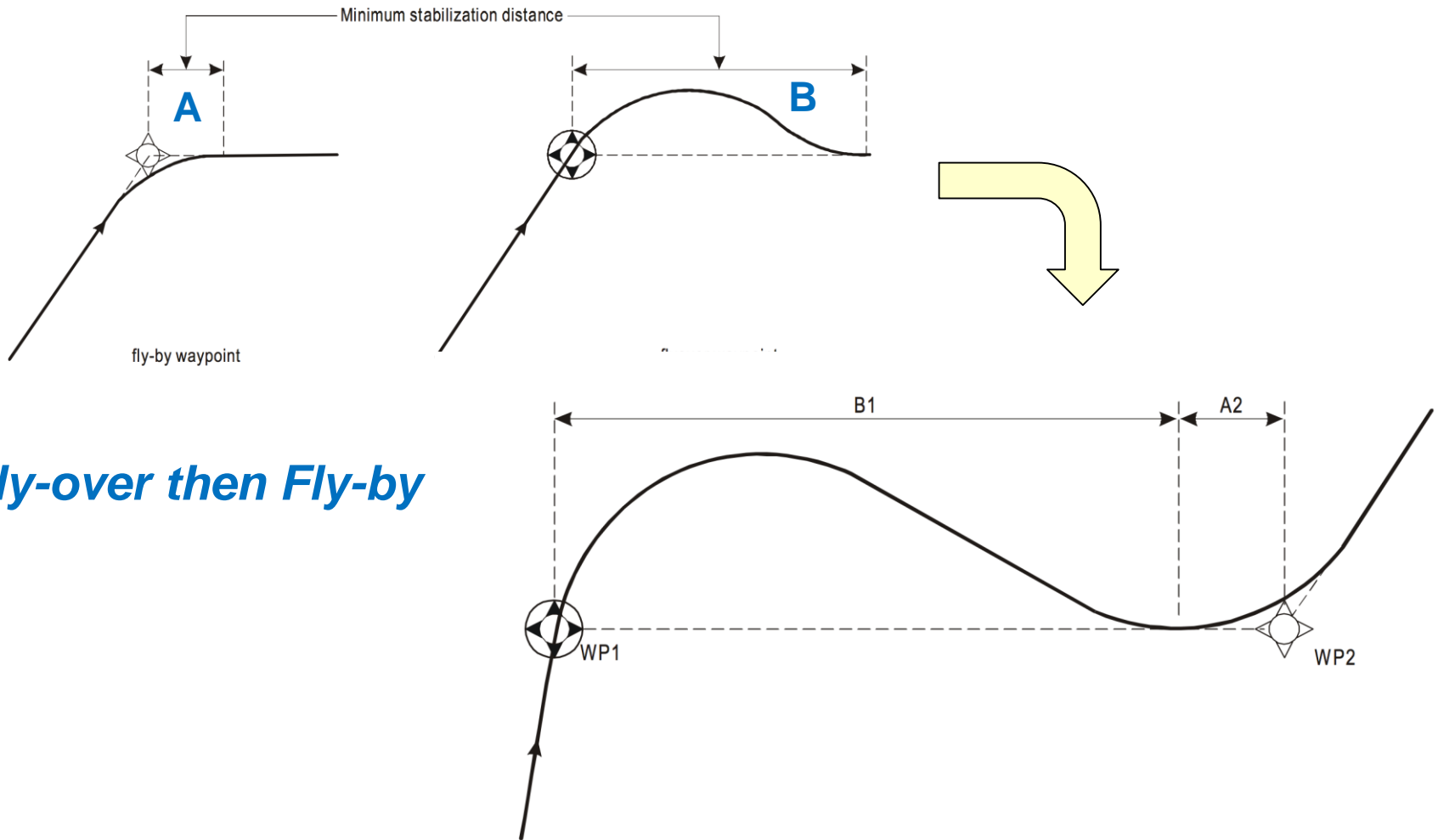
Waypoint Combination



Two fly-over waypoints






Waypoint Combination

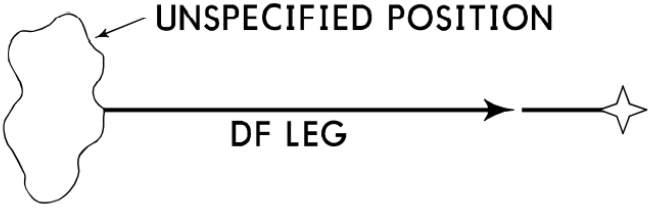
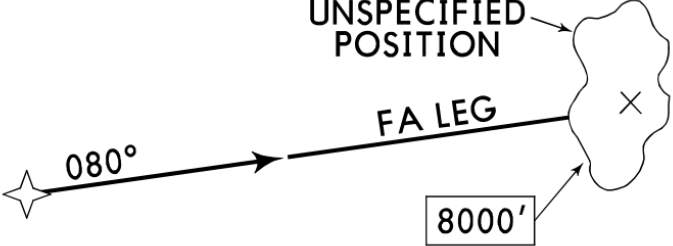



Fly-over then Fly-by

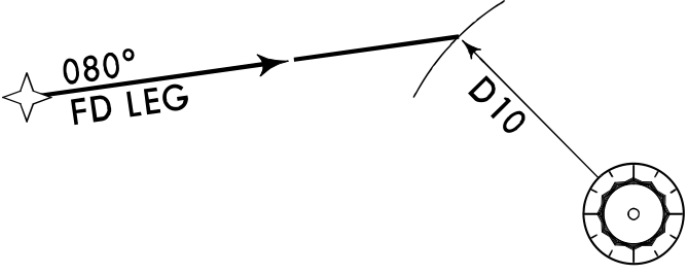

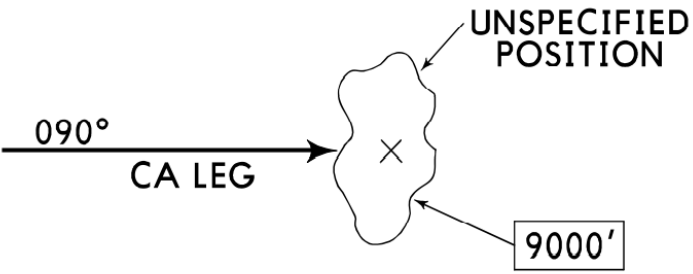
ARINC 424 Leg Types

| Leg Code | Example Path | Description |
|----------|--|---|
| IF |  | <p>Figure 1: Initial Fix or IF Leg. Defines a database fix as a point in space.</p> |
| TF |  | <p>Figure 2: Track to a Fix or TF Leg. Defines a <u>great circle track</u> over ground between two known databases fixes.</p> <p>intermediate and final approach segments should always be TF routes</p> |
| CF |  | <p>Figure 3: Course to a Fix or CF Leg. Defines a specified course to a specific database fix.</p> |

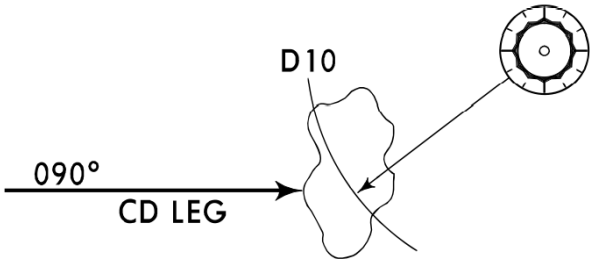
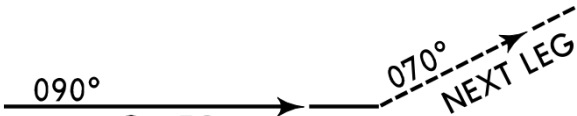
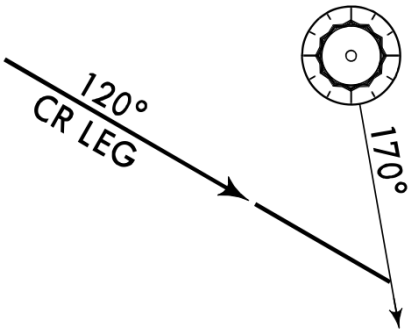
ARINC 424 Legs

| | | |
|------------------|--|--|
| <p>DF</p> |  | <p>Figure 4: Direct to a Fix or DF Leg. Defines an unspecified track starting from an undefined position to a specific database fix. Note: See also Table 1.3, Leg Sequencing, for other uses of the DF Leg.</p> |
| <p>FA</p> |  | <p>Figure 5: Fix to an Altitude or FA Leg. Defines a specified track over ground from a database fix to a specified altitude at an unspecified position.</p> |
| <p>FC</p> |  | <p>Figure 6: Track from a Fix from a Distance or FC Leg. Defines a specified track over ground from a database fix for a specific distance.</p> |

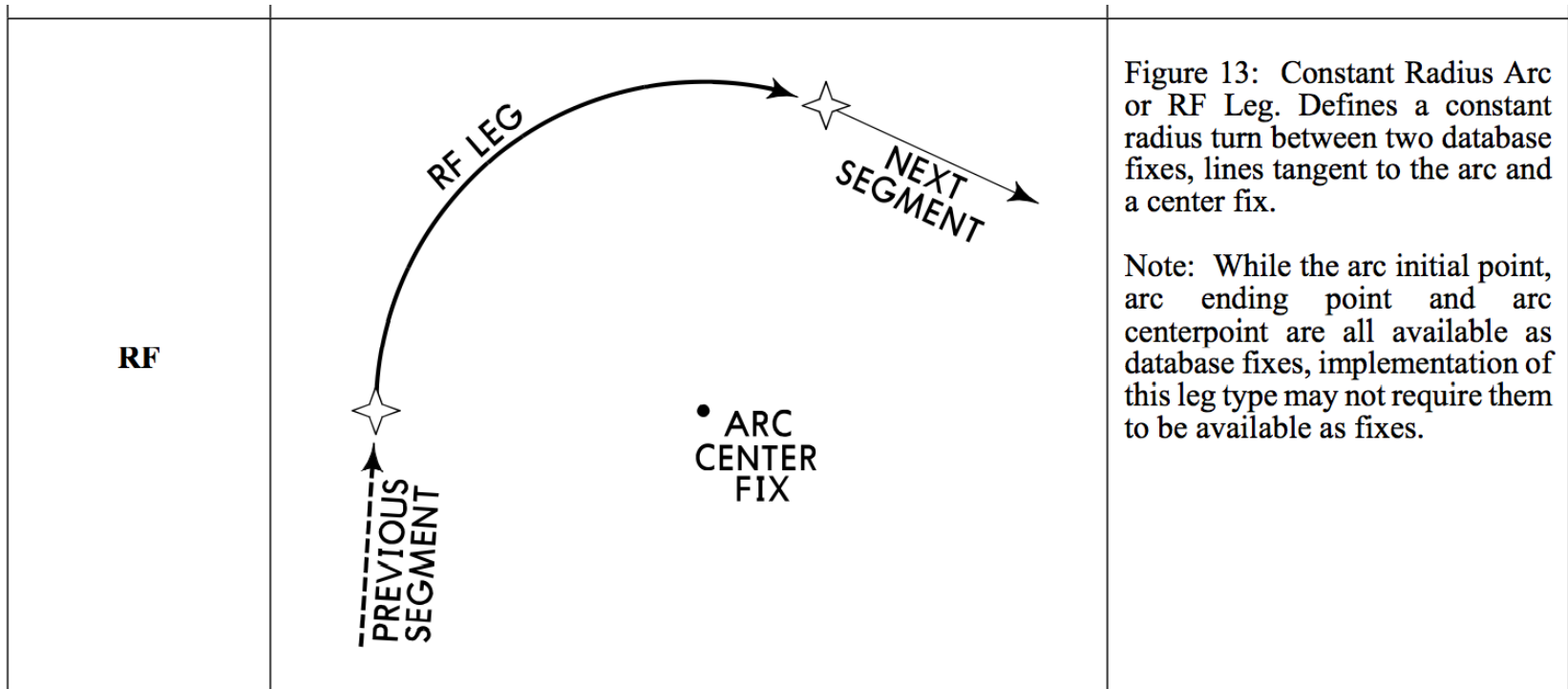
ARINC 424 Legs

| | | |
|------------------|---|---|
| <p>FD</p> |  | <p>Figure 7: Track from a Fix to a DME Distance or FD Leg. Defines a specified track over ground from a database fix to a specific DME Distance which is from a specific database DME Navaid.</p> |
| <p>FM</p> |  | <p>Figure 8: From a Fix to a Manual termination or FM Leg. Defines a specified track over ground from a database fix until Manual termination of the leg.</p> |
| <p>CA</p> |  | <p>Figure 9: Course to an Altitude or CA Leg. Defines a specified course to a specific altitude at an unspecified position.</p> |

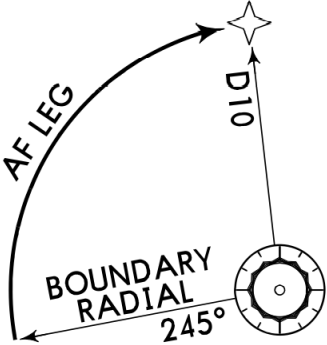
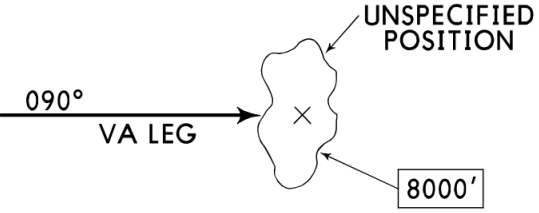
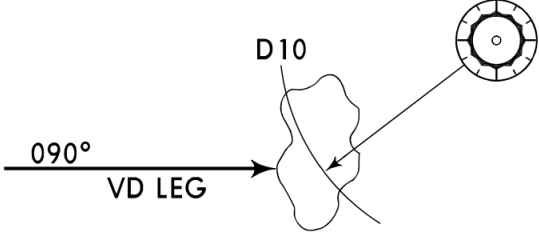
ARINC 424 Legs

| | | |
|-----------|---|---|
| <p>CD</p> |  | <p>Figure 10: Course to a DME Distance or CD Leg. Defines a specified course to a specific DME Distance which is from a specific database DME Navaid.</p> |
| <p>CI</p> |  | <p>Figure 11: Course to an Intercept or CI Leg. Defines a specified course to intercept a subsequent leg.</p> |
| <p>CR</p> |  | <p>Figure 12: Course to a Radial termination or CR Leg. Defines a course to a specified Radial from a specific database VOR Navaid.</p> |


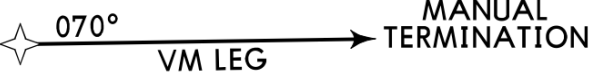
ARINC 424 Legs

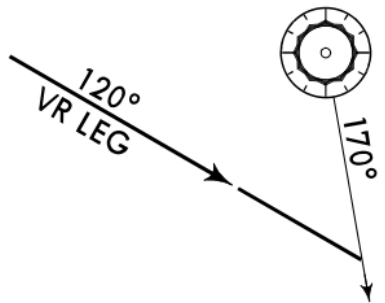


ARINC 424 Legs

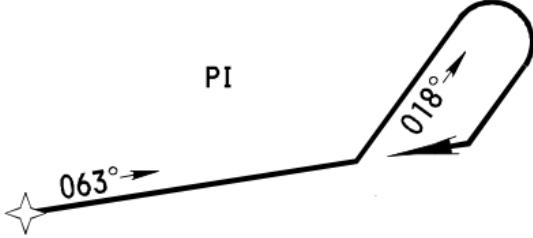
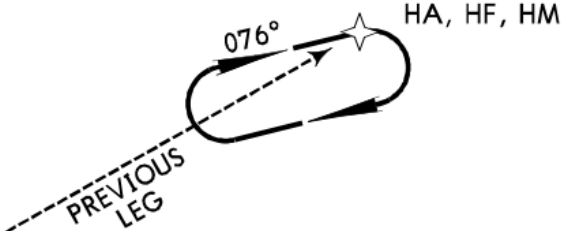
| | | |
|-----------|--|---|
| <p>AF</p> |  | <p>Figure 14: Arc to a Fix or AF Leg. Defines a track over ground at specified constant distance from a database DME Navaid.</p> |
| <p>VA</p> |  | <p>Figure 15: Heading to an Altitude termination or VA Leg. Defines a specified heading to a specific Altitude termination at an unspecified position.</p> |
| <p>VD</p> |  | <p>Figure 16: Heading to a DME Distance termination or VD Leg. Defines a specified heading terminating at a specified DME Distance from a specific database DME Navaid.</p> |

ARINC 424 Legs

| | | |
|----|--|--|
| VI |  | <p>Figure 17: Heading to an Intercept or VI Leg. Defines a specified heading to intercept the subsequent leg at an unspecified position.</p> |
| VM |  | <p>Figure 18: Heading to a Manual termination or VM Leg. Defines a specified heading until a Manual termination.</p> |

| | | |
|----|---|---|
| VR |  | <p>Figure 19: Heading to a Radial termination or VR Leg. Defines a specified heading to a specified radial from a specific database VOR Navaid.</p> |
|----|---|---|

ARINC 424 Legs

| | | |
|-------------------|--|---|
| <p>PI</p> |  | <p>Figure 20: 045/180 Procedure Turn or PI Leg. Defines a course reversal starting at a specific database fix, includes Outbound Leg followed by a left or right turn and 180 degree course reversal to intercept the next leg. A Maximum excursion Time or Distance is included as a data field.</p> |
| <p>HA, HF, HM</p> |  | <p>Figure 21: Holding in lieu of Procedure Turn (HF) for Approach Procedures and Mandatory Holds (HA, HM) in SID/STAR and Missed Approach coding. The HA, HF, and HM Leg Types define a holding pattern in lieu of procedure turn course reversal or a terminal procedure referenced mandatory holding pattern at a specified database fix. Leg time or distance is included as a data field.</p> <p>The three codes indicate different path termination types:</p> <p>HA = Altitude Termination</p> <p>HF = Single circuit terminating at the fix.</p> <p>HM = Manual Termination.</p> |

Data Required *per ICAO*

Table III-2-5-App-3. Path terminators (Required data)

| <i>Path terminator</i> | <i>Waypoint identifier</i> | <i>Flyover</i> | <i>Turn direction</i> | <i>Recommended Navaid</i> | <i>Distance from Navaid</i> | <i>Bearing from Navaid</i> | <i>Magnetic course</i> | <i>Path length</i> | <i>Altitude restriction 1</i> | <i>Altitude restriction 2</i> | <i>Speed limit</i> | <i>Vertical angle</i> | <i>Arc centre</i> |
|------------------------|----------------------------|----------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| CA | | | 0 | | | | ✓ | | 6 | | 0 | | |
| CF | ✓ | 1 | 0 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| DF | ✓ | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | 0 | 0 | 0 | | |
| FA | ✓ | | 0 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | 6 | | 0 | | |
| FM | ✓ | | 0 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | 0 | | 0 | | |
| HA | ✓ | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | ✓ | ✓ | 6 | | 0 | | |
| HF | ✓ | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | ✓ | ✓ | 0 | | 0 | | |
| HM | ✓ | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | ✓ | ✓ | 0 | | 0 | | |
| IF | ✓ | | | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | 0 | 0 | 0 | | |
| RF | ✓ | 0 | ✓ | 0 | | 2 | 3 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | ✓ |
| TF | ✓ | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| VA | | | 0 | | | | 4 | | 6 | | 0 | | |
| VI | | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | 4 | | 0 | 0 | 0 | | |
| VM | 0 | | 0 | | | | 4 | | 0 | | 0 | | |

✓ — Required

0 — Optional

1 — Required for CF/DF and DF/DF combinations only.

2 — Inbound tangential track

3 — Outbound tangential track

4 — Heading not course

5 — Along track distance

6 — Altitude at or above

Leg Data Fields Table 3

| PT | W/P ID | OVR FLY | HLD | TD | TDV | RMD NAV | THETA | RHO | OBD MAG CRS | TM/DST | ALT ONE | ALT TWO | SPD LMT (1) | VRT ANG | ARC CTR | COMMENTS |
|----|--------|---------|-----|----|-----|---------|-------|-----|-------------|--------|---------|---------|-------------|---------|---------|------------------------------------|
| AF | X | O | O | X | | X | X | X | R | | O | O | O | | | OB MAG CRS=BNDY RDL, THETA=FIX RDL |
| CA | | | | O | O | | | | C | | + | | O | | | ALT TERM WILL BE "AT OR ABOVE" |
| CD | | | | O | O | X | | | C | D | O | O | O | | | |
| CF | X | B | O | O | O | X | X | X | C | F | O | O | O | O | | OB MAG CRS IS CRS TO SPECIFIED FIX |
| CI | | O | | O | O | O | | | C | | O | O | O | | | |
| CR | | O | | O | O | X | X | | C | | O | O | O | | | |
| DF | X | B | O | O | | O | O | O | | | O | O | O | | | |
| FA | X | | | O | O | X | X | X | C | | + | | O | | | ALT TERM WILL BE "AT OR ABOVE" |
| FC | X | B | | O | O | X | X | X | C | P | O | O | O | | | |
| FD | X | O | | O | O | X | X | X | C | D | O | O | O | | | |
| FM | X | | | O | O | X | X | X | C | | O | | O | | | |
| HA | X | O | | X | | O | O | O | C | X | + | | O | | | ALT TERM WILL BE "AT OR ABOVE" |
| HF | X | O | | X | | O | O | O | C | X | O | | O | | | |
| HM | X | O | | X | | O | O | O | C | X | O | | O | | | |
| IF | X | | O | | | O | O | O | | | O | O | O | | | |
| PI | X | | | X | | X | X | X | C | P | X | | O | | | DIST IS EXCURSION DIST FROM FIX |
| RF | X | | O | X | | O | O | O | O | A | O | O | O | O | X | |
| TF | X | B | O | O | O | O | O | O | O | O | O | O | O | O | | |
| VA | | | | O | O | | | | H | | + | | O | | | ALT TERM WILL BE "AT OR ABOVE" |
| VD | | | | O | O | X | | | H | D | O | O | O | | | |
| VI | | O | | O | O | O | | | H | | O | O | O | | | |
| VM | O | | | O | O | | | | H | | O | | O | | | FOR W/P ID SEE STAR CODING RULES |
| VR | | O | | O | O | X | X | | H | | O | O | O | | | |

LEGEND:

X = REQUIRED FIELD R = BOUNDARY RADIAL D = DME DISTANCE
 A = ALONG TRACK DISTANCE C = COURSE + = "AT OR ABOVE" ONLY
 O = OPTIONAL FIELD H = HEADING SHADED = NOT APPLICABLE FIELD
 P = PATH LENGTH
 B = "REQUIRED" FOR CF/DF, DF/DF, TF/DF OR FC/DF COMBINATIONS, OTHERWISE "OPTIONAL"

Data Required

per ARINC

Path Terminators

Table III-2-5-App-1. Initial and final path terminators

| <i>RNAV procedure</i> | <i>Initial leg</i> | <i>Final leg</i> |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| SID | CA, CF, VA, VI | CF, DF, FM, HA, RF, TF, VM |
| STAR | IF | CF, DF, FM, HM, RF, TF, VM |
| Approach | IF | CF, TF, RF |
| Missed approach | CA, CF, DF, FA, HA, HM, RF, VI, VM | CF, DF, FM, HM, RF, TF, VM |

| | | |
|-------------|----------|-------------|
| APP CRS | Rwy Idg | 8800 |
| 275° | THRE | 990 |
| | Apt Elev | 1026 |

RNAV (RNP) Z RWY 26R

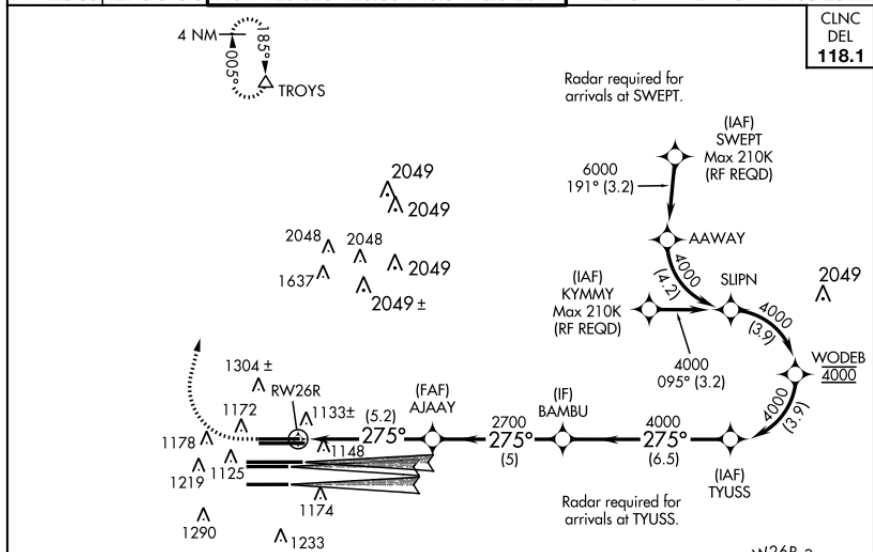
ATLANTA/ HARTSFIELD-JACKSON ATLANTA INTL (ATL)

For uncompensated Baro-VNAV systems, procedure NA below -8°C (18°F) or above 54°C (130°F). For inop MALSR, increase RNP 0.30 all Cats visibility to 1 3/8 mile. GPS required. Simultaneous approach authorized with Rwy 27L or 27R or 28, or Rwy 27R and 28. Use of FD or AP providing RNAV track guidance required during simultaneous operations.



MISSED APPROACH:
Climb to 1500 then climbing right turn to 3500 direct TROYS and hold.

| | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|---|--------|--------|--------|-------|--------------|----------------------------|
| ATIS | ATLANTA | ATLANTA TOWER | | | | ALL | GND CON | ALL |
| ARR 119.65 | APP CON | 8L-26R | 8R-26L | 9L-27R | 9R-27L | 10-28 | RWYS | RWYS |
| DEP 125.55 | 127.9 379.9 | 119.1 125.325 123.85 119.3 119.5 254.4 | | | | | 121.9 | 121.75 121.65 254.4 |

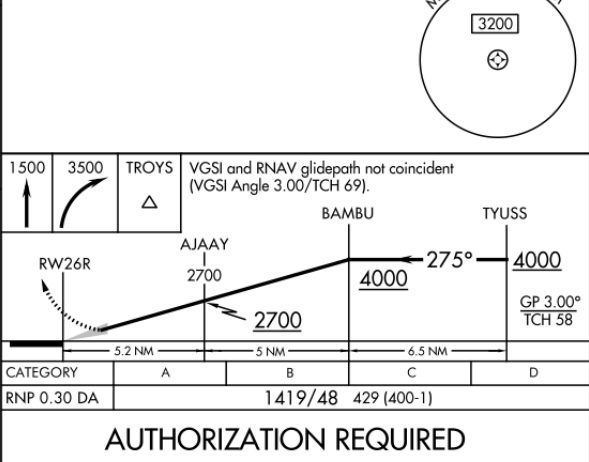
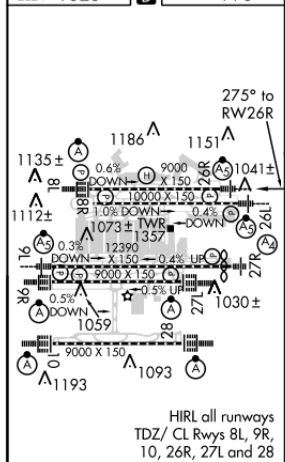


CLNC
DEL
118.1

Table III-2-5-App-1. Initial and final path terminators

| RNAV procedure | Initial leg | Final leg |
|-----------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| SID | CA, CF, VA, VI | CF, DF, FM, HA, RF, TF, VM |
| STAR | IF | CF, DF, FM, HM, RF, TF, VM |
| Approach | IF | CF, TF, RF |
| Missed approach | CA, CF, DF, FA, HA, HM, RF, VI, VM | CF, DF, FM, HM, RF, TF, VM |

ELEV 1026 THRE 990



| | | | | |
|-------------|---------------------|---|---|---|
| CATEGORY | A | B | C | D |
| RNP 0.30 DA | 1419/48 429 (400-1) | | | |

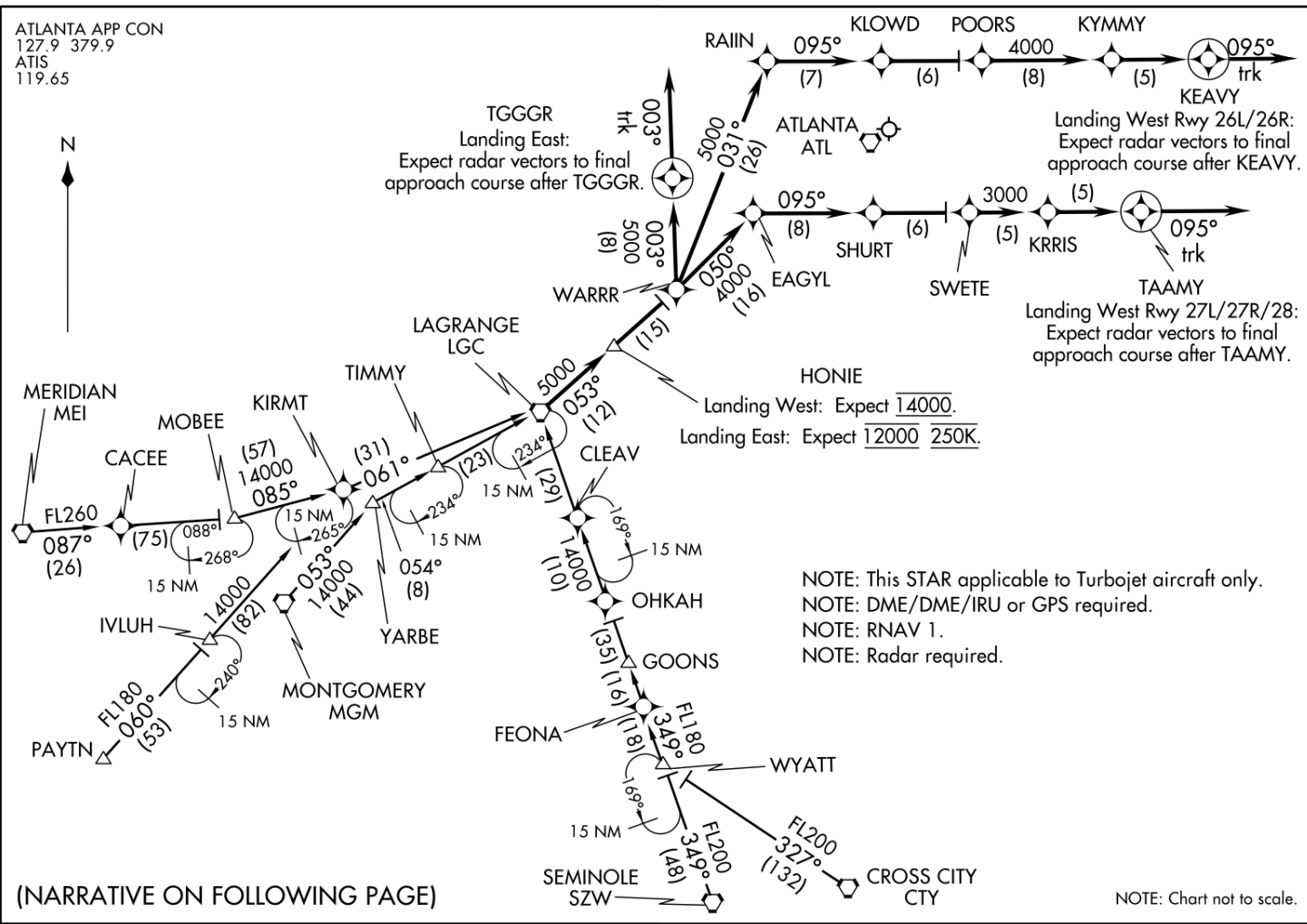
AUTHORIZATION REQUIRED

Approach

STAR into Atlanta

WARRR ONE ARRIVAL (RNAV)
(LGC, WARRR1) 13122

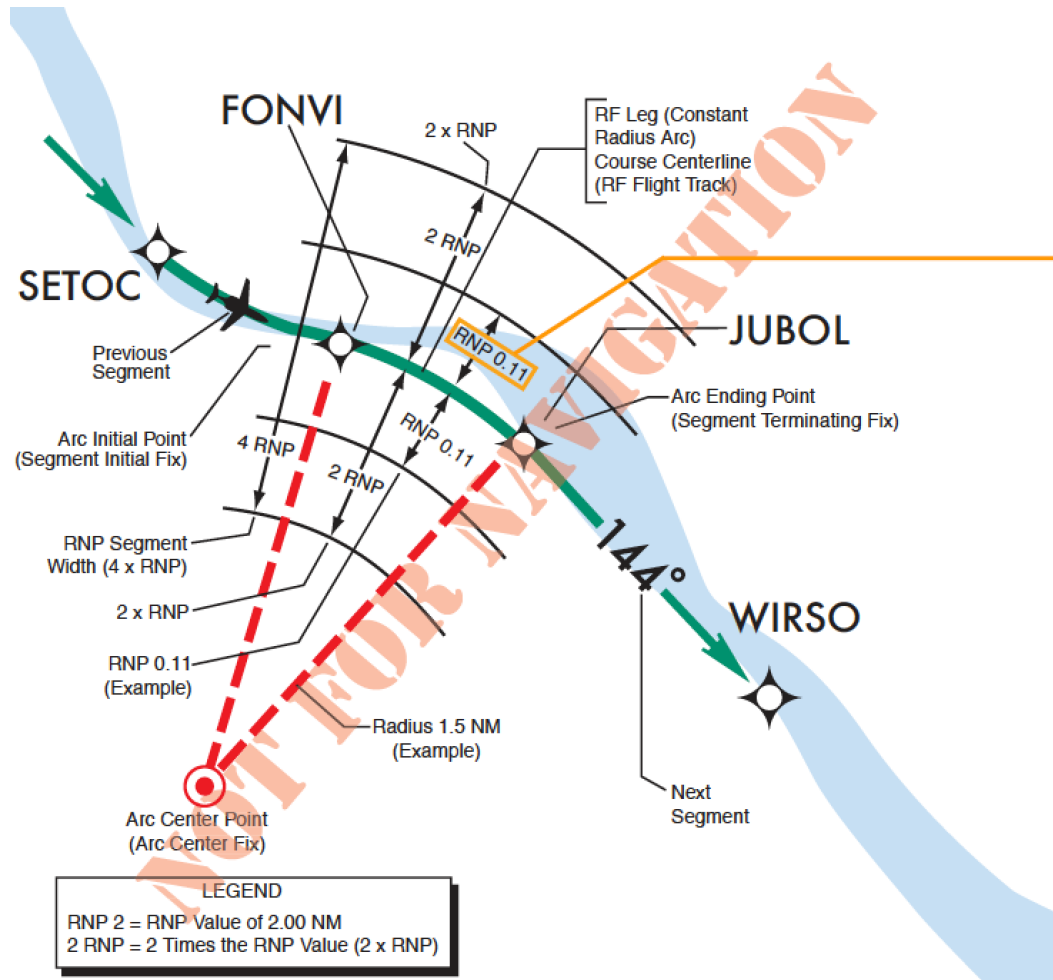
HARTSFIELD-JACKSON ATLANTA INTL (ATL)
ATLANTA, GEORGIA



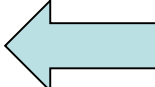
(LGC, WARRR1) 13122
WARRR ONE ARRIVAL (RNAV)

HARTSFIELD-JACKSON ATLANTA INTL (ATL)
ATLANTA, GEORGIA

RF Leg plus RNP Example



Waypoint to Waypoint: Geodesics

- **Geodesics:**
 - Shortest distance between two points in curved spaces;
- **Examples:**
 - Plane: straight line
 - Sphere: great circle 
 - Ellipsoid like WGS 84:

Used in GPS:

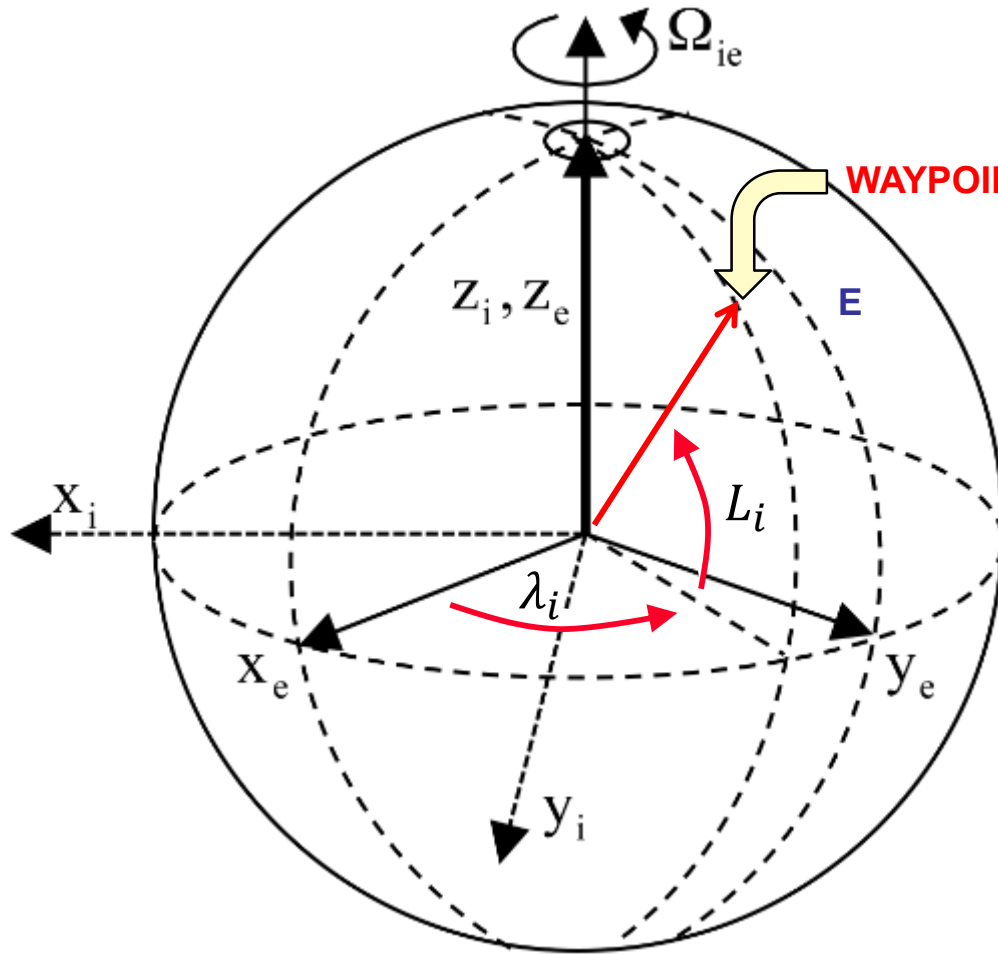
major (equatorial) radius $a = 6378137$ m at the equator
flattening $f = 1/298.257223563$

From Waypoint to Waypoint

- Great Circle Routes:
 - Assume Earth is a sphere



Great Circle Routes

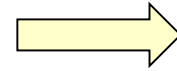
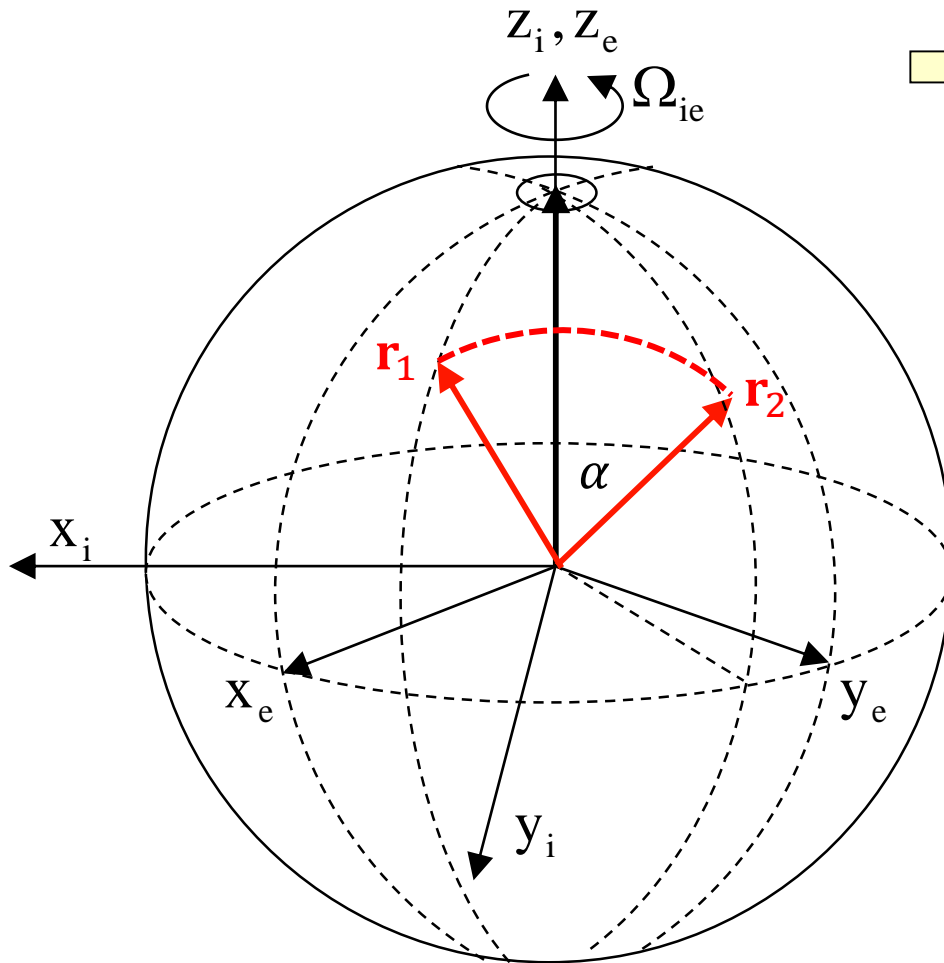


$$\mathbf{r}_i = R_e \begin{bmatrix} \cos\lambda_i \cos L_i \\ \sin\lambda_i \cos L_i \\ \sin L_i \end{bmatrix} = R_e \mathbf{e}_i$$

Radius of a sphere
(approximate Earth by a sphere)

L_i = waypoint latitude
 λ_i = waypoint longitude

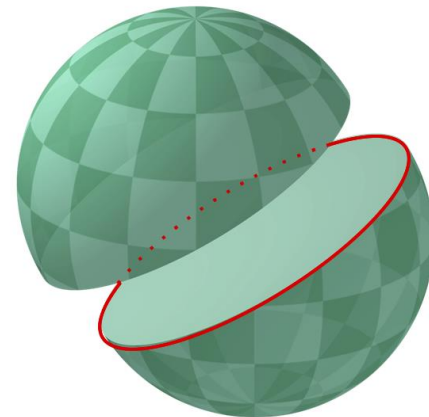
Great Circle Routes



$$\cos(\alpha) = \mathbf{e}_1 \cdot \mathbf{e}_2$$

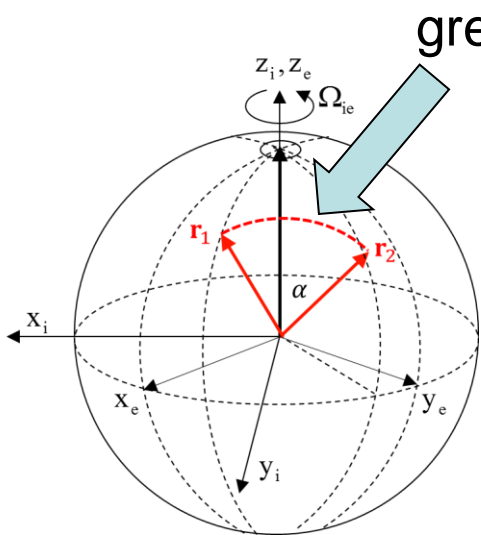
$$\sin(\alpha) = |\mathbf{e}_1 \times \mathbf{e}_2|$$

$$\tan(\alpha) = \left(\frac{|\mathbf{e}_1 \times \mathbf{e}_2|}{\mathbf{e}_1 \cdot \mathbf{e}_2} \right)$$



http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Great_circle_hemispheres.png

Great Circle Distance



$$\cos(\alpha) = \mathbf{e}_1 \cdot \mathbf{e}_2 \Rightarrow$$

$$\cos(\alpha) = \begin{bmatrix} \cos\lambda_1 \cos L_1 \\ \sin\lambda_1 \cos L_1 \\ \sin L_1 \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} \cos\lambda_2 \cos L_2 \\ \sin\lambda_2 \cos L_2 \\ \sin L_2 \end{bmatrix} \Rightarrow$$

$$\cos(\alpha) = \cos\lambda_1 \cos L_1 \cos\lambda_2 \cos L_2 + \sin\lambda_1 \cos L_1 \sin\lambda_2 \cos L_2 + \sin L_1 \sin L_2 \Rightarrow$$

$$\cos(\alpha) = \cos L_1 \cos L_2 [\sin\lambda_1 \sin\lambda_2 + \cos\lambda_1 \cos\lambda_2] + \sin L_1 \sin L_2 \Rightarrow$$

$$\cos(\alpha) = \cos L_1 \cos L_2 \cos(\lambda_1 - \lambda_2) + \sin L_1 \sin L_2 \Rightarrow$$

$$\alpha = \cos^{-1} \{ \cos L_1 \cos L_2 \cos(\lambda_1 - \lambda_2) + \sin L_1 \sin L_2 \}$$

Spherical law of cosines

$$d = R_e \alpha = R_e \cos^{-1} \{ \cos L_1 \cos L_2 \cos(\lambda_1 - \lambda_2) + \sin L_1 \sin L_2 \}$$

Great Circle Distance

Let's rewrite this equation using identities:

$$\sin^2\left(\frac{\gamma}{2}\right) = \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2}\cos\gamma \Rightarrow \text{and } \cos\alpha\cos\beta + \sin\alpha\sin\beta = \cos(\alpha - \beta)$$
$$\cos\gamma = 1 - 2\sin^2\left(\frac{\gamma}{2}\right)$$

$$\begin{aligned} &\cos L_1 \cos L_2 \cos(\lambda_1 - \lambda_2) + \sin L_1 \sin L_2 \Rightarrow \\ &\cos L_1 \cos L_2 - 2\cos L_1 \cos L_2 \sin^2(\lambda_1 - \lambda_2) + \sin L_1 \sin L_2 \Rightarrow \\ &\cos L_1 \cos L_2 + \sin L_1 \sin L_2 - 2\cos L_1 \cos L_2 \sin^2(\lambda_1 - \lambda_2) \Rightarrow \\ &\cos(L_1 - L_2) - 2\cos L_1 \cos L_2 \sin^2\left(\frac{\lambda_1 - \lambda_2}{2}\right) \Rightarrow \\ &1 - 2\sin^2\left(\frac{L_1 - L_2}{2}\right) - 2\cos L_1 \cos L_2 \sin^2\left(\frac{\lambda_1 - \lambda_2}{2}\right) \end{aligned}$$

Great Circle Distance

$$\cos(\alpha) = 1 - 2\sin^2\left(\frac{L_1 - L_2}{2}\right) - 2\cos L_1 \cos L_2 \sin^2\left(\frac{\lambda_1 - \lambda_2}{2}\right) \Rightarrow$$

$$\cos(\alpha) = 1 - 2\left\{\sin^2\left(\frac{L_1 - L_2}{2}\right) + \cos L_1 \cos L_2 \sin^2\left(\frac{\lambda_1 - \lambda_2}{2}\right)\right\} \Rightarrow$$

$$1 - 2\sin^2\left(\frac{\alpha}{2}\right) = 1 - 2\left\{\sin^2\left(\frac{L_1 - L_2}{2}\right) + \cos L_1 \cos L_2 \sin^2\left(\frac{\lambda_1 - \lambda_2}{2}\right)\right\} \Rightarrow$$

$$\sin^2\left(\frac{\alpha}{2}\right) = \sin^2\left(\frac{L_1 - L_2}{2}\right) + \cos L_1 \cos L_2 \sin^2\left(\frac{\lambda_1 - \lambda_2}{2}\right) \Rightarrow$$

Haversine formula:

$$d = R_e \alpha = R_e 2 \arcsin \left(\sqrt{\sin^2\left(\frac{L_1 - L_2}{2}\right) + \cos L_1 \cos L_2 \sin^2\left(\frac{\lambda_1 - \lambda_2}{2}\right)} \right)$$

Is numerically better conditioned for small distances!

Great Circle Distance

- Even better is the [Vincenty formula](#):

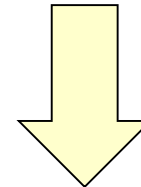
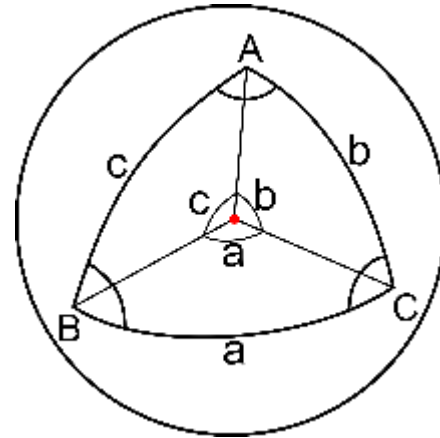
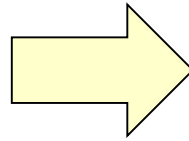
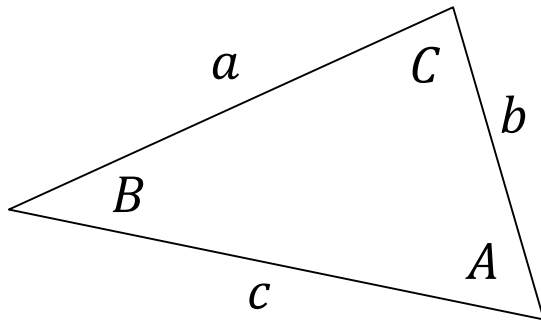
$$d = R_e \alpha$$
$$= R_e \arctan \left(\frac{\sqrt{(\cos L_2 \sin[\lambda_1 - \lambda_2])^2 + (\cos L_1 \sin L_2 - \sin L_1 \cos L_2 \cos[\lambda_1 - \lambda_2])^2}}{\cos L_1 \cos L_2 \cos(\lambda_1 - \lambda_2) + \sin L_1 \sin L_2} \right)$$



Use 'atan2' when implementing

- Accurate for most distances.

Regular Trigonometry



Law of Sines (sine rules):

$$\frac{\sin A}{a} = \frac{\sin B}{b} = \frac{\sin C}{c}$$

Law of Cosines (cosine rules):

$$a^2 = b^2 + c^2 - 2bc \cos(A)$$

$$b^2 = a^2 + c^2 - 2ac \cos(B)$$

$$c^2 = a^2 + b^2 - 2ab \cos(C)$$

A **spherical triangle** is one whose sides are all great circular arcs

Spherical Trigonometry

Unit spheres:

Sine rules:

$$\frac{\sin A}{\sin a} = \frac{\sin B}{\sin b} = \frac{\sin C}{\sin c}$$

Cosine rules:

$$\cos(a) = \cos(b) \cos(c) + \sin(b) \sin(c) \cos(A)$$

$$\cos(b) = \cos(c) \cos(a) + \sin(c) \sin(a) \cos(B)$$

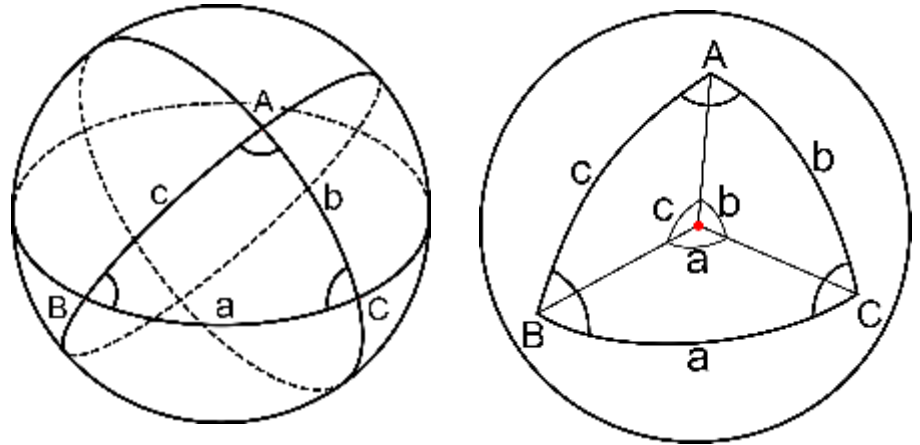
$$\cos(c) = \cos(a) \cos(b) + \sin(a) \sin(b) \cos(C)$$

Or:

$$\cos(A) = \cos(B) \cos(C) + \sin(B) \sin(C) \cos(a)$$

$$\cos(B) = \cos(C) \cos(A) + \sin(C) \sin(A) \cos(b)$$

$$\cos(C) = \cos(A) \cos(B) + \sin(A) \sin(B) \cos(c)$$



Spherical Trigonometry

Using law of cosines and sines:

$$\tan(A) = \sin(B) \sin(a) / [\sin(c) \cos(a) - \cos(B) \cos(c) \sin(a)]$$

$$\tan(B) = \sin(C) \sin(b) / [\sin(a) \cos(b) - \cos(C) \cos(a) \sin(b)]$$

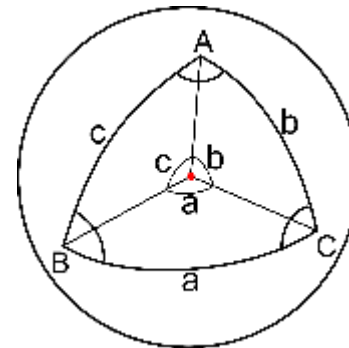
$$\tan(C) = \sin(A) \sin(c) / [\sin(b) \cos(c) - \cos(A) \cos(b) \sin(c)]$$

And:

$$\tan(a) = \sin(b) \sin(A) / [\sin(C) \cos(A) - \cos(b) \cos(C) \sin(A)]$$

$$\tan(b) = \sin(c) \sin(B) / [\sin(A) \cos(B) - \cos(c) \cos(A) \sin(B)]$$

$$\tan(c) = \sin(a) \sin(C) / [\sin(B) \cos(C) - \cos(a) \cos(B) \sin(C)]$$



Spherical Trigonometry Solution

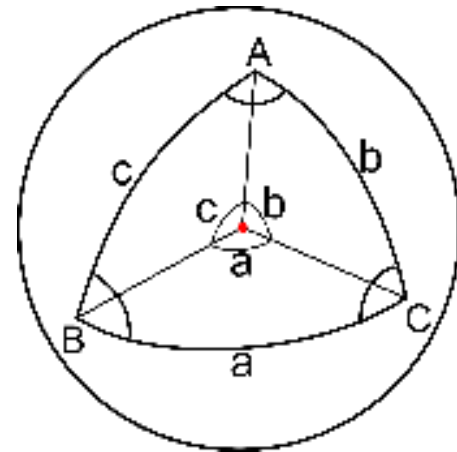
Given the “sides” $\{a, b, c\}$, one can find the “angles”:

$$A = \arccos\{(\cos(a) - \cos(b) \cos(c))/(\sin(b) \sin(c))\}$$

$$B = \arccos\{(\cos(b) - \cos(c) \cos(a))/(\sin(c) \sin(a))\}$$

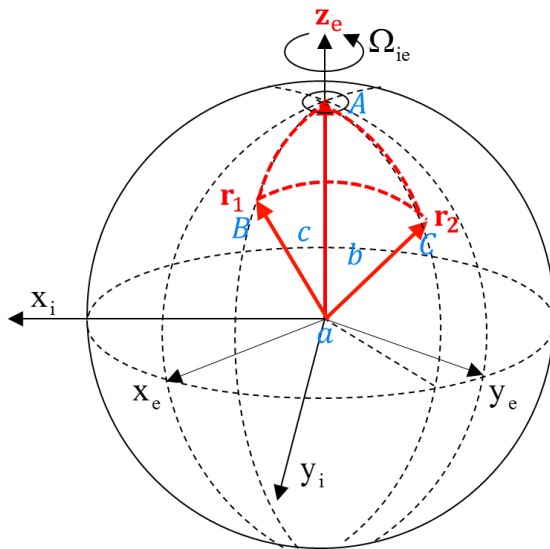
$$C = \arccos\{(\cos(c) - \cos(a) \cos(b))/(\sin(a) \sin(b))\}$$

*And various others as shown in:
Aviation Formulary V1.46 by Williams*



Great Circle Route Initial Course

Course between two waypoints at first waypoint:



```

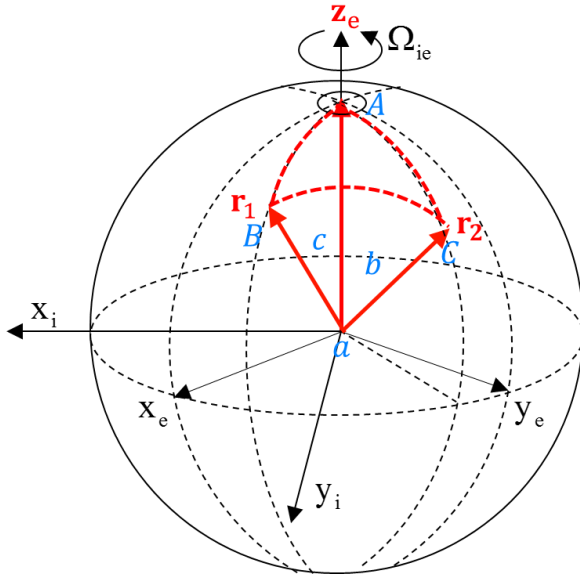
if  $\cos(\lambda_1 - \lambda_2) < 0$ 
     $tc_1 = \text{acos}\left(\frac{\sin(L_2) - \sin(L_1) \cos(\alpha)}{\cos(L_1) \sin(\alpha)}\right)$ 
else
     $tc_1 = 2\pi - \text{acos}\left(\frac{\sin(L_2) - \sin(L_1) \cos(\alpha)}{\cos(L_1) \sin(\alpha)}\right)$ 
endif
    
```

When first waypoint is at one of the poles:

```

if  $\cos(L_1) < \text{eps}$  (small number)
    if  $L_1 > 0$ 
         $tc_1 = \pi$ 
    else
         $tc_1 = 2\pi$ 
    endif
endif
    
```

Great Circle Route Initial Course



Course between two waypoints at first waypoint:

if $\cos(\lambda_1 - \lambda_2) < 0$

$$tc_1 = \text{acos} \left(\frac{\sin(L_2) - \sin(L_1) \cos(\alpha)}{\cos(L_1) \sin(\alpha)} \right)$$

else

$$tc_1 = 2\pi - \text{acos} \left(\frac{\sin(L_2) - \sin(L_1) \cos(\alpha)}{\cos(L_1) \sin(\alpha)} \right)$$

endif

Alternative calculation:

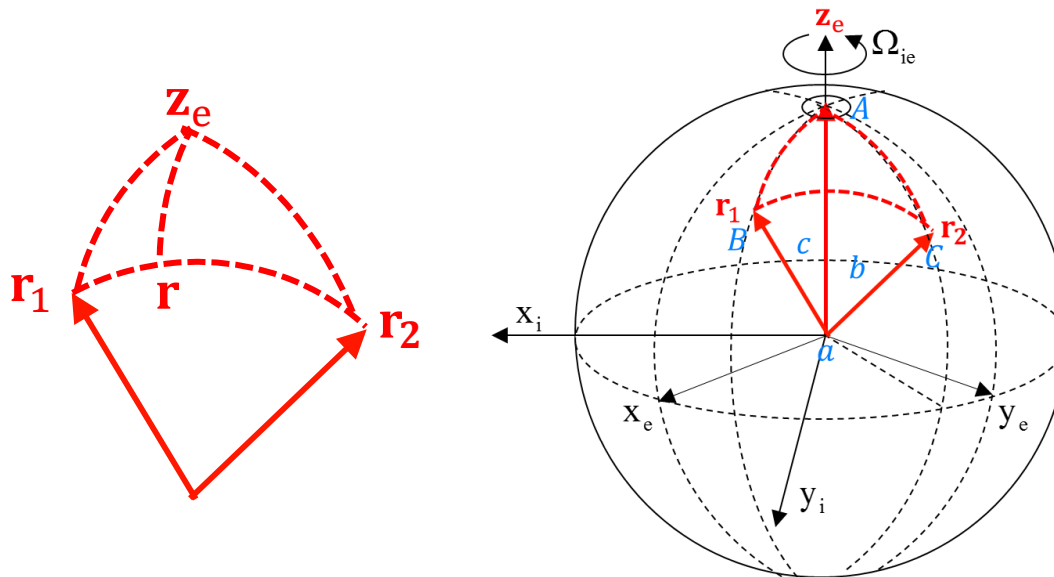
$$tc_1 = \text{mod} \left\{ \text{atan} \left(\frac{\sin(\lambda_1 - \lambda_2) \cos(L_2)}{\cos(L_1) \sin(L_2) - \sin(L_1) \cos(L_2) \cos(\lambda_1 - \lambda_2)} \right), 2\pi \right\}$$

Implement using "atan2"

Great Circle Route Computation

- Given a longitude λ find latitude L :

$$L = \text{atan} \left(\frac{\sin(L_1) \cos(L_2) \sin(\lambda - \lambda_2) - \sin(L_2) \cos(L_1) \sin(\lambda - \lambda_1)}{\cos(L_1) \cos(L_2) \cos(\lambda_1 - \lambda_2)} \right)$$



Great Circle Route Computation

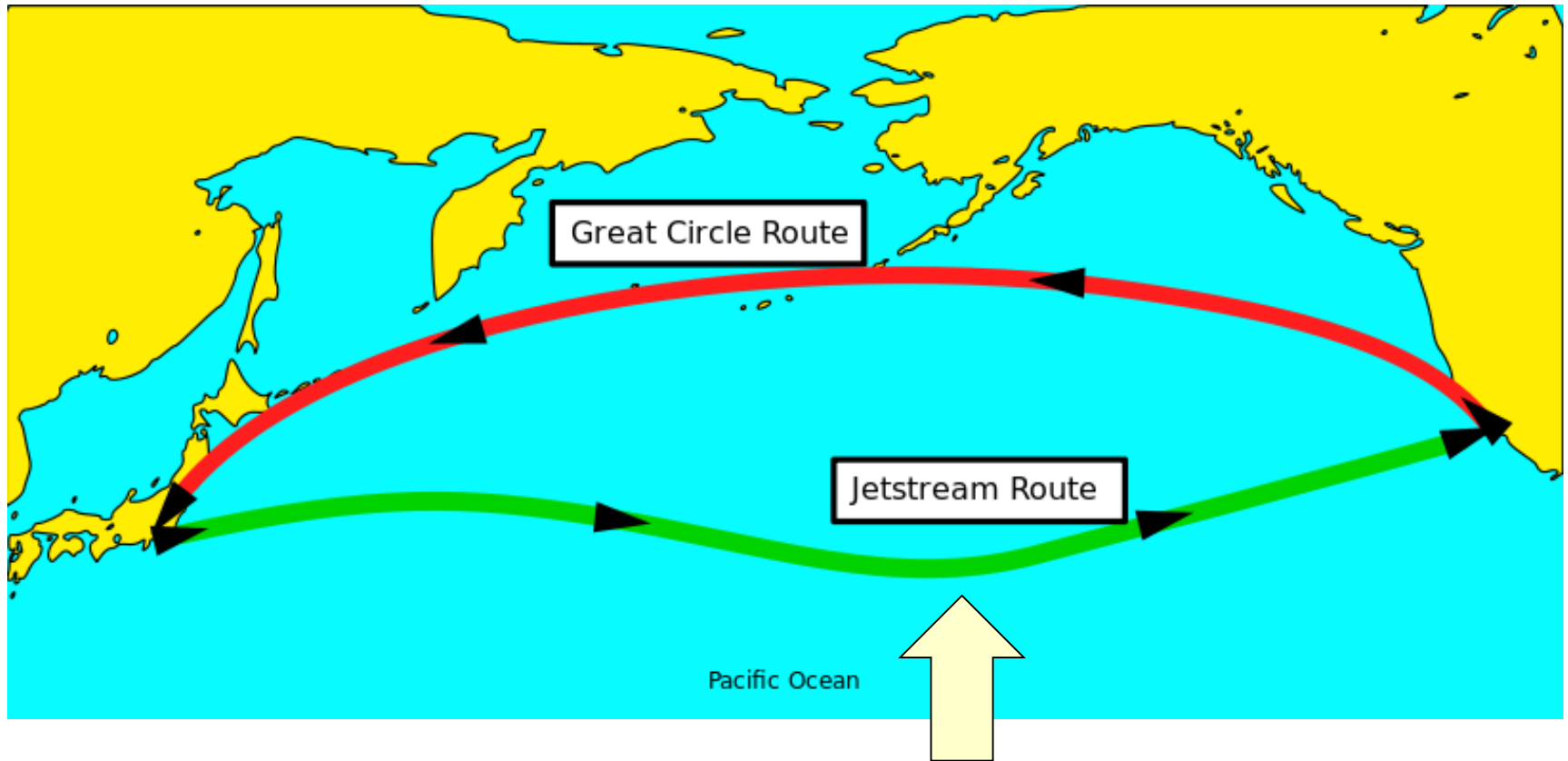
- Find latitude and longitude based on a fraction f of the distance between start- and end-point

- 1: $A = \frac{\sin((1-f)\alpha)}{\sin(\alpha)}$
- 2: $B = \frac{\sin(f\alpha)}{\sin(\alpha)}$
- 3: $x = A\cos(L_1)\cos(\lambda_1) + B\cos(L_2)\cos(\lambda_2)$
- 4: $y = A\cos(L_1)\sin(\lambda_1) + B\cos(L_2)\sin(\lambda_2)$
- 5: $z = A\sin(L_1) + B\sin(L_2)$
- 6: $L = \operatorname{atan}\left(\frac{z}{\sqrt{x^2+y^2}}\right)$
- 7: $\lambda = \operatorname{atan}\left(\frac{y}{x}\right)$



$$\mathbf{r}_i = R_e \begin{bmatrix} \cos\lambda_i \cos L_i \\ \sin\lambda_i \cos L_i \\ \sin L_i \end{bmatrix} = R_e \mathbf{e}_i$$

Great Circle Route



Other trajectory may be more optimal due to other factors just as wind, jetstream etc.

Now on an Ellipsoid ...

- The curved space is now an ellipsoid rather than a sphere like the WGS 84 ellipsoid;
- Two example methods are described in:
 - T. Vincenty, "Direct and Inverse Solutions of Geodesics on the Ellipsoid with Application of Nested Equations," Survey Review XXIII (176): 88–93, 1975.
 - C. F. F. Karney, "Algorithms for Geodesics," Journal of Geodesy, 87(1), 43-55, 2013.
- Both available on my website along with Matlab code for them.
- And, of course, the Mapping toolbox includes them all

Rhumb Line Navigation

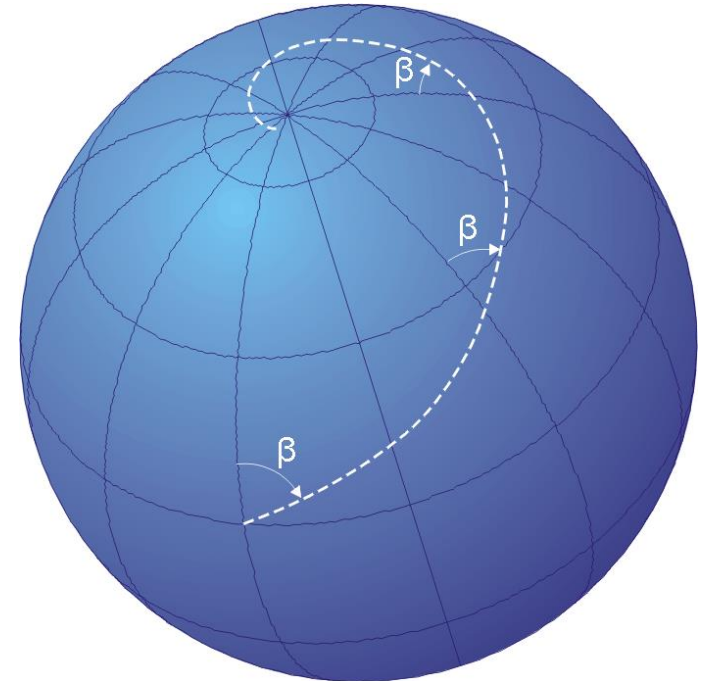
- Great circle navigation:
 - Shorted distance
 - Bearing is not constant
- Rhumb line navigation:
 - Bearing is constant
 - Not shortest distance



Given two points (L_1, λ_1) and (L_2, λ_2) the true course between both is given by:

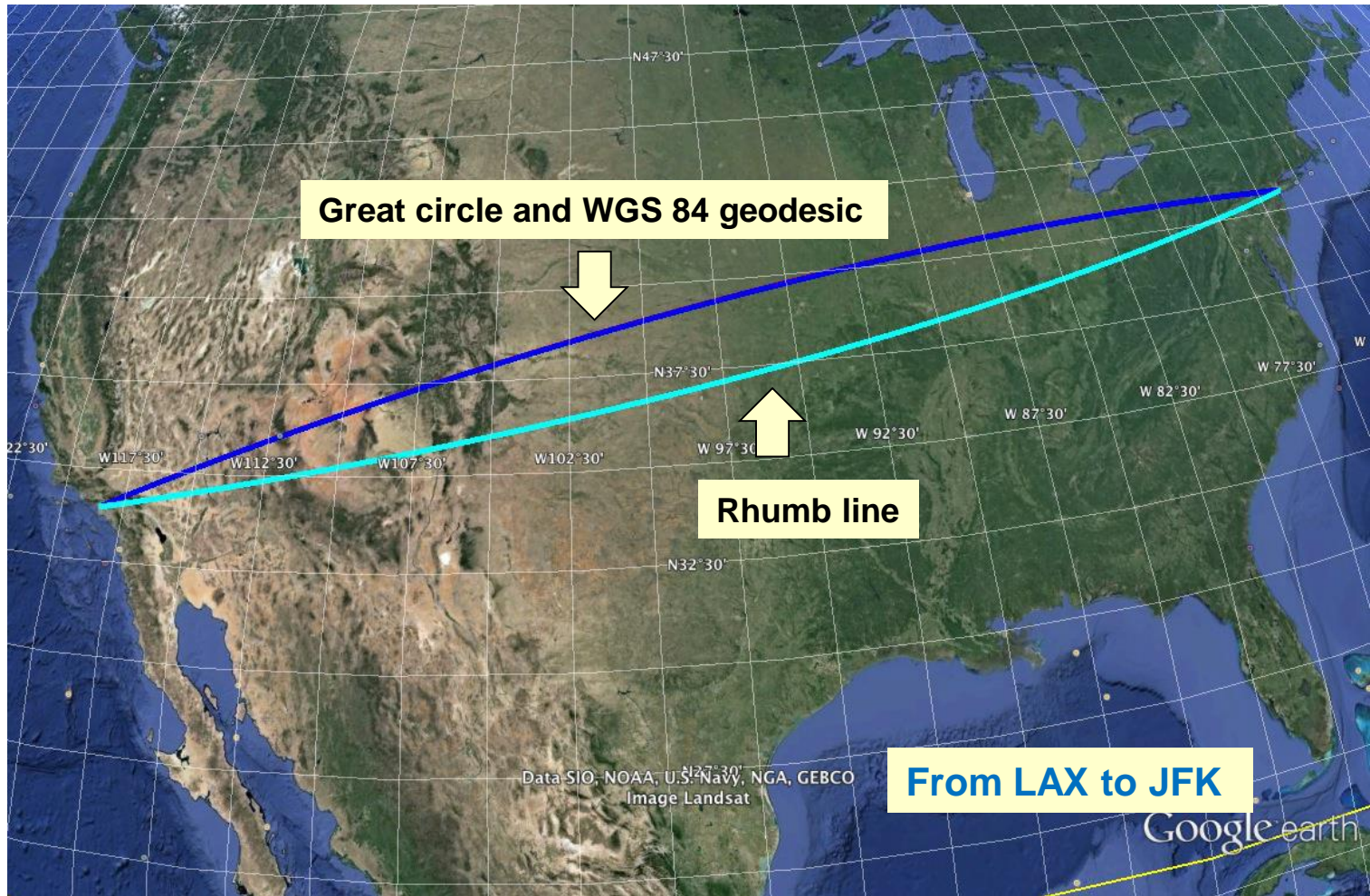
$$tc_1 = \text{mod} \left\{ \text{atan} \left(\frac{\lambda_1 - \lambda_2}{\log \left[\tan \left(\frac{L_2 + \frac{\pi}{4}}{2} \right) / \tan \left(\frac{L_1 + \frac{\pi}{4}}{2} \right) \right]} \right), 2\pi \right\}$$

See also Matlab Mapping Toolbox

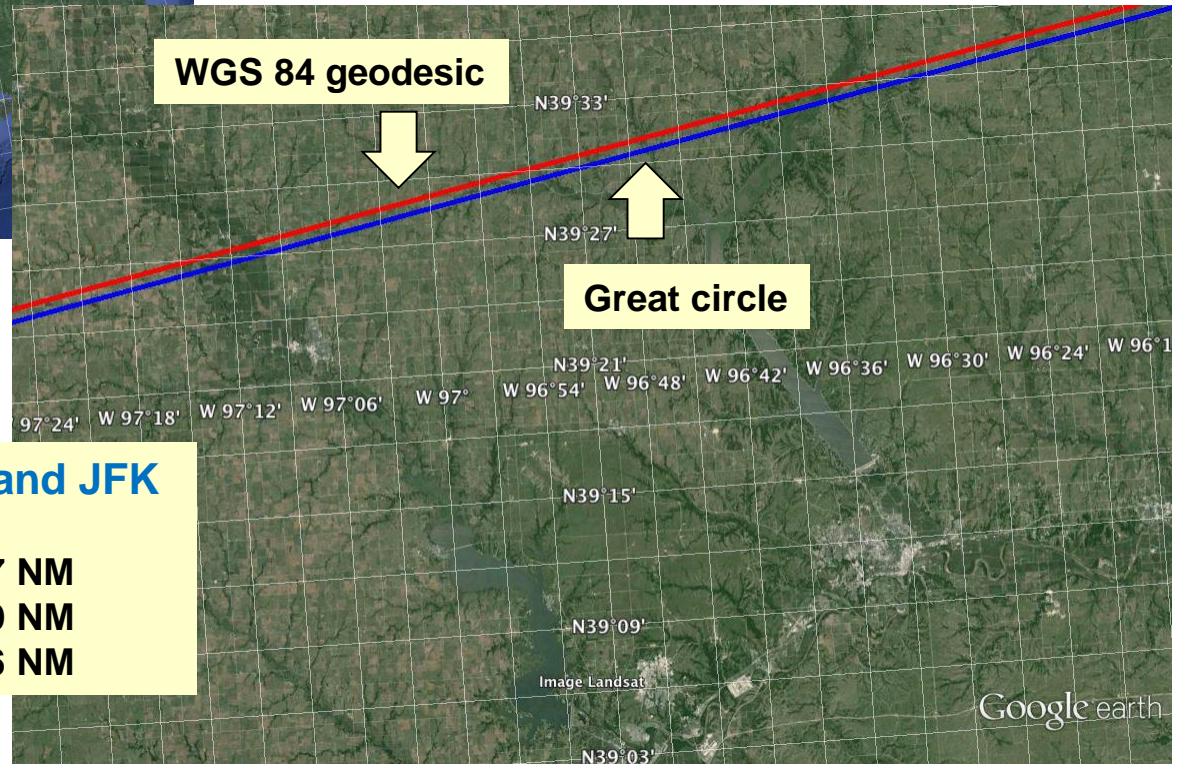
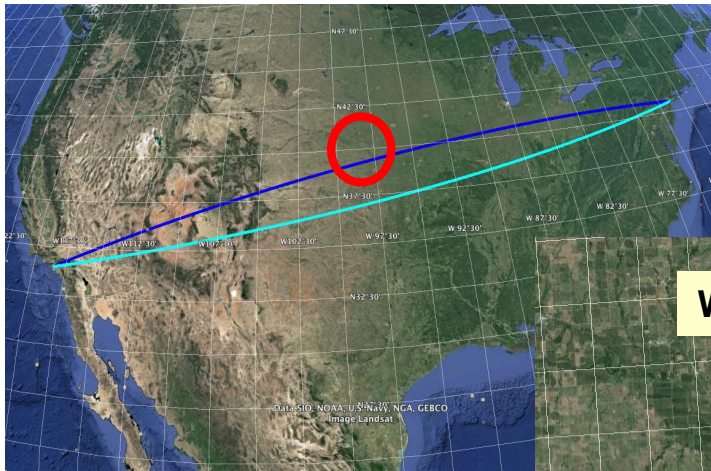


<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Loxodrome.png>

Great Circle, Ellipsoid, Rhumb Line



Great Circle, Ellipsoid, Rhumb Line



Distances between LAX and JFK

| | |
|------------------|------------|
| Great circle: | 2,143.7 NM |
| WGS 84 geodesic: | 2,149.9 NM |
| Rhumb line: | 2,164.6 NM |