

THE HYDROGRAPHERS' TECHNICAL OPEN FORUM

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Bureau has received the following letter from the Deputy Director of the Hollandsche Beton Groep N.V. :

Dear Sir,

I have read with much interest the article by F.P. MAWDSLEY and R.W. DROZDIAK on "Construction of sextant angle graphs with the aid of a computer" which appeared in the July 1969 number of the *International Hydrographic Review*.

It might interest your readers to know that in 1968, at the request of the Hollandsche Aanneming Maatschappij, Mr. S.J. REEVES, M. Sc., an engineer then working with my division, constructed a computer programme which produces the sextant grid circles automatically on the Calcomp plotter attached to our IBM 1130 (8K) computer.

This programme requires as input (on cards) :

- (1) The coordinates of the 3 or 4 base points;
- (2) The coordinates of the corners of a rectangle defining the area for which the grid has to be plotted;
- (3) The lower and upper limit and the stepsize of the subtended angle of each set of base points;
- (4) The grid size for the rectangular coordinate grid which has to be plotted;
- (5) The literal data required on the drawing;
- (6) The scale factor (either the foot or the metre unit may be chosen).

The computer produces directly on the plotter :

- (1) The limiting rectangle;
- (2) The label containing all necessary information — name of the contract, locations, identification of the base points, sheet number and scale;
- (3) The coordinate grid;
- (4) The two sets of sextant grid circles.

Each of the coordinate and sextant grid lines is annotated.

The computer determines automatically whether a point for which it has calculated the coordinates lies within or outside the limiting rectangle.

There is no output on the printer — with the exception of the indication of possible input errors.

The cost of producing such a sextant grid plot is not much lower than that of the same plot by "hand methods". However there is a considerable gain of time which can be used for other more profitable activities.

Signed : Ir. G.E.J.S.L.
Voitus VAN HAMME

Editor's Note : With this letter was forwarded a copy of a plotting sheet drawn up on the above lines, but whose reproduction we have not considered indispensable.

IMPRIMERIE LOUIS-JEAN

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Dépôt légal 37 - 1970