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User's Manual for a Fuel-Conservative Descent
Planning Algorithm Implemented on a Small
Programmable Calculator

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SUMMARY

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has implemented an automated, time-based metering form of air traffic control with profile descent procedures for arrivals into the terminal area. These concepts provide fuel savings by matching the airplane-arrival flow to the airport acceptance rate through time-control computations and by allowing the pilot to descend at his discretion from cruise altitude to a designated metering fix in an idle-thrust, clean-configuration (landing gear up, flaps zero, and speed brakes retracted). Substantial fuel savings have resulted from these procedures, but air traffic control (ATC) workload is high since the radar controller maintains time management for each airplane through either speed control or path stretching with radar vectors. Pilot workload is also high since the pilot must plan for an idle-thrust descent to the metering fix using various rules of thumb.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has developed an airborne descent algorithm compatible with time-based metering procedures and profile descent procedures designed to improve the accuracy of delivering an airplane to a metering fix at a time designated by the ATC system. This algorithm provides open-loop guidance for an airplane to make an idle-thrust, clean-configured descent to arrive at the metering fix at a predetermined time, altitude, and airspeed. The algorithm may also be used for planning fuel-conservative descents when time is not a consideration.

The algorithm was programmed on a Hewlett Packard HP-41CV programmable calculator for use with a McDonnell Douglas DC-10 airplane. This report contains an explanation and examples of how the algorithm is used, as well as a detailed flow chart and listing of the algorithm.

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INTRODUCTION

In an effort to improve the efficiency of terminal area operations, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has implemented an automated time-based metering form of air traffic control with profile descent procedures. The time-based metering concept is based upon airplane arrivals crossing a metering fix (typically 30 to 40 n.mi. from the airport) at a specified altitude, airspeed, and time. The time metering derandomizes the arrivals at high altitudes prior to entering the terminal area resulting in a reduction of the low altitude, high fuel consumption flight normally used to sequence airplanes to a common final approach path. In addition, time-based metering allows the traffic to absorb delays at cruise altitudes or while on the ground prior to takeoff, resulting in even greater fuel savings. The proper sequencing and spacing of enroute traffic also allows for increased airport productivity (ref. 1 and 2). The profile descent procedure allows the pilot to plan and fly a descent which is fuel conservative for his particular airplane resulting in additional fuel savings.

With the current time-based metering/profile descent procedures, the air traffic controller is responsible for the time management of each aircraft. The controller can adjust the airplane's time of arrival at the metering fix by increasing the flight path length through heading changes or by requesting the pilot to change speed. The pilot is responsible for crossing the metering fix at the proper airspeed and altitude and must plan the descent carefully if fuel is to be conserved. The time management and the descent planning are both workload intensive and interdependent. Since limited or no guidance is available to either the controller or the pilot, their tasks must be accomplished independently through various rules of thumb and past experience. With this present operational concept, airplanes will typically cross the metering fix with a time accuracy between 1 and 2 minutes (ref. 3).

During the summer of 1979, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) developed and flight tested in its Transport Systems Research Vehicle (TSRV, previously designated the Terminal Configured Vehicle B-737 research airplane) a flight-management descent algorithm designed to provide closed-loop guidance for a fuel conservative descent and to reduce the metering fix crossing time dispersion. The descent computations for the flight management algorithm were based on an idle-thrust, clean-configured descent (landing gear up, flaps and spoilers retracted) to arrive at the metering fix at the proper altitude, airspeed, and ATC-designated time. The results of the flight tests showed that the closed-loop guidance provided by the guidance and display system could reduce the crossing time dispersion to approximately 12 seconds (ref. 4).

This research was continued in June of 1981 with a T-39A (Sabreliner) airplane to determine if similar results could be obtained with open-loop guidance and a conventional complement of cockpit instrumentation (ref. 5). A version of

the flight management descent algorithm was implemented on a small programmable calculator. Open-loop guidance was provided by the calculator in the form of, (1) the Mach number and airspeed at which the descent should be flown and, (2) the point at which the pilot was to reduce the thrust to flight idle and begin the descent. The descent was then flown with reference to the airplane Mach and airspeed indicators and by maintaining an altitude profile computed by the calculator as a function of distance to the metering fix. Flight tests using this open-loop guidance resulted in a time dispersion crossing the metering fix of approximately 20 seconds.

Having determined the viability of the open-loop descent guidance, additional research was conducted to evaluate the feasibility of using such a descent planning tool in an airline operational environment. This report contains an explanation and examples of how the descent calculator is used. A detailed flow chart and a listing of the algorithm are provided in Appendix A and B, respectively. A more detailed explanation of the algorithm and its development can be found in ref. 6.

The airplane performance model used in the algorithm is that of a McDonnell Douglas DC-10. The calculator in which the algorithm was programmed is a Hewlett-Packard HP-41CV. Use of company names or designations in this report does not constitute an official endorsement of such companies or products, either expressed or implied, by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

SYMBOLS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ATC	air traffic control
A_{gw}	coefficient for gross weight multiplication factor, lbs^{-1}
A_I	coefficient for constant IAS descent rate equation, ft/sec
A_M	coefficient for constant Mach descent rate equation, ft
B_{gw}	coefficient for gross weight multiplication factor
B_I	coefficient for constant IAS descent rate equation, knots^{-1}
B_M	coefficient for constant Mach descent rate equation, ft
CRS	Magnetic course, deg
C_I	coefficient for constant IAS descent rate equation, sec^{-1}
C_M	coefficient for constant Mach descent rate equation, sec^2/ft
c_1	constant in the model for \dot{h}_{M_d} , ft
DME	distance measuring equipment
D_w	magnetic wind direction, deg
$D_{w,h}$	magnetic wind direction evaluated at altitude h , deg
$D_{w,s}$	magnetic wind direction computed for sea-level altitude, deg
$\frac{dD_w}{dh}$	wind direction gradient with respect to altitude, deg/ft
$\frac{dS_w}{dh}$	wind speed gradient with respect to altitude, knots/ft
EF_{DME}	DME reading at the entry fix, n.mi.
GW	gross weight, lb

GSc	ground speed at cruise altitude, knots
GS ₅	average ground speed on segment 5, knots
H	pressure altitude, ft
H _{avg}	average pressure altitude, ft
H _{bod}	pressure altitude at bottom of descent, ft
H _c	pressure altitude at cruise, ft
H _{MF}	pressure altitude of the metering fix, ft
H _{XO}	pressure altitude at transition from constant-Mach descent to constant-airspeed descent, ft
h	geopotential altitude, ft
h _c	geopotential cruise altitude, ft
h _{MF}	geopotential metering-fix altitude, ft
h _{XO}	geopotential altitude at transition from constant-Mach descent to constant-airspeed descent, ft
h _g	rate of change of geopotential altitude due to wind gradient, ft/sec
IAS	indicated airspeed, knots
IAS _d	indicated airspeed used during descent, knots
IAS _{d,initial}	initial descent indicated airspeed for speed iteration computations, knots
IAS _{d,i}	descent indicated airspeed computed on ith iteration, knots
IAS _{d,max}	maximum operational descent indicated airspeed, knots
IAS _{d,min}	minimum operational descent indicated airspeed, knots
IAS _{MF}	indicated airspeed to cross metering fix, knots
IDL _{DME}	DME indication of the point where thrust should be reduced to flight idle, n.mi.

K	interpolation factor computed for speed iteration purposes
K_{gw}	gross-weight multiplication factor for altitude rate
K_g	coefficient in the rate of change of altitude due to wind gradient equation, ft/sec/knot/ft
$K_{h,XO}^*$	substitution variable in DME H routine
$K_{h,250}^*$	substitution variable in segment 2 computation
M	Mach number
M/IAS	Mach number and indicated airspeed
MF _{DME}	DME indication of the metering fix, n.mi.
MSL	mean sea level
M_c	cruise Mach number
M_d	descent Mach number
N	number of wind data points
N_{reg}	storage register number
N_{seg}	segment number
N_{sub}	subroutine number
OAT	outside air temperature, °C
S_w	wind speed, knots
$S_{w,s}$	wind speed computed for sea-level altitude, knots
TAS	true airspeed, knots
TAS _{avg}	average true airspeed, knots
TAS _f	final true airspeed of level flight segment, knots
TAS _i	initial true airspeed of level flight segment, knots
TRK	airplane magnetic track angle along ground, deg

TSRV	Transport Systems Research Vehicle
T_o	standard sea-level air temperature, $^{\circ}\text{K}$
T'_o	nonstandard sea-level air temperature, $^{\circ}\text{K}$
$T_{st,h}$	static air temperature at altitude h , $^{\circ}\text{K}$
T_{trop}	static air temperature at tropopause, $^{\circ}\text{K}$
t_E	time error for descent-speed convergence criteria, sec
$t_{E,initial}$	initial time error, sec
t_{EF}	time that entry fix was crossed, hr:min:sec
t_{IDL}	crossing time of point where the throttles are reduced to flight idle, hr:min:sec
t_{MF}	metering fix crossing time, hr:min:sec
VAR	magnetic variation, deg
VORTAC	very high frequency omnirange navigation radio
V_f	final speed of level flight segment, knots
V_i	initial speed of level flight segment, knots
W_c	difference between actual and computed ground speeds at cruise altitude, knots
$W_{H,c}$	head-wind component along airplane ground track in cruise, knots
$W_{H,h}$	head-wind component along airplane ground track evaluated at altitude h , knots
X	distance variable in DME H routine, n.mi.
X_{DME}	input DME reading used in the DME H routine, n.mi.
\ddot{x}	acceleration, knots/sec
Y_1, Y_2, Y_3	substitution variables used in DME H routine
Δl	distance increment, n.mi.

Δl_j	length of path segment j, n.mi.
Δt	time increment, sec
$\Delta t_{\text{initial}}$	time required to fly initial descent profile, sec
Δt_j	time required to fly on path segment j, sec
Δt_{req}	time required to fly between entry fix and metering fix, sec

DESCRIPTION OF GENERAL PROFILE

The flight management descent algorithm computes the parameters required to describe a seven-segment cruise and descent profile (fig. 1) between an arbitrarily located entry fix and an ATC-defined metering fix. The descent profile is computed based on empirical modeling of airplane performance for an idle-thrust, clean-configured descent. The descent Mach/airspeed schedule, airplane gross weight, wind, wind gradient, and nonstandard-temperature effects are also considered in these calculations.

Figure 1 shows the vertical-plane geometry of the path between the entry fix and the metering fix. Each path segment, starting at the metering fix, is numbered according to the order in which it is calculated by the algorithm. To be compatible with standard airline operating practices, the path is calculated based upon the descent being flown at a constant Mach number with transition to a constant indicated airspeed and all speed reductions made in level flight.

The first segment traversed on the profile is segment 7 which begins at the entry fix and is flown at constant cruise altitude and Mach number. Segment 6 is a relatively short, level-flight path segment in which the pilot transitions from the cruise Mach number to the descent Mach number. Segment 6 is eliminated if the descent and cruise Mach numbers are the same. Once the descent Mach number is attained, the constant Mach descent segment (segment 5) is started. As altitude is decreased along this path segment, the indicated airspeed will increase because of increasing air pressure. Segment 4 begins when the desired indicated airspeed is attained for descent. The descent is continued along this segment at the desired, constant indicated airspeed. When the metering fix altitude has been reached, the airplane is flown at a constant altitude along segment 3 and slowed from the descent airspeed to the designated airspeed over the metering fix.

If the metering-fix altitude is below 10 000 ft MSL and the descent airspeed is greater than 250 knots, segments 1 and 2 are computed for the pilot to comply with the ATC-imposed airspeed limit of 250 knots, or less, below 10 000 ft MSL. Segment 3 then becomes a level-flight segment at 10 000 ft MSL where the airspeed is reduced to 250 knots. The descent is then continued at 250 knots along segment 2. When the metering-fix altitude has been reached, the airplane is flown at a constant altitude along segment 1 and slowed from the descent airspeed to the designated airspeed over the metering fix. This path segment is eliminated if the descent and metering-fix airspeeds are the same.

DESCENT ALGORITHM OPERATING MODES

The flight management descent algorithm can be used in either of two modes. In the first mode the pilot can enter the desired M/IAS to be flown during descent. The descent profile is then computed based on this descent speed

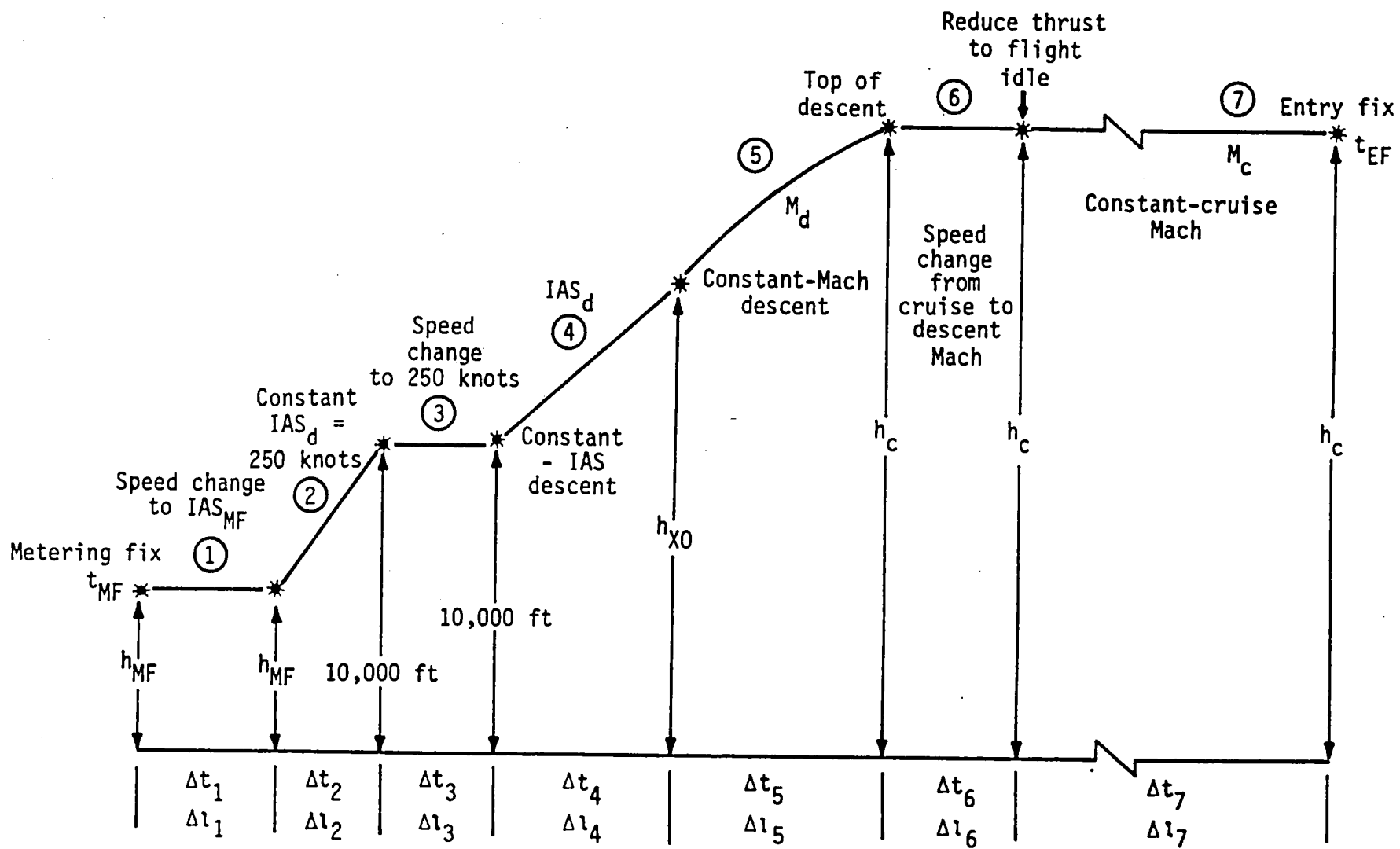


Figure 1. - Vertical plane geometry of computed descent path.

schedule without consideration of a constraint on metering-fix arrival time. This mode would be used when time-based metering is not being used.

The second mode was designed for time-metered operations. In this mode, instead of specifying the M/IAS descent schedule, the pilot enters the time that the entry fix was crossed and the metering-fix arrival time assigned by ATC. The descent profile is then calculated based on a M/IAS descent schedule, computed through an iterative process, that will closely satisfy the crossing time specified for the metering fix. The magnitude of the Mach number programmed for the descent is the same as that used for the cruise segment.

In the time-metered mode, a check is made within the profile computations to insure that the descent airspeed IAS_d is within the minimum and maximum speed limits for the particular airplane modeled. For the DC-10 airplane, these limits were

$$220 \leq IAS_d \leq 350 \quad [\text{knots}]$$

There was an additional constraint that IAS_d would not be less than the airspeed at which the airplane was to cross the metering fix. This constraint eliminates the need for extra fuel to be used to accelerate the airplane to a higher airspeed. If the ATC-assigned metering-fix crossing time requires a descent airspeed less than the airplane's minimum descent airspeed limit, the profile is computed based on the minimum airspeed limit and a message is displayed to the pilot to "hold" (delay) for an appropriate amount of time. A similar "late" message is displayed with the time error if a descent airspeed schedule greater than the maximum allowed is required.

PROGRAM KEYS

The descent calculator is shown in figure 2. The program keys are color coded in accordance with their function. The white keys are data input keys, the blue keys are output keys, the gray keys define the algorithm operating mode, the gold key is for multi-function operations, the orange key is for entering new data, and the green key is for computing a new profile. A description of the program keys follows:

<u>Key</u>	<u>Description</u>
Profile *Wind	This green key is one of two multi-function keys. The first function of this key is to initiate the computation of the descent profile. This is accomplished by simply pushing the key. The other function of this key is the derivation of the wind model. This is accomplished by first pushing the gold (*) key and then this key (further description of the wind model derivation is discussed on page 15)
Mc/Hc *GSc	This white key is the other multi-function key. The first function of this key is to display and/or input the cruise Mach number and cruise altitude (ft). The other function of this key is to compute and/or input the ground speed (kts) at cruise. The ground speed function is initiated by first pushing the gold (*) key and then this key (further discussion of the ground speed computation is discussed on page 23)
Md/IASd	This gray key is used to display and/or input the Mach and indicated airspeed (kts) to be used during the descent. If a specific descent Mach/IAS is desired, the intended values must be entered here. If a metering fix arrival time is specified, the resultant descent Mach/IAS is computed and may be displayed by pushing this key.
Time MF/EF	This gray key is used to display and/or input the assigned metering fix arrival time (hr. min. sec) and the actual or estimated entry fix arrival time (hr. min. sec.). If a descent Mach/CAS has been specified, the resultant metering fix arrival time may be displayed by pushing this key.
GW/OAT	This white key is used to display and/or input the aircraft gross weight (lbs) at the top of the descent and the outside air temperature ($^{\circ}$ F) at cruise altitude.
Metering Fix	This white key is used to display and/or input the metering fix altitude (ft), calibrated airspeed (kts) to be obtained at the metering fix, and the DME indication (n. mi.) that defines the metering fix.

Entry
Fix

This white key is used to display and/or input the DME indication (n.mi.) that defines the entry fix, the magnetic course (deg) from entry fix to metering fix and the magnetic variation.

DME
H

This is one of three keys (the blue keys) used to display information about a descent profile after it has been computed. This one is used to display the altitude (ft) on the descent profile corresponding to any selected DME indication.

Early
Late

This blue key is used to display the time error (hr. min. sec.) which the pilot will arrive at the metering fix if the assigned arrival time requires that the airplane be flown at speeds less than the minimum operational speed or faster than the maximum operational speed. A "HOLD" message and time error will be displayed to indicate the amount of required delay. A "LATE" message and time error will be displayed to indicate the arrival time error resulting when the airplane is flown at its maximum operational speeds.

Idle DME

This blue key is used to display the DME indication (n. mi.) where the thrust should be reduced to idle to begin the speed reduction for descent. This key is also used to display the estimated time at which the idle DME indication will be achieved.

*

This is the gold key used to initiate the second function of the multi-function keys.

Negative

This white key is used to change the sign of an input variable.

Erase

This white key is used to delete the last input key stroke.

New Entry

This orange key is used to store the edited value of input data.

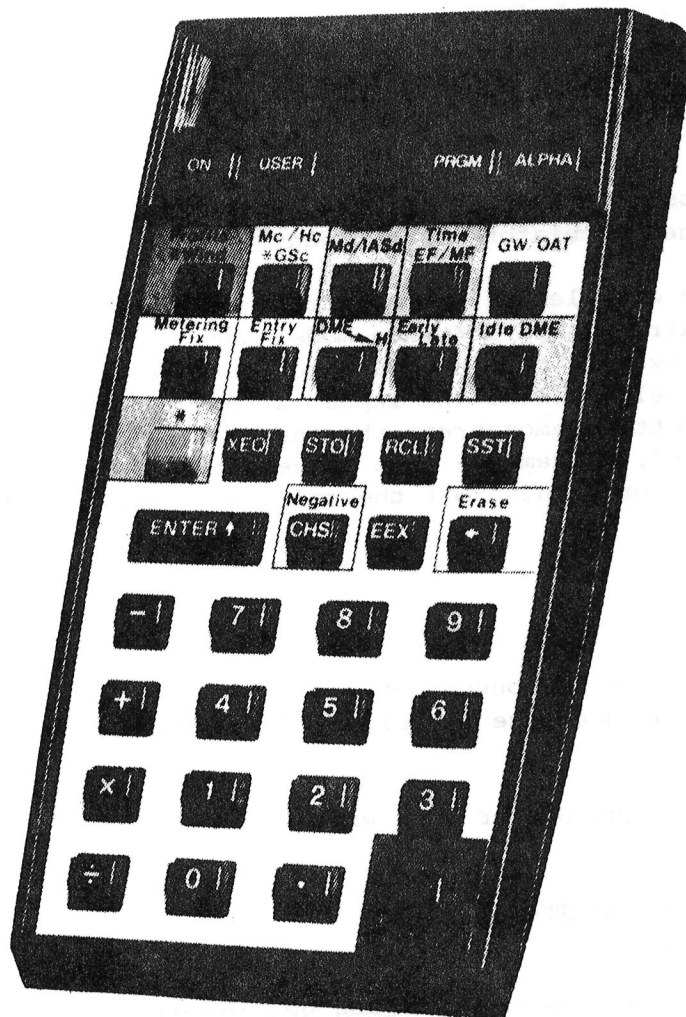


Figure 2.- Programmable Descent Calculator.

EXAMPLE CALCULATIONS

To begin, turn the calculator on. (It is assumed that the profile descent program has been loaded into the calculator. If this is not the case, do this now.) Check the display to see if the USER annunciator is on.

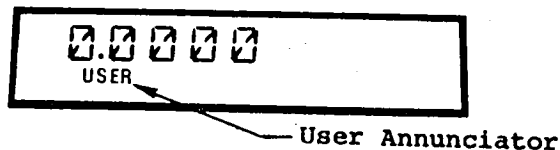


Figure 3.- Calculator display.

If it is not, press the USER Key. This activates all the programmed special function keys. The calculator is now ready for use.

The following examples will demonstrate the use of the Profile Descent Calculator. The aircraft performance model used in these examples is for a DC 10-10 airplane. However, the input and computation procedures are independent of the aircraft model. All of the input parameters have been initialized to zero in order to better demonstrate the input procedure. Once an input parameter is changed, it remains that value until a new value is input. Running the program or turning off the calculator has no effect on these values.

Wind Model

The wind model can be conveniently generated during the preflight planning. This helps decrease the pilot/calculator interaction during the flight.

Given the following Denver area wind forecast:

FD1 WESTERN UNITED STATES 291640
DATA BASED ON 291200Z

VALID 291800Z FOR USE 1700-2100Z TEMPS NEG ABV 24000

FT 3000	6000	9000	12000	18000	24000	30000	34000	39000
DEN	2814+08	2822+01	2631-14	2538-26	254642	245052	244961	

The first wind data point in this forecast is for 9000 ft and is presented as 2814+08. This indicates that the wind is 280° at 14 knots and the temperature is 8°C.

There is no way to review or edit the wind data once it has been entered. Therefore, some care should be exercised in this operation. The wind information is inserted by the pilot as follows:

<u>Keystrokes</u>	<u>Display</u>	
* Profile *Wind	H = ? FT	This initiates the wind model program and queries for the first wind data point altitude
9000 New Entry	DIR.SPD ?	Asks for corresponding direction (deg) and speed (knots)
280.014 New Entry	H = ? FT	Queries for next data point. A minimum of two data points is required.
Note: The wind speed of 14 knots was input as .014 not .14 which would indicate 140 knots.		
12000 New Entry	DIR.SPD ?	If you hit the wrong key, use the Erase key to correct
282.	282.	Oops!
Erase Erase	28	Erases last two key strokes. Input correct values
0.022 New Entry	H = ? FT	This data entry cycle continues until all of the wind data points have been entered.
	.	
	.	
	.	
	.	
39000 New Entry	DIR.SPD ?	
240.049 New Entry	H = ? FT	

1

Negative

New Entry

WIND IN

After the last wind data point has been entered, enter a negative altitude. This initiates the linear curve fit routine. When WIND IN is displayed, the wind model computation is finished

Time Mode Computation

As mentioned earlier, the profile descent can be flown in one of two modes. The first mode being that in which the metering fix arrival time is specified (Time Mode). When this is the case, the corresponding descent Mach/IAS schedule and the idle throttle DME reading are computed. The second mode is when the descent Mach/IAS is specified (Mach/IAS Mode). In this case, the idle throttle DME reading and the metering fix arrival time are computed.

The following is an example of a Time Mode computation. Suppose the aircraft is approaching Denver's Stapleton Airport from the northeast:

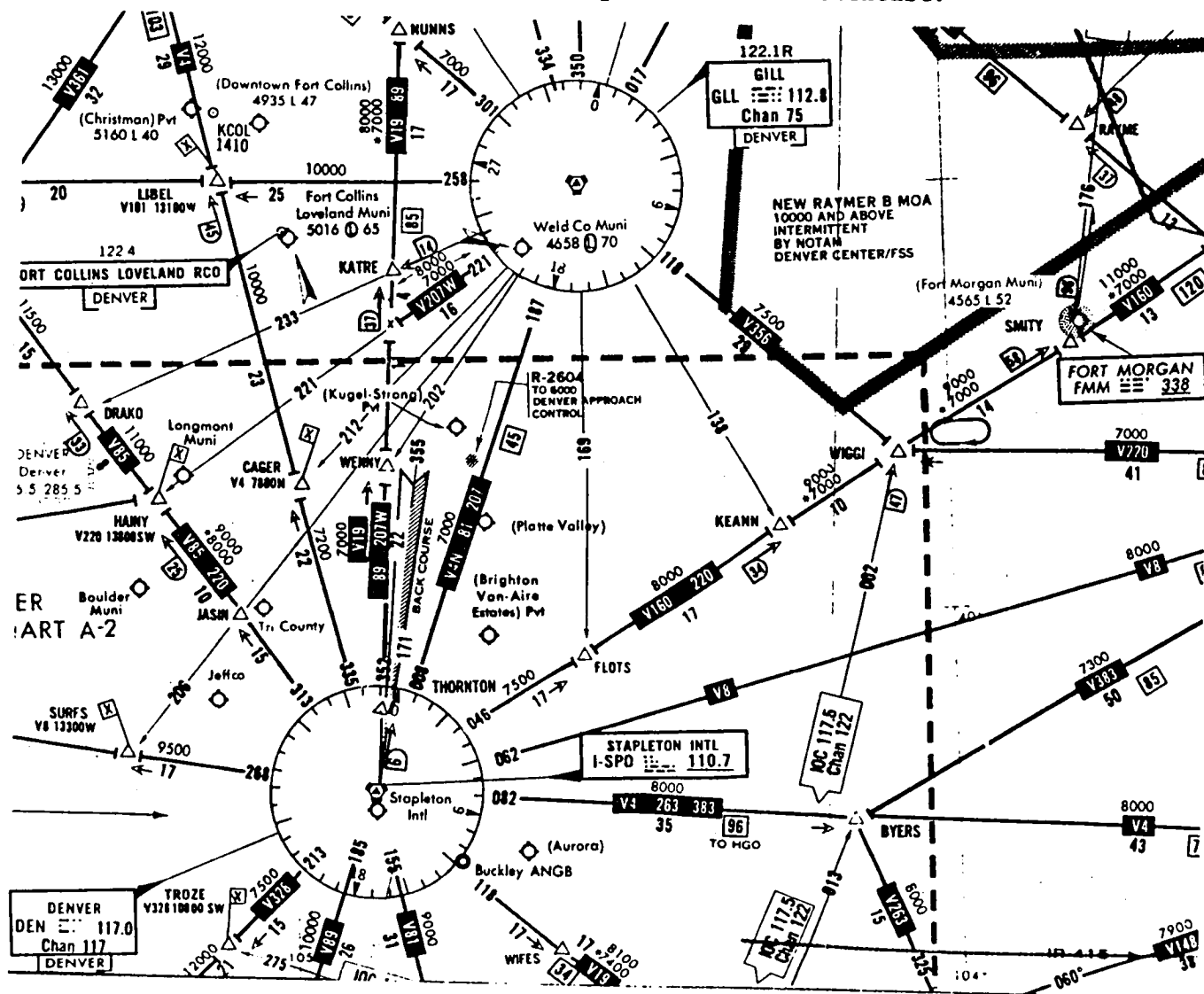


Figure 4.- Enroute low altitude chart of Denver area.

The airplane is cruising at 39000 ft, Mach 0.840; outside air temperature is -59 C^o; gross weight is 320000 lbs. Suppose the airplane crosses the point of the 120 n. mi. DME reading along the 046 radial at 19:57:08 GMT. The approach requires the airplane to cross KEANN at 17000 ft and 250 knots. Denver Center assigns the airplane a crossing time at KEANN of 20:11:00. We will assume that the wind data input earlier is current.

The calculator inputs for this problem are as follows:

Note: The order in which the data is entered makes no difference. However, for simplicity and ease of understanding, the examples will progress from left to right across the keyboard.

Beginning with the cruise Mach and altitude inputs.

<u>Keystrokes</u>	<u>Display</u>	
Mc/Hc *GSc	Mc 0.000	Displays the value currently in storage
.84 New Entry	Hc 0.	
39000 New Entry	OK	This concludes the data entry for this key

The descent Mach/IAS schedule will be computed since this is a time mode computation, so no input is required for the Md/IASd key. The next input would therefore be the entry fix time and metering fix arrival time.

Time MF/EF	MF TM 0.0000	The times are stored in terms of hr. min. sec. Therefore, 20:11:00 is input as 20.1100
20.11 New Entry	EF TM 0.0000	
19.5708 New Entry	DEL TM 832.0	After the entry fix time is entered, the calculator displays the time difference in seconds

The next inputs will be the gross weight and outside air temperature:

GW/OAT		GW 0.
320000	New Entry	OAT C 0.0
59	Negative New Entry	OK

Progressing to the metering fix inputs of crossing altitude, airspeed, and DME indication:

Metering Fix		H MF 0.
17000	New Entry	IAS MF 0.
250	New Entry	MF DME 0.0
34	New Entry	OK

The last inputs will be entry fix DME reading, the magnetic course from the entry fix to the metering fix, and the magnetic variation (East is negative; i.e. $3^{\circ}\text{E} = -3$):

Entry Fix		EF DME 0.0
120	New Entry	MAGCRS 0.
226	New Entry	MAGVAR 0.
12	Negative New Entry	OK

All the data necessary for a time mode computation has now been entered. To initiate the computation, push the green **Profile** key, and in about one minute the idle throttle DME reading will be displayed.

Profile * Wind	IDL DME 94.2	The calculator displays the resultant idle throttle DME reading
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Pushing the **Md/IASd** key will display the resultant descent Mach/indicated airspeed schedule.

Md/IASd	Md 0.840	Displays descent Mach number.
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Md/IASd	IASd 263.	Displays descent indicated airspeed.
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If one wishes to go back and review the idle DME reading, simply push the

Idle DME key:

Idle DME	IDL DME 94.2
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A second push of the **Idle DME** key will display the estimated time at which the idle DME point will occur.

Idle DME	IDL TM 20.0047	The idle time message is in hr. min. sec. In this case the idle DME point should occur at 20:00:47 GMT
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If one wishes to review any of the input data, simply push the corresponding key. For example, if you want to review the metering fix

indicated airspeed, push the **Metering Fix** key:

Metering Fix	H MF 17,000.	Metering fix altitude
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Metering Fix	IAS MF 250.	Metering fix indicated airspeed
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Suppose a metering fix arrival time is specified which is impossible to meet. In such a case, the calculator will display the resultant time error. From the previous example, set the metering fix arrival time to 20:15:00 instead of 20:11:00. This will result in a time error situation.

Time MF/EF	MF TM 20.1100
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20.15	New Entry	EF TM 19.5708
-------	------------------	---------------

Now recompute the descent profile:

Profile
*Wind

HOLD 0.0326

The time error message is in hr. min. sec. In this case, the error message indicates a early arrival by 3 min. and 26 sec.

Pushing the **Md/IASd** key will display the slowest possible idle descent Mach/IAS schedule:

Md/IASd

Md 0.840

Md/IASd

IASd 250.

Note: The descent Mach is equal to cruise Mach for the time-mode operation and the descent indicated airspeed is limited by the metering fix crossing speed.

Similar results are obtained for metering fix arrival times which require descents which are faster than possible. In this case, a "LATE" rather than a "HOLD" message would be displayed. If one wishes to review the time error,

push the **Early** key:
Late

Early
Late

HOLD 0.0326

There is one other key which can be used to display the results of a computed descent profile. If one wishes to know the altitude at which the aircraft should be for a specific DME reading, simply key in the DME reading

and push the **DME** key. For example, if you want to know the altitude

DME
→ **H**

corresponding to a DME indication of 60.0 n. mi. for the descent profile just computed, do the following:

60

DME
→ **H**

H = 26,404.

This feature allows the pilot to compute a series of check points along the profile.

Mach/IAS Mode Computation

The Mach/IAS mode is automatically activated by manually inputting the desired descent speed schedule. Suppose the aircraft is in the same situation as presented earlier. This time, assign a 0.83/280 kt. descent Mach/IAS schedule:

Md/IASd		Md 0.840
.83	New Entry	IASd 250.
280	New Entry	OK

Note the small zero flag annunciator next to the USER annunciator on the lower section of the display. When the zero flag annunciator is on, the calculator is in the Mach/IAS mode. When the zero flag is off, the calculator is in the time mode. To turn the zero flag off, one need only to assign a metering fix arrival time.

To compute the new profile, push the **Profile** key:

Profile	IDL DME 91.8
*Wind	

To display the metering fix arrival time, push the **Time** key:
EF/MF

Time	MF TM 20.1026	Arrival time is
EF/MF		20:10:26 GMT

Special Situations

Occasionally, the situation will arise where the forecasted winds are in error. This can be compensated for in the calculator through the ***GSc** key.

This key is used to compute the ground speed at cruise based on the previously derived wind model. If this speed differs from the actual ground speed at cruise, the actual speed can be entered, and the wind model will be corrected accordingly. The head wind correction term, which is added to the wind model, diminishes to zero at sea level.

Suppose, from the previous example, the ground speed was observed to be 430 knots:

* Mc/Hc
*GSc

GSc 425.

The computed ground speed at cruise is 425 knots.

430 New Entry

OK

The wind model is now corrected.

To check.

* Mc/Hc
*GSc

GSc 430.

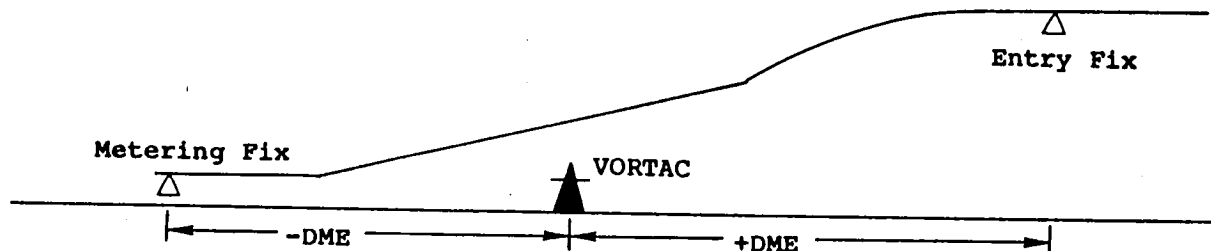
Computing a new profile based on the updated wind model.

Profile
*Wind

IDL DME 92.6

Need to start the descent 0.8 n.mi. sooner due to the 5 knot wind difference.

Another situation which may arise from time to time is having a metering fix which is located past the VORTAC being used for the DME readings. If this situation occurs, simply input the MF DME as a negative number.



The descent profile that the calculator computes is based on maintaining a constant heading from entry fix to metering fix. If a heading change is required in the descent, the winds used to compute the descent will be in error. To compensate for this, the average course or the course which is flown the longest should be used.

One other situation which may develop is if the distance between the metering fix and the entry fix is too short to accomplish the desired descent. If this is the case, a message will be displayed indicating that the entry fix distance is less than the required distance.

Example: Change the entry fix DME reading to 90 n.mi.

Entry
Fix

EF DME 120.0

90 New Entry

MAGCRS 226.

Profile
*Wind

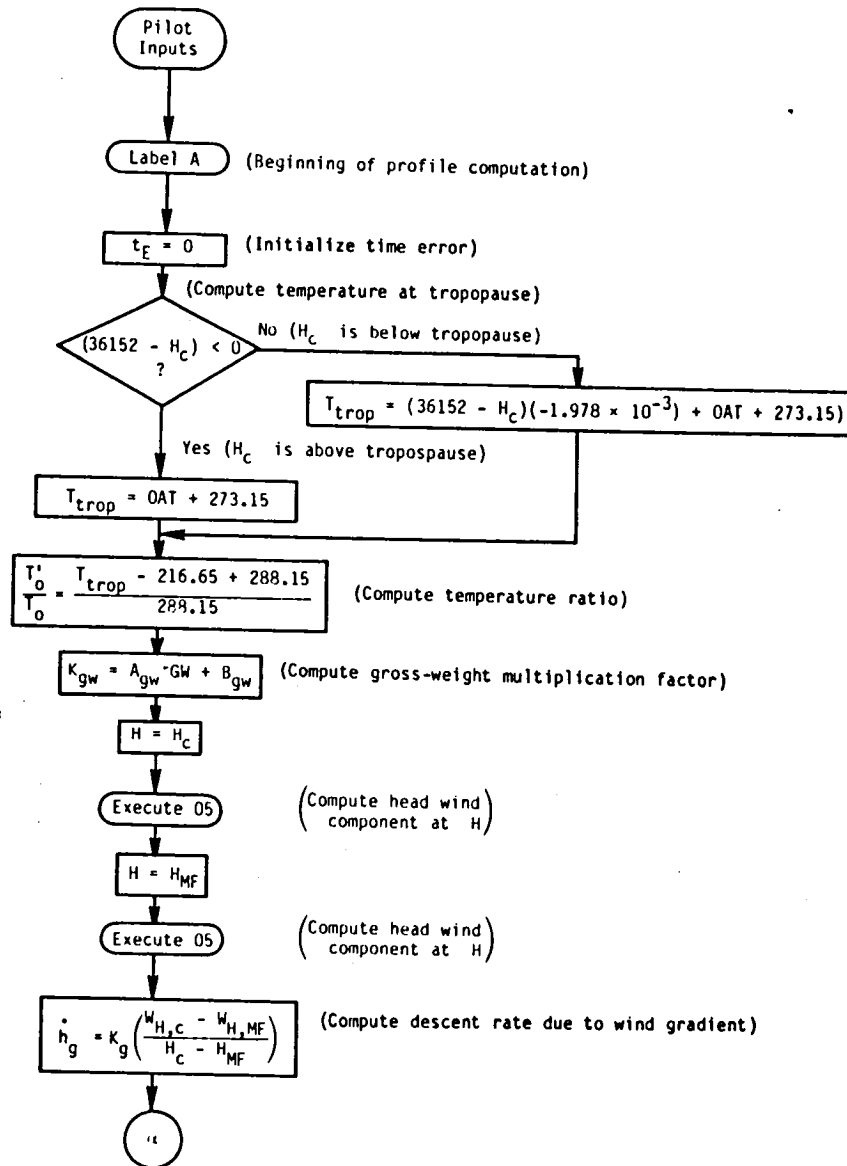
EF < 92.6

An entry fix DME
indication of 92.6
n.mi. is the minimum
required to achieve
the desired descent.

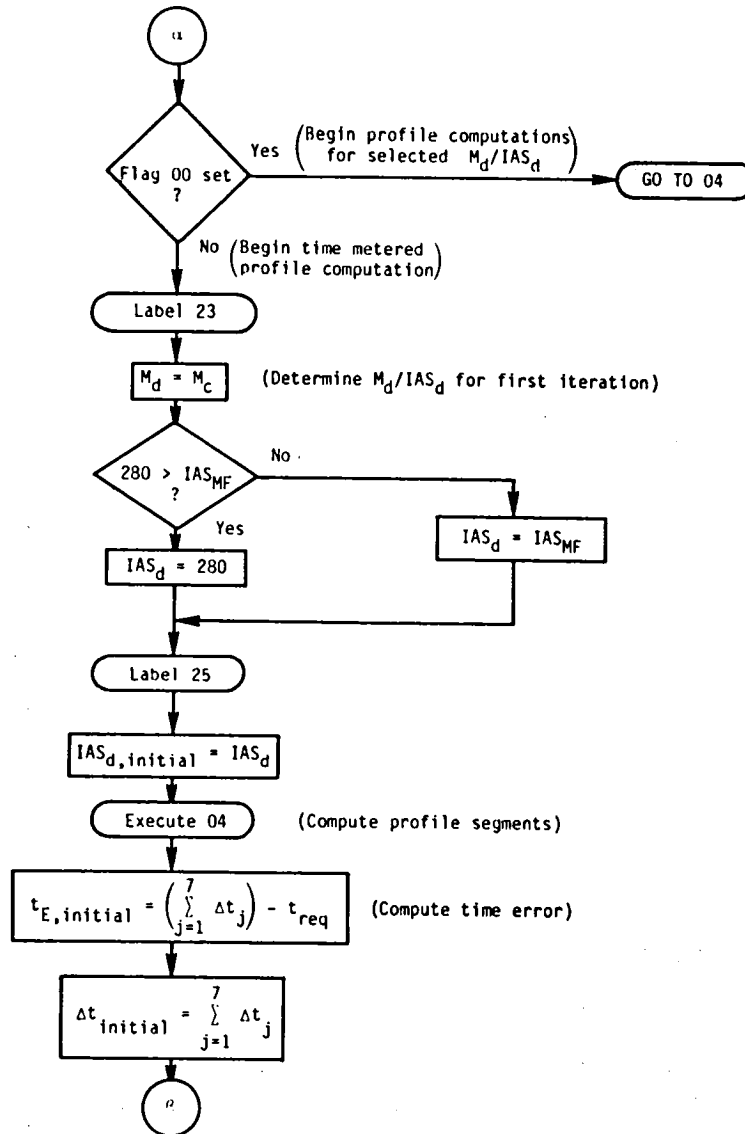
If the calculator is in the time mode and this situation arises, the message will not be displayed. The calculator just tries to satisfy the time criteria. If the required distance is too long it will become obvious when the idle DME reading is displayed.

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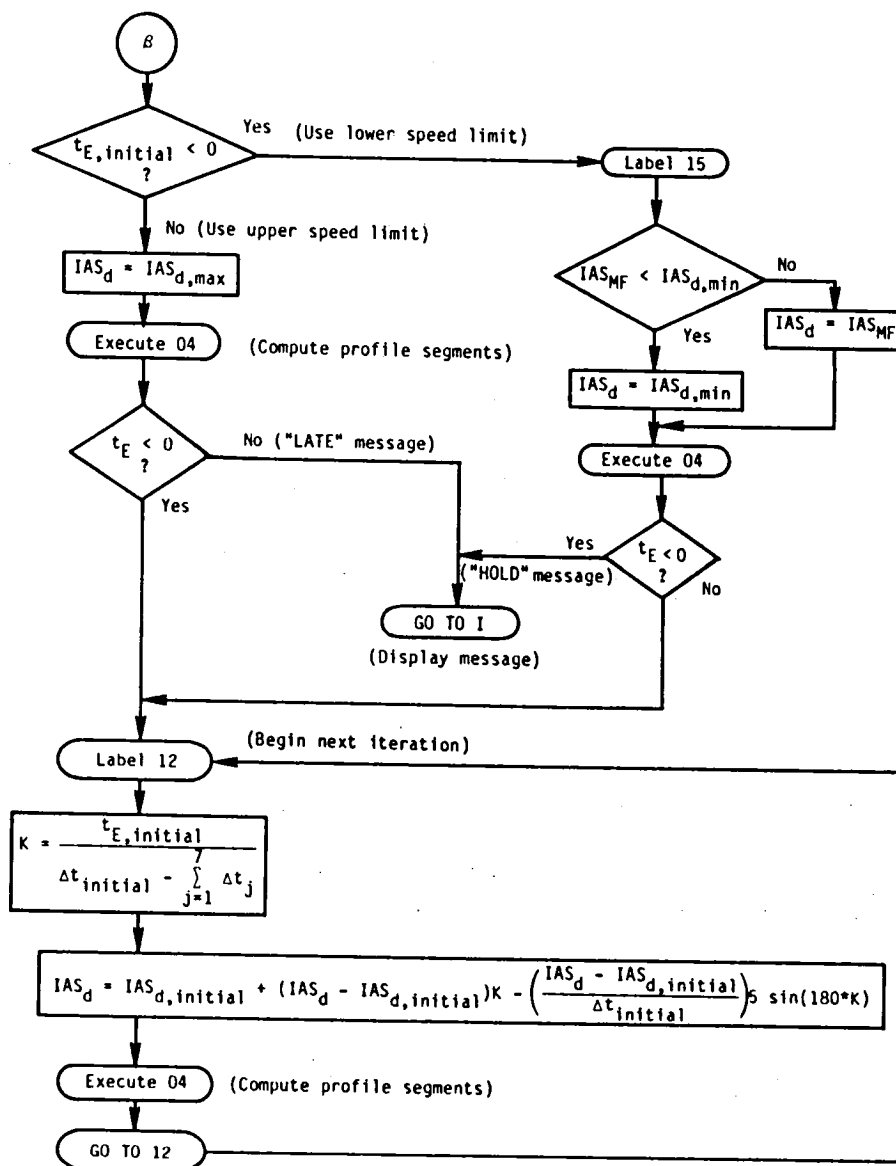
Program Flow Chart



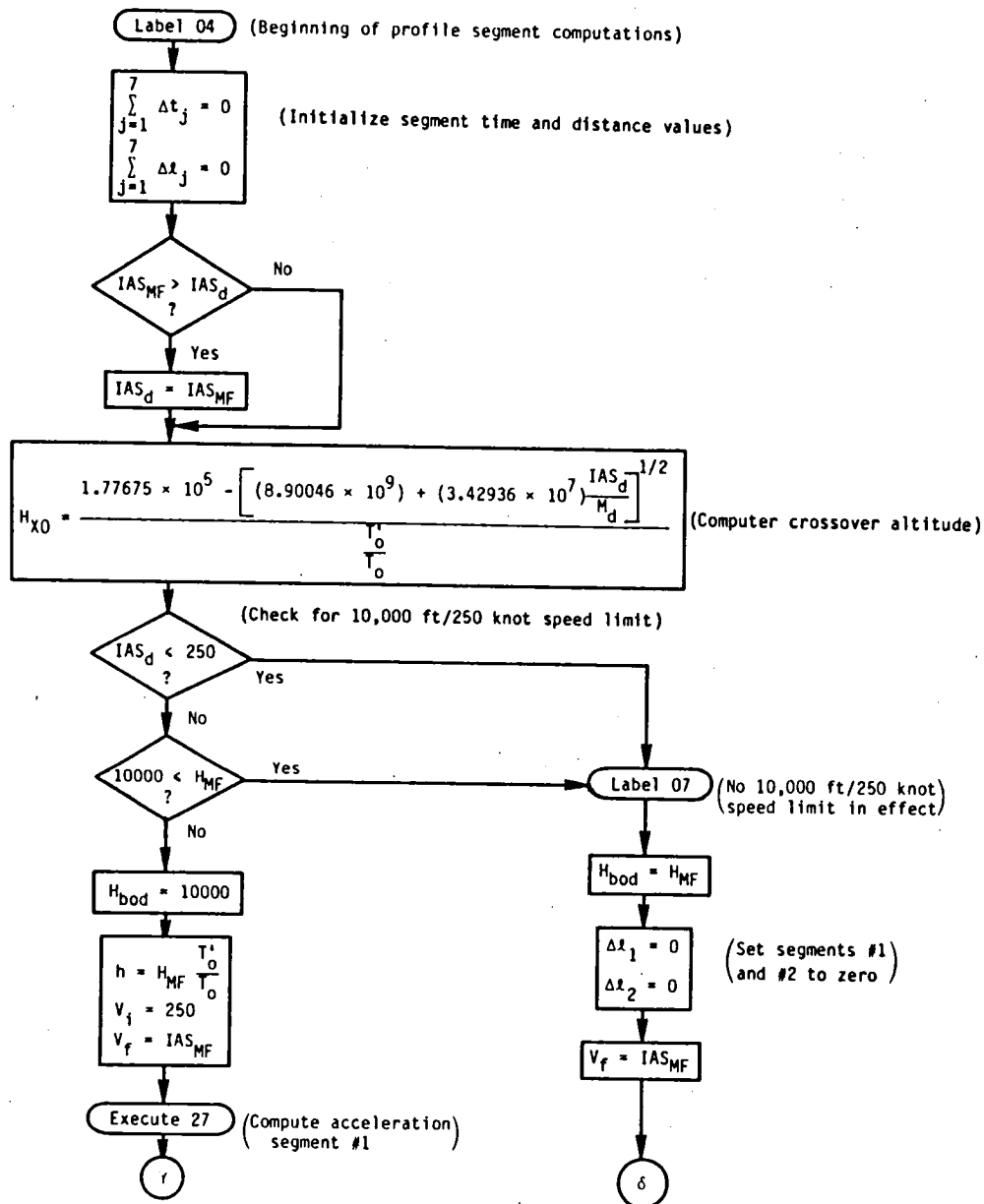
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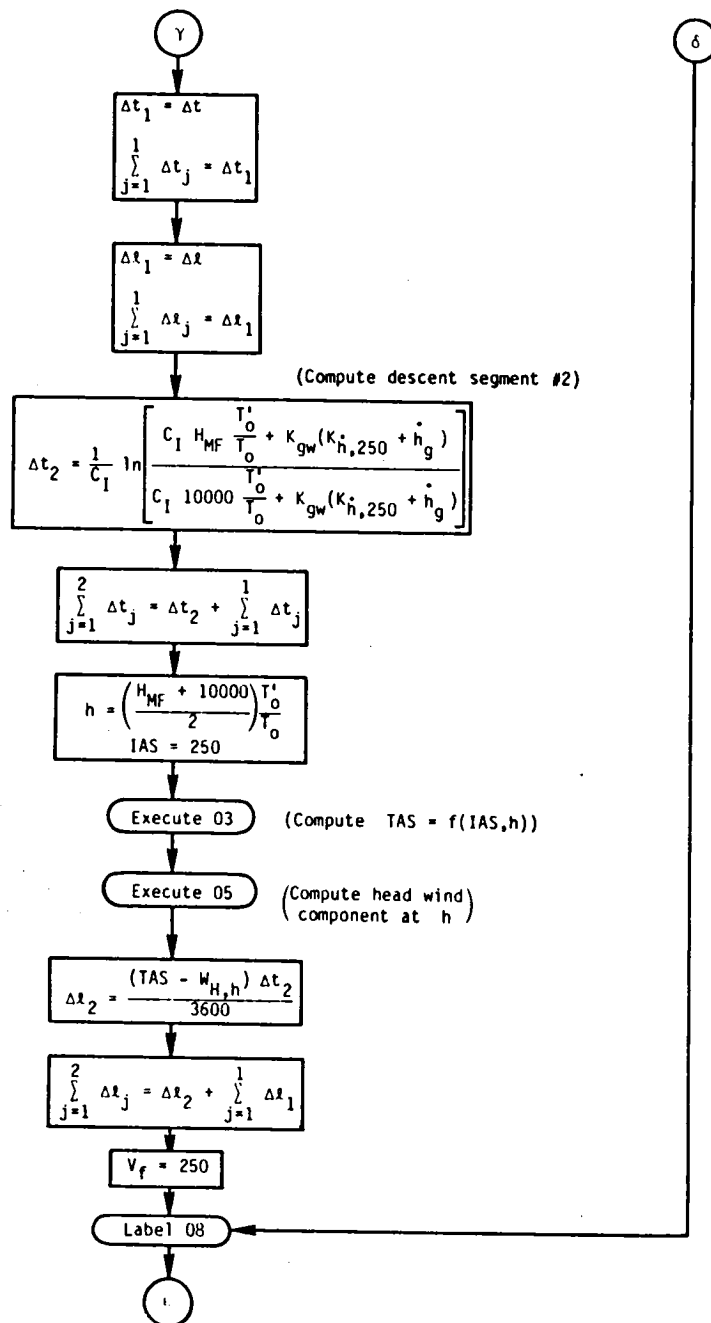
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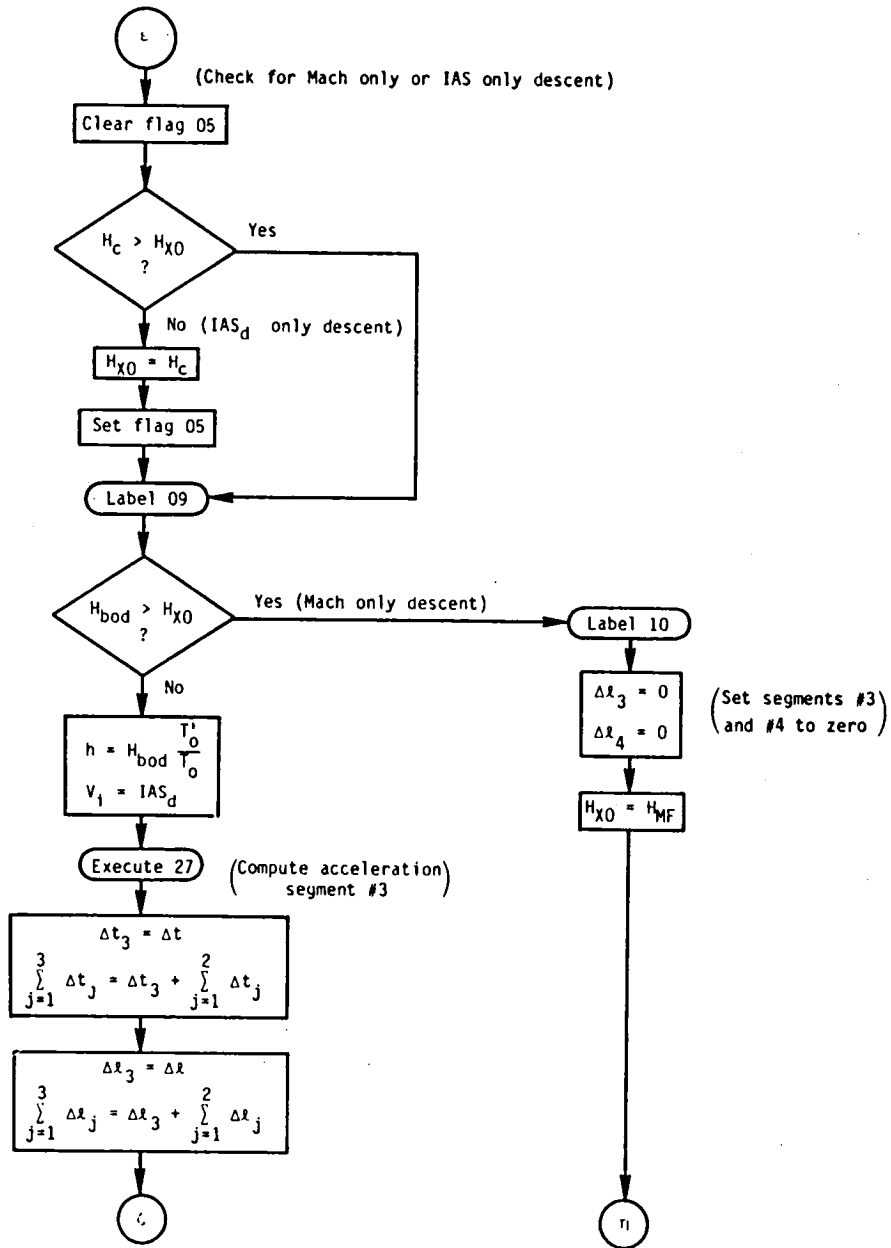
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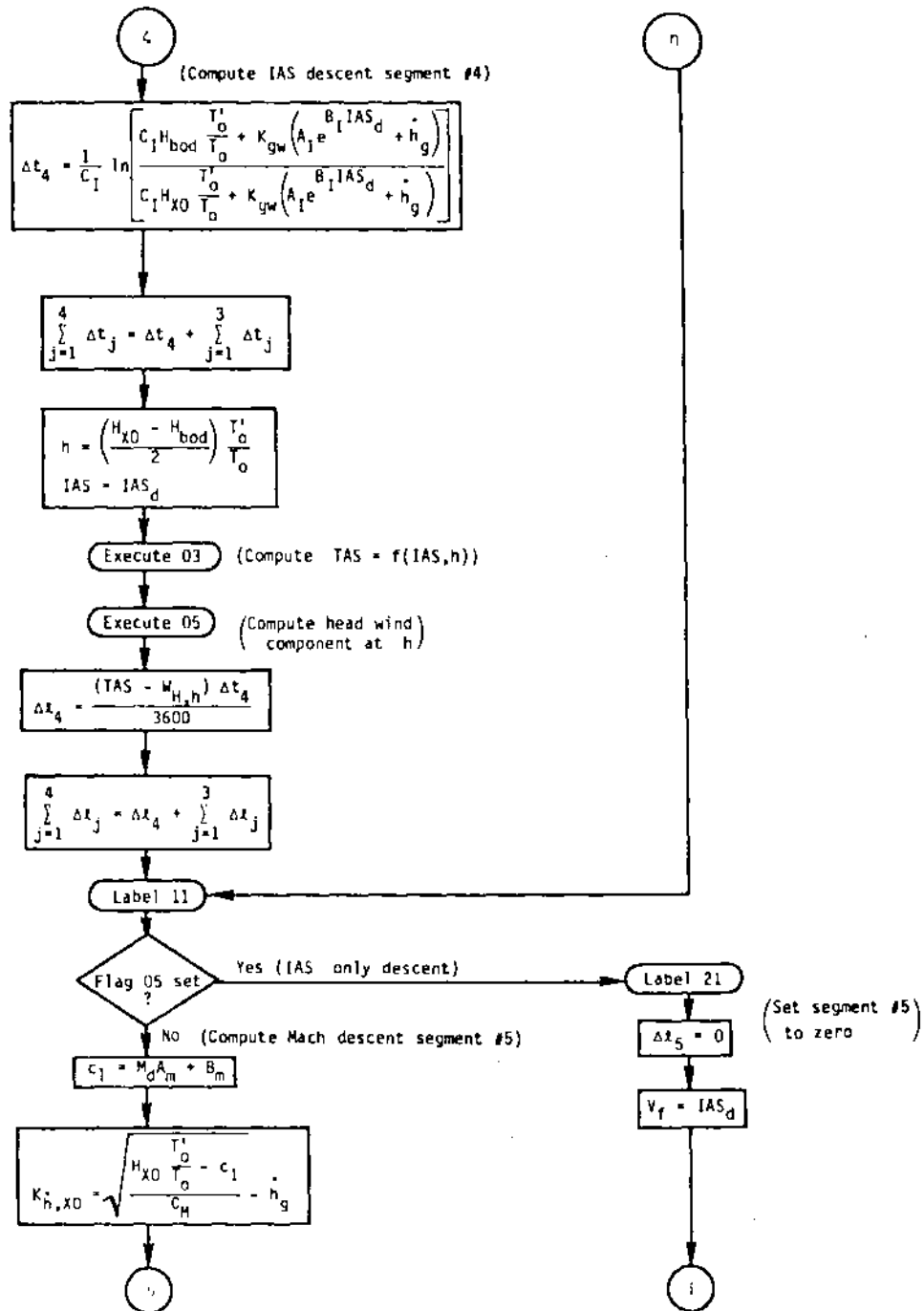
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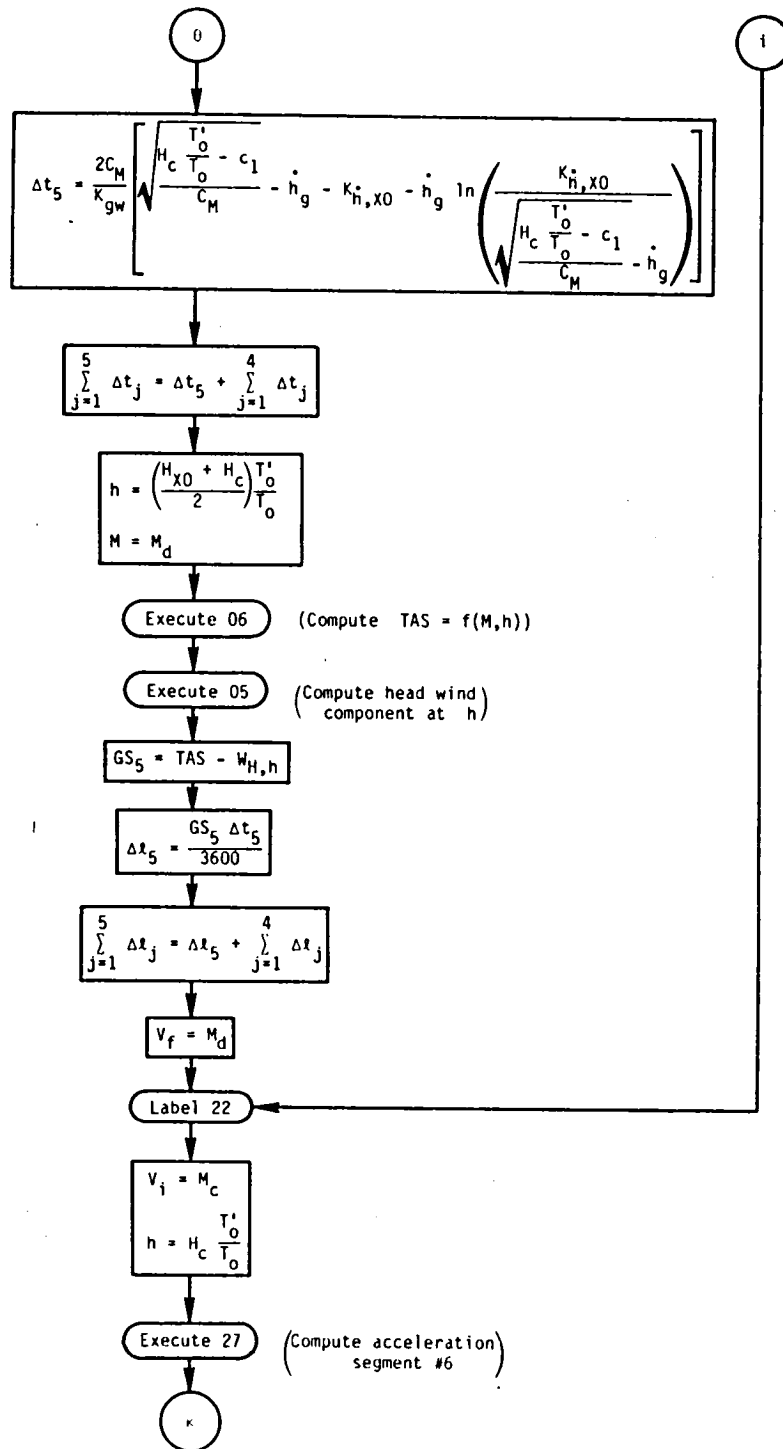
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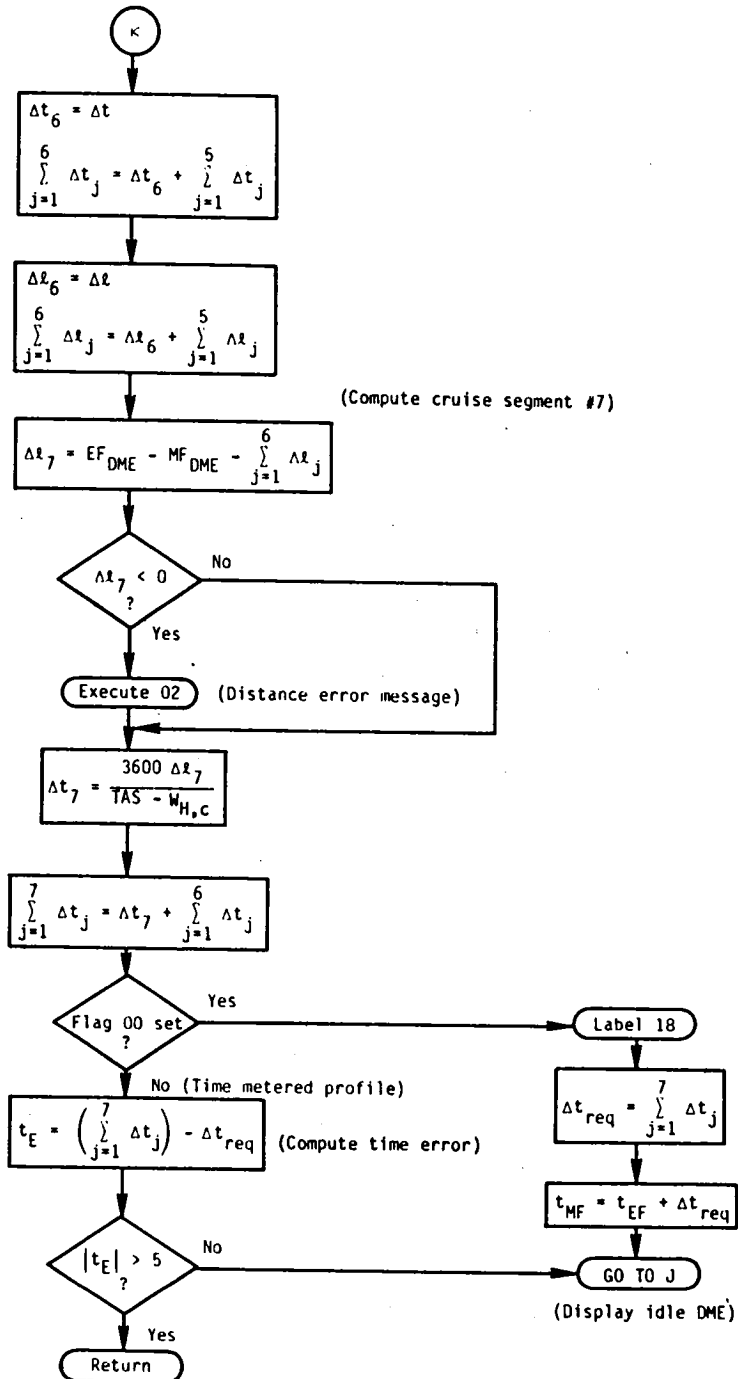
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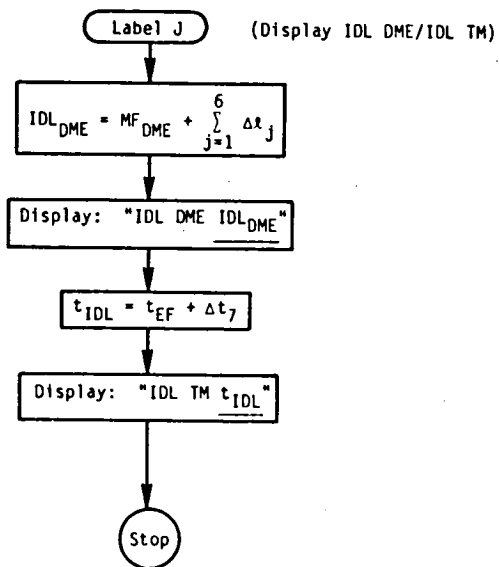
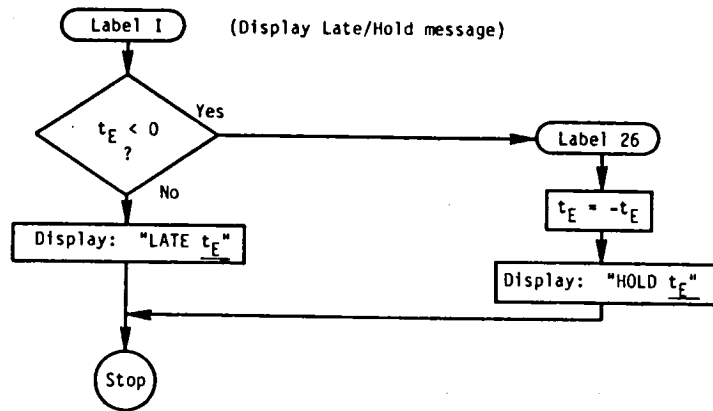
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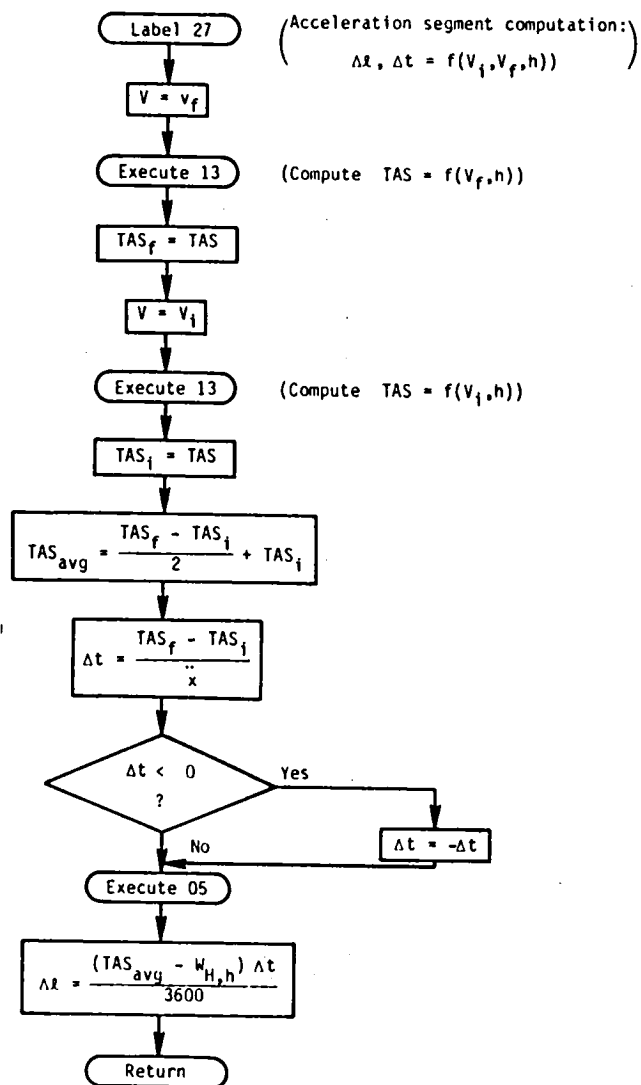
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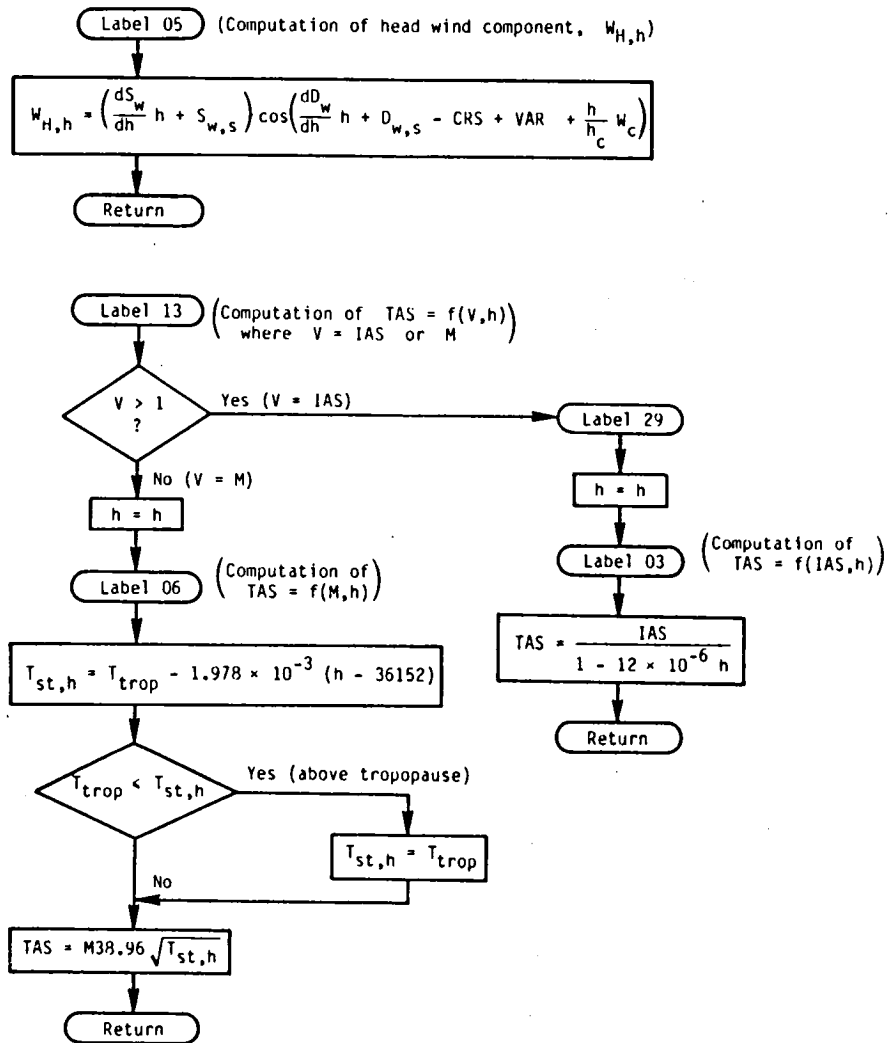
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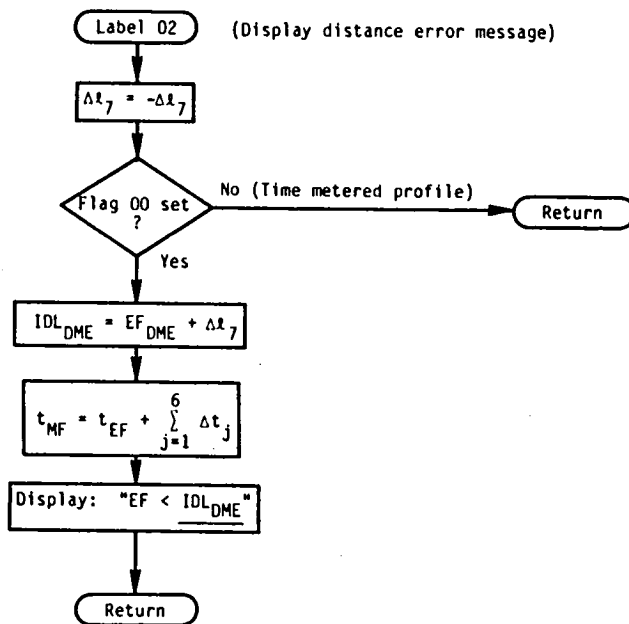
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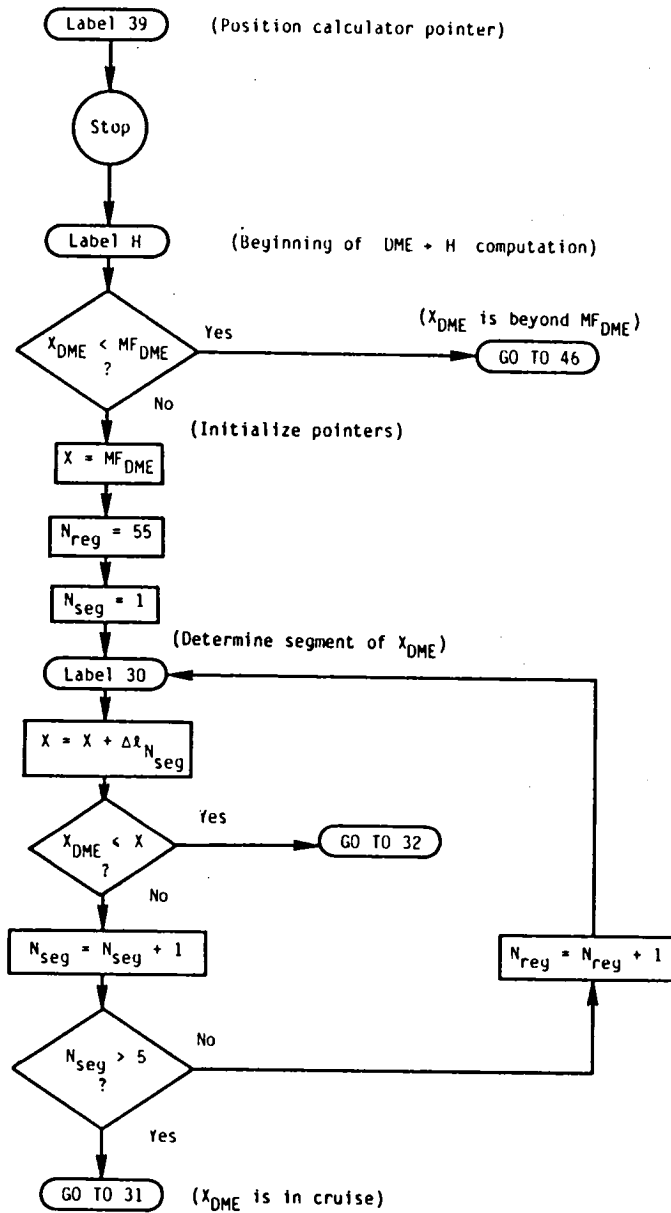
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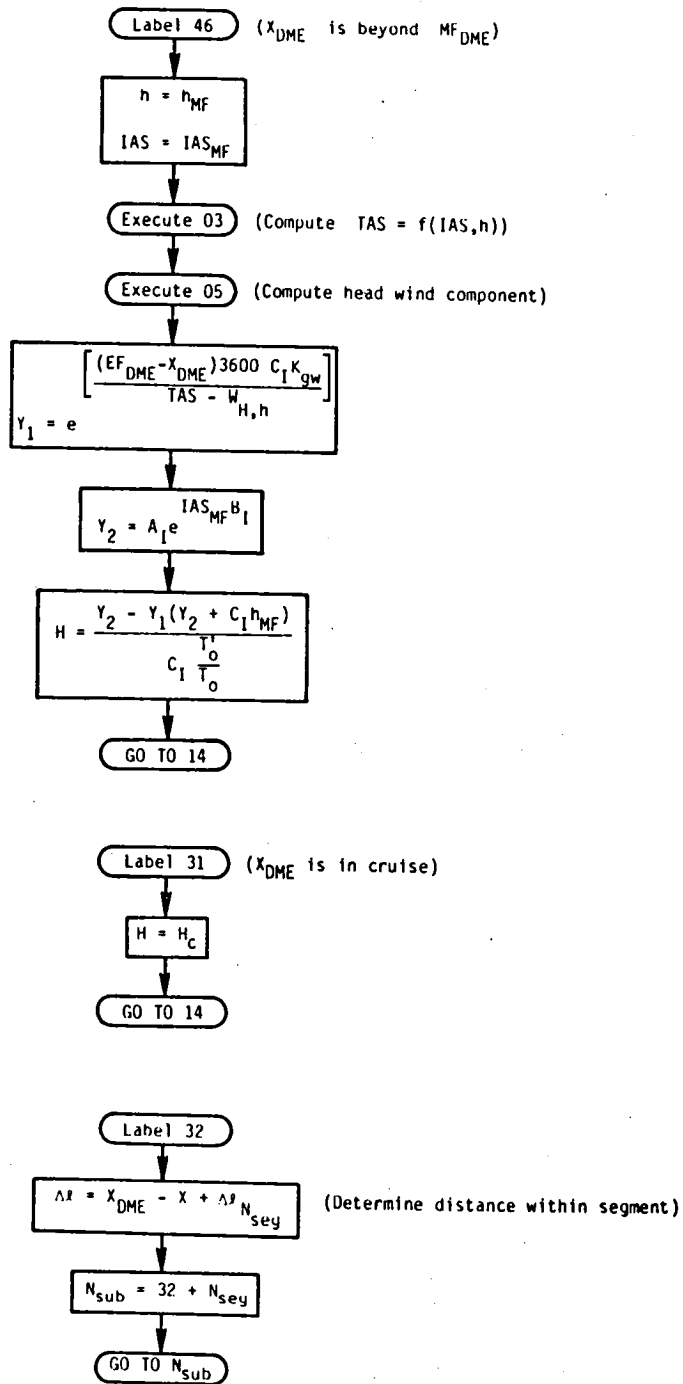
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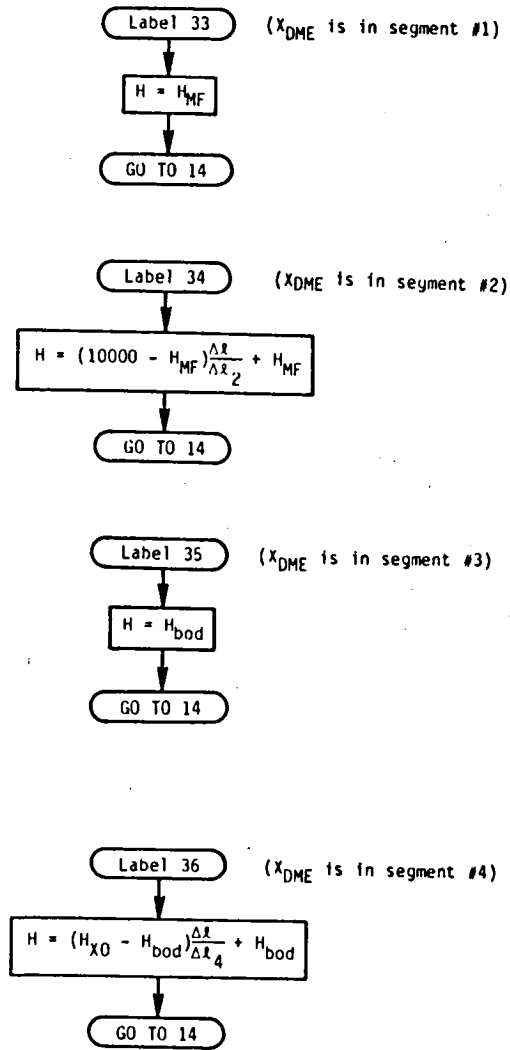
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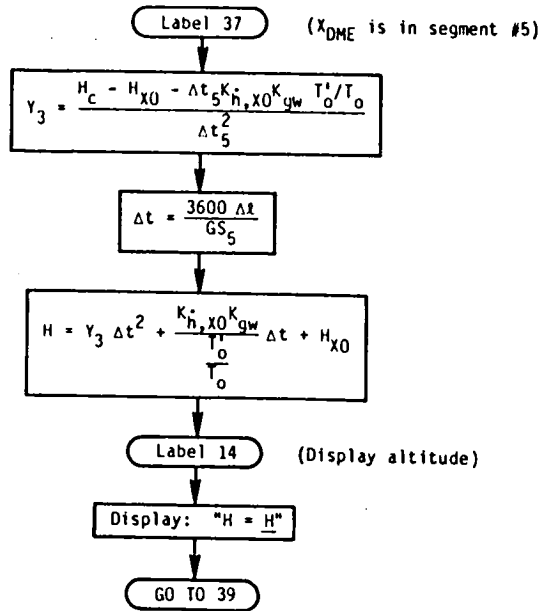
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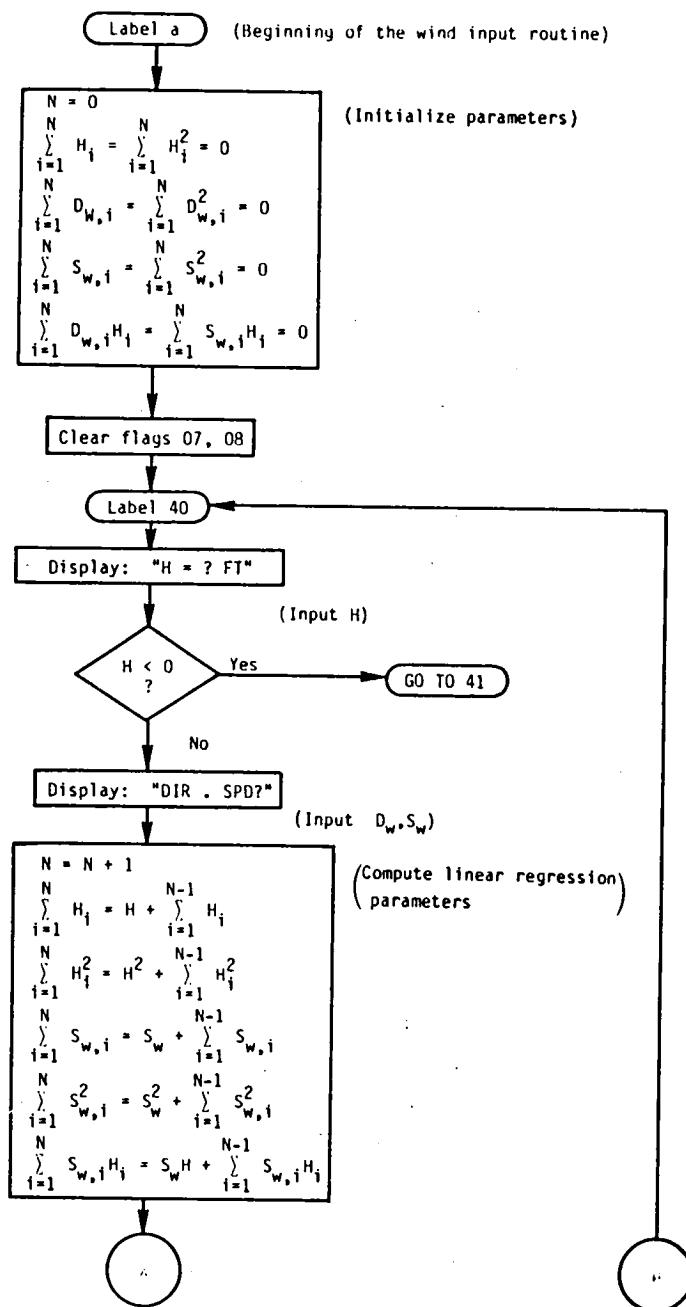
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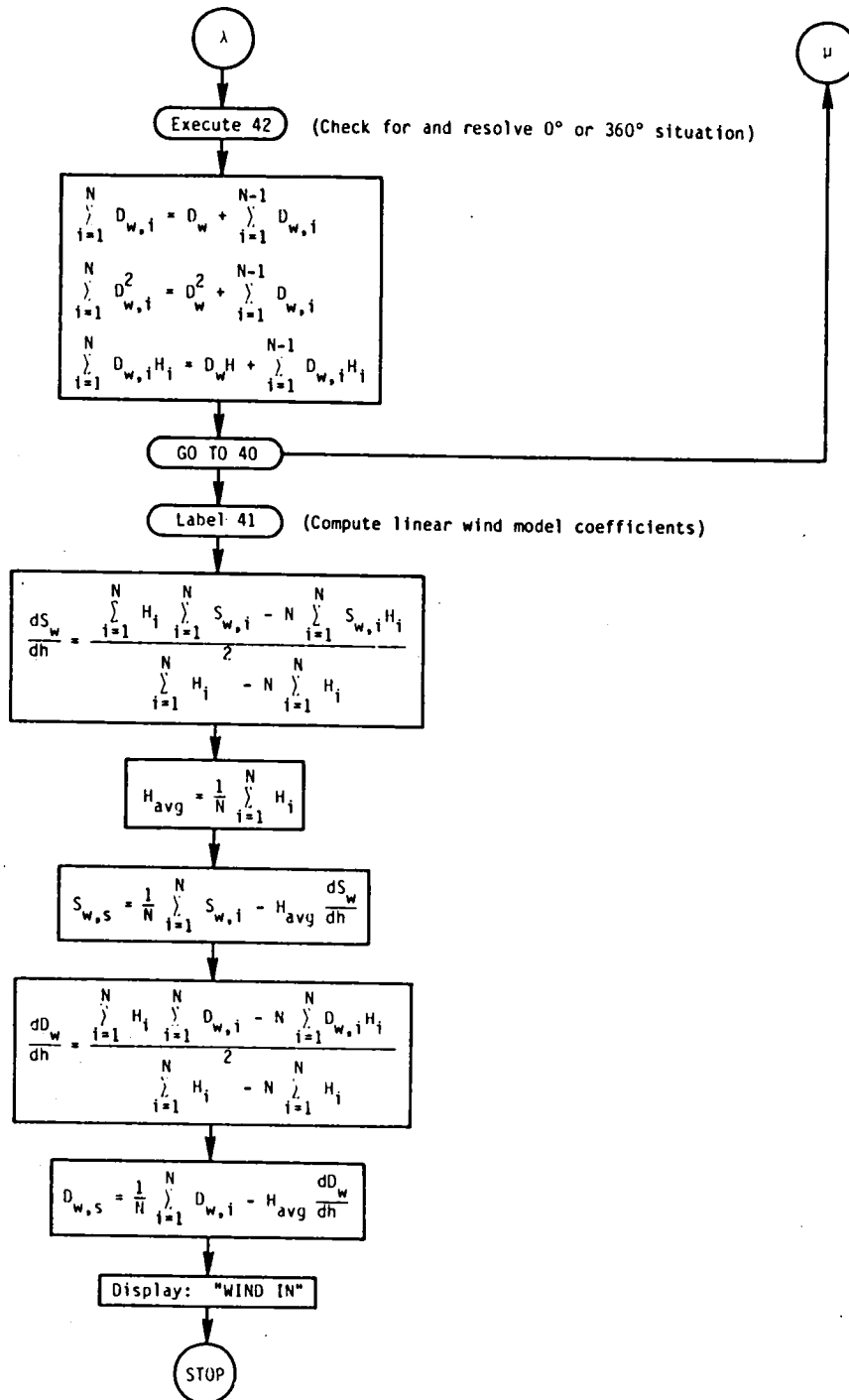
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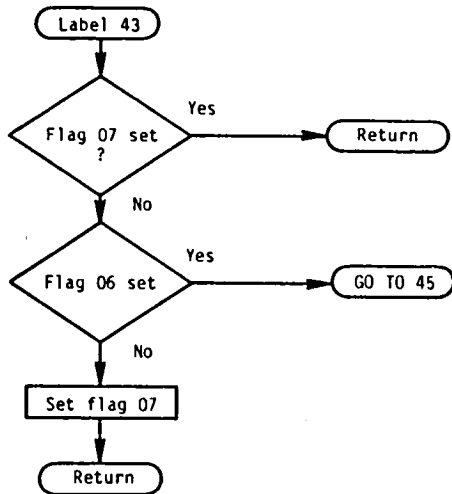
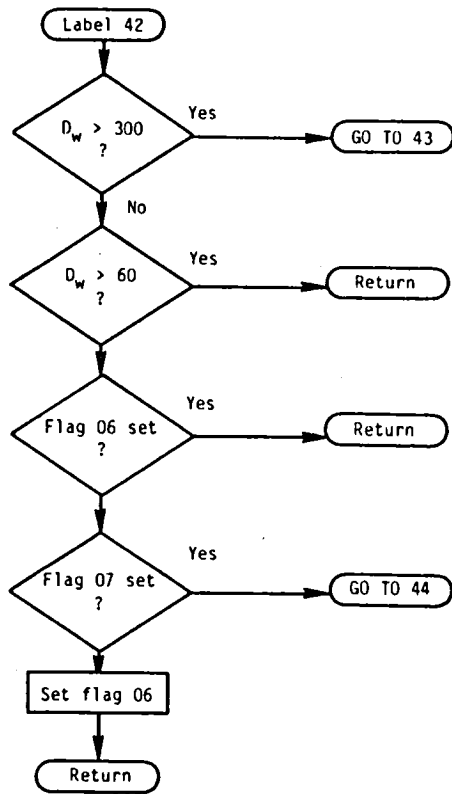
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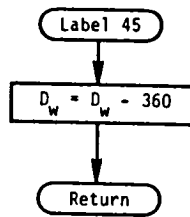
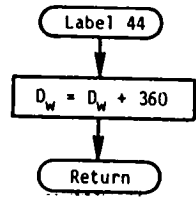
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Program Listing and Storage Register Location of Descent Algorithm Variables (Numerical Values for DC10-10 Model)

Input Variables

17	M_C	20	T_{trop}
18	H_C	25	Δt_{req}
08	M_d	55	$\Delta \lambda_1$
10	IAS_d	56	$\Delta \lambda_2$
21	t_{MF}	57	$\Delta \lambda_3$
22	t_{EF}	58	$\Delta \lambda_4$
23	GW	59	$\Delta \lambda_5$
19	OAT	60	Δt_5
07	H_{MF}	61	GS_5
26	IAS_{MF}	62	$K_{h,XO}$
27	MF_{DME}	63	$IAS_{d,i}$
28	EF_{DME}	64	GSc
29	CRS	65	h_g
24	VAR	66	Δt_7

Computed Variables

00	} Temporary	
04		
05	$\sum_{j=1}^i \Delta t_j, i=1,7$	
06	$\sum_{j=1}^i \Delta \lambda_j, i=1,7$	
09	$\frac{T'_O}{T_O}$	
11	H_{XO}	
12	H_{bod}	
13	K_{gw}	
14	$t_{E,initial}$	
15	t_E	
16	$\Delta t_{initial}$	

Wind Model Coefficients

50	$\frac{dD_w}{dH}$
51	$D_{w,s}$
52	$\frac{dS_w}{dH}$
53	$S_{w,s}$
54	$W_{H,c}$

Airplane Model Coefficients

30	$IAS_{d,min}$	(220)
31	$IAS_{d,max}$	(350)
32	A_M	(25 750)
33	B_M	(22 167)
34	C_M	(-1.85)
35	A_I	(-3.07783)

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160 *	213 GTO 15	266 STO 10
161 RCL 19	214 RCL 31	267 RCL 10
162 273.15	215 STO 10	268 RCL 08
163 +	216 XEQ 04	269 /
164 +	217 LASTX	270 RCL 47
165 STO 20	218 X<0?	271 *
166 216.65	219 GTO 12	272 RCL 48
167 -	220 GTO I	273 +
168 288.15	221*LBL 15	274 SQRT
169 +	222 RCL 30	275 CHS
170 LASTX	223 RCL 26	276 RCL 49
171 /	224 X<Y?	277 +
172 STO 09	225 X<>Y	278 RCL 09
173 RCL 23	226 STO 10	279 /
174 RCL 39	227 XEQ 04	280 STO 11
175 *	228 LASTX	281 RCL 44
176 RCL 40	229 X<0?	282 RCL 10
177 +	230 GTO I	283 X<=Y?
178 STO 13	231*LBL 12	284 GTO 07
179 RCL 18	232 RCL 14	285 RCL 07
180 XEQ 05	233 RCL 16	286 RCL 43
181 STO 01	234 RCL 05	287 X<=Y?
182 RCL 07	235 -	288 GTO 07
183 XEQ 05	236 /	289 STO 12
184 RCL 01	237 STO 00	290 RCL 07
185 -	238 RCL 10	291 RCL 09
186 RCL 18	239 RCL 63	292 *
187 RCL 07	240 -	293 STO 00
188 -	241 *	294 RCL 26
189 /	242 ENTER↑	295 STO 01
190 RCL 41	243 ENTER↑	296 RCL 44
191 *	244 RCL 14	297 STO 02
192 STO 65	245 /	298 XEQ 27
193 FS? 00	246 5	299 RCL 01
194 GTO 04	247 *	300 STO 05
195*LBL 23	248 RCL 00	301 RCL 02
196 RCL 17	249 100	302 STO 06
197 STO 08	250 *	303 STO 55
198 RCL 26	251 SIN	304 RCL 07
199 280	252 *	305 RCL 09
200 X>Y?	253 -	306 *
201 GTO 25	254 RCL 63	307 RCL 37
202 X<>Y	255 +	308 *
203*LBL 25	256 STO 10	309 RCL 42
204 STO 63	257 XEQ 04	310 RCL 65
205 STO 10	258 GTO 12	311 +
206 XEQ 04	259*LBL 04	312 RCL 13
207 LASTX	260 0	313 *
208 STO 14	261 STO 05	314 +
209 RCL 05	262 STO 06	315 RCL 43
210 STO 16	263 RCL 10	316 RCL 09
211 X<>Y	264 RCL 26	317 *
212 X<0?	265 X>Y?	318 RCL 37

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319 *	372 RCL 11	425 RCL 10
320 RCL 42	373 RCL 12	426 X<Y
321 RCL 65	374 X>Y?	427 XEQ 03
322 +	375 GTO 10	428 RCL 02
323 RCL 13	376 RCL 09	429 XEQ 05
324 *	377 *	430 +
325 +	378 STO 00	431 RCL 01
326 /	379 RCL 10	432 *
327 LN	380 STO 02	433 RCL 45
328 RCL 37	381 XEQ 27	434 /
329 /	382 RCL 01	435 ST+ 06
330 STO 01	383 ST+ 05	436 STO 58
331 ST+ 05	384 RCL 02	437 GTO 11
332 RCL 07	385 STO 57	438+LBL 10
333 RCL 43	386 ST+ 06	439 0
334 +	387 RCL 10	440 STO 57
335 2	388 RCL 36	441 STO 58
336 /	389 *	442 RCL 07
337 RCL 09	390 E+X	443 STO 11
338 *	391 RCL 35	444+LBL 11
339 STO 02	392 *	445 FS? 05
340 RCL 44	393 RCL 65	446 GTO 21
341 X<Y	394 +	447 RCL 08
342 XEQ 03	395 RCL 13	448 RCL 32
343 RCL 02	396 *	449 *
344 XEQ 05	397 STO 01	450 RCL 33
345 +	398 RCL 12	451 +
346 RCL 01	399 RCL 09	452 STO 01
347 *	400 *	453 RCL 18
348 RCL 45	401 RCL 37	454 RCL 09
349 /	402 *	455 *
350 ST+ 06	403 +	456 -
351 STO 56	404 RCL 11	457 CHS
352 RCL 44	405 RCL 09	458 RCL 34
353 STO 01	406 *	459 /
354 GTO 08	407 RCL 37	460 SQRT
355+LBL 07	408 *	461 STO 02
356 RCL 07	409 RCL 01	462 RCL 11
357 STO 12	410 +	463 RCL 09
358 0	411 /	464 *
359 STO 55	412 LN	465 RCL 01
360 STO 56	413 RCL 37	466 -
361 RCL 26	414 /	467 RCL 34
362 STO 01	415 ST+ 05	468 /
363+LBL 08	416 STO 01	469 SQRT
364 CF 05	417 RCL 11	470 RCL 65
365 RCL 11	418 RCL 12	471 -
366 RCL 18	419 +	472 STO 62
367 X>Y?	420 2	473 RCL 02
368 GTO 09	421 /	474 RCL 65
369 STO 11	422 RCL 09	475 -
370 SF 05	423 *	476 /
371+LBL 09	424 STO 02	477 LN

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478 RCL 65	531 STO 00	584*LBL 26
479 *	532 XEQ 27	585 CHS
480 CHS	533 RCL 01	586 *HOLD -
481 RCL 62	534 ST+ 05	587 ARCL X
482 -	535 RCL 02	588 PROMPT
483 RCL 65	536 ST+ 06	589*LBL J
484 -	537 RCL 28	590 RCL 27
485 RCL 02	538 RCL 27	591 RCL 06
486 +	539 -	592 +
487 2	540 RCL 06	593 FIX 1
488 *	541 -	594 *IDL DME -
489 RCL 34	542 X<0?	595 ARCL X
490 *	543 XEQ 02	596 PROMPT
491 RCL 13	544 RCL 45	597*LBL J
492 /	545 *	598 RCL 66
493 ST+ 05	546 RCL 03	599 RCL 45
494 STO 60	547 RCL 04	600 /
495 STO 01	548 +	601 HMS
496 RCL 11	549 /	602 RCL 22
497 RCL 18	550 STO 66	603 HMS+
498 +	551 ST+ 05	604 FIX 4
499 2	552 FS? 00	605 *IDL TM -
500 /	553 GTO 18	606 ARCL X
501 RCL 09	554 5	607 PROMPT
502 *	555 RCL 05	608*LBL 27
503 STO 04	556 RCL 25	609 RCL 01
504 RCL 08	557 -	610 XEQ 13
505 X<Y	558 STO 15	611 STO 01
506 XEQ 06	559 ABS	612 RCL 02
507 RCL 04	560 X>Y?	613 XEQ 13
508 XEQ 05	561 RTN	614 STO 02
509 +	562 GTO J	615 STO 03
510 STO 61	563*LBL 18	616 ST- 01
511 RCL 01	564 RCL 05	617 RCL 01
512 *	565 STO 25	618 2
513 RCL 45	566 RCL 45	619 /
514 /	567 /	620 ST+ 02
515 ST+ 06	568 HMS	621 RCL 01
516 STO 59	569 RCL 22	622 RCL 38
517 RCL 08	570 HMS+	623 /
518 STO 01	571 STO 21	624 X<0?
519 GTO 22	572 GTO J	625 CHS
520*LBL 21	573*LBL I	626 STO 01
521 0	574 FIX 4	627 RCL 00
522 STO 59	575 RCL 15	628 XEQ 05
523 RCL 10	576 RCL 45	629 STO 04
524 STO 01	577 /	630 RCL 02
525*LBL 22	578 HMS	631 +
526 RCL 17	579 X<0?	632 *
527 STO 02	580 GTO 26	633 RCL 45
528 RCL 18	581 *LATE -	634 /
529 RCL 09	582 ARCL X	635 STO 02
530 *	583 PROMPT	636 RTN

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637*LBL 05	690 38.96	743 RCL 07
638 STO 04	691 *	744 RCL 09
639 RCL 52	692 RTN	745 *
640 *	693*LBL 02	746 STO 03
641 RCL 53	694 CHS	747 RCL 26
642 +	695 FC? 00	748 X<Y
643 RCL 04	696 RTN	749 XEQ 03
644 RCL 50	697 FIX 1	750 RCL 03
645 *	698 RCL 28	751 XEQ 05
646 RCL 51	699 +	752 +
647 +	700 STO 00	753 RCL 27
648 RCL 29	701 RCL 05	754 RCL 00
649 -	702 RCL 45	755 -
650 RCL 24	703 /	756 /
651 +	704 HMS	757 1/X
652 COS	705 RCL 22	758 RCL 45
653 *	706 HMS+	759 *
654 CHS	707 STO 21	760 RCL 37
655 RCL 04	708 RCL 00	761 *
656 RCL 54	709 *EF < .	762 RCL 13
657 *	710 ARCL X	763 *
658 RCL 18	711 PROMPT	764 E+X
659 /	712*LBL 39	765 STO 01
660 -	713 PROMPT	766 RCL 26
661 RTN	714*LBL H	767 RCL 36
662*LBL 29	715 STO 00	768 *
663 RCL 00	716 RCL 27	769 E+X
664*LBL 03	717 X<Y	770 RCL 35
665 -12 E-06	718 X<Y?	771 *
666 *	719 GTO 46	772 STO Y
667 1	720 RCL 27	773 RCL 37
668 +	721 STO 02	774 RCL 03
669 /	722 55	775 *
670 RTN	723 STO 03	776 +
671*LBL 13	724 1	777 RCL 01
672 1	725 STO 04	778 *
673 X<Y	726*LBL 30	779 -
674 X>Y?	727 RCL IND 03	780 RCL 37
675 GTO 29	728 ST+ 02	781 /
676 RCL 00	729 RCL 02	782 RCL 09
677*LBL 06	730 RCL 00	783 /
678 36152	731 X<=Y?	784 CHS
679 -	732 GTO 32	785 GTO 14
680 RCL 46	733 1	786*LBL 31
681 *	734 ST+ 04	787 RCL 18
682 RCL 20	735 5	788 GTO 14
683 +	736 RCL 04	789*LBL 32
684 RCL 20	737 X>Y?	790 RCL 00
685 X<=Y?	738 GTO 31	791 RCL 02
686 X<Y	739 1	792 -
687 SQRT	740 ST+ 03	793 RCL IND 03
688 RCL Z	741 GTO 30	794 +
689 *	742*LBL 46	795 STO 01

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796 32	849 STO 01	902 STO 12
797 ST+ 04	850 X+2	903 RCL 06
798 GTO IND 04	851 RCL 00	904 STO 15
799*LBL 33	852 *	905 RCL 50
800 RCL 07	853 RCL 62	906 INT
801 GTO 14	854 RCL 13	907 XEQ 42
802*LBL 34	855 *	908 RCL 00
803 RCL 43	856 RCL 09	909 X<>Y
804 RCL 07	857 /	910 Σ+
805 -	858 RCL 01	911 RCL 11
806 RCL 01	859 *	912 STO 04
807 *	860 +	913 RCL 12
808 RCL IND 03	861 RCL 11	914 STO 05
809 /	862 +	915 RCL 15
810 RCL 07	863*LBL 14	916 STO 06
811 +	864 FIX 0	917 RCL 01
812 GTO 14	865 "H = "	918 STO 11
813*LBL 35	866 ARCL X	919 RCL 02
814 RCL 12	867 GTO 39	920 STO 12
815 GTO 14	868*LBL a	921 RCL 03
816*LBL 36	869 ΣREG 01	922 STO 15
817 RCL 11	870 CLΣ	923 GTO 40
818 RCL 12	871 ΣREG 11	924*LBL 41
819 -	872 CLΣ	925 RCL 13
820 RCL 01	873 CF 07	926 RCL 01
821 *	874 CF 06	927 *
822 RCL IND 63	875*LBL 40	928 RCL 16
823 /	876 "H=? FT"	929 X=0?
824 RCL 12	877 PROMPT	930 XEQ a
825 +	878 X<0?	931 /
826 GTO 14	879 GTO 41	932 RCL 03
827*LBL 37	880 STO 00	933 -
828 RCL 62	881 "DIR . SPD ?"	934 RCL 13
829 RCL 13	882 PROMPT	935 X+2
830 *	883 STO 50	936 RCL 16
831 RCL 09	884 FRC	937 /
832 /	885 1000	938 RCL 14
833 RCL 60	886 *	939 -
834 *	887 RCL 00	940 STO 11
835 RCL 11	888 X<>Y	941 /
836 +	889 Σ+	942 STO 52
837 RCL 18	890 RCL 11	943 RCL 13
838 -	891 STO 01	944 RCL 16
839 RCL 60	892 RCL 12	945 /
840 X+2	893 STO 02	946 STO 12
841 /	894 RCL 15	947 *
842 CHS	895 STO 03	948 CHS
843 STO 00	896 RCL 00	949 RCL 01
844 RCL 45	897 LASTX	950 RCL 16
845 RCL 01	898 Σ-	951 /
846 *	899 RCL 04	952 +
847 RCL 61	900 STO 11	953 STO 53
848 /	901 RCL 05	954 RCL 13

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955 RCL 04
956 *
957 RCL 16
958 /
959 RCL 06
960 -
961 RCL 11
962 /
963 STO 50
964 RCL 12
965 *
966 CHS
967 RCL 04
968 RCL 16
969 /
970 +
971 STO 51
972 0
973 STO 54
974 "WIND IN"
975 PROMPT
976•LBL 42
977 300
978 X<>Y
979 X>Y?
980 GTO 43
981 60
982 X<>Y
983 X>Y?
984 RTN
985 FS? 06
986 RTN
987 FS? 07
988 GTO 44
989 SF 06
990 RTN
991•LBL 43
992 FS? 07
993 RTN
994 FS? 06
995 GTO 45
996 SF 07
997 RTN
998•LBL 44
999 360
1000 +
1001 RTN
1002•LBL 45
1003 360
1004 -
1005 RTN
1006 .END.

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16. Abstract A simplified flight-management descent algorithm has been developed and programmed on a small programmable calculator. It was designed to aid the pilot in planning and executing a fuel-conservative descent to arrive at a metering fix at a time designated by the air traffic control system. The algorithm may also be used for planning fuel-conservative descents when time is not a consideration. The descent path was calculated for a constant Mach/airspeed schedule from linear approximations of airplane performance with considerations given for gross weight, wind, and nonstandard temperature effects. This report contains an explanation and examples of how the algorithm is used, as well as a detailed flow chart and listing of the algorithm.					
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