

The math question is to take an spheroid as defined by WGS84, take a heading and a distance and find a time zone.

Step one is to find the new longitude and latitude based off the old one. For a spherical coordinate system:

$$d\vec{r} = dr\hat{r} + r d\phi\hat{\phi} + r \sin\phi d\theta\hat{\theta}$$

In WGS84, the earth is defined as a reference ellipsoid with parameters a and $1/f$, for the semi-major axis and the inverse flattness. The 'radius' r is defined as:

$$\rho(\phi) = \frac{a}{\sqrt{1 - (2f - f^2) \sin^2 \phi}}$$

Since r is only function of ϕ , we want to integrate only across that when possible to simplify it. \hat{l} is the distance travelled under the defined heading.

$$\int_{\vec{r}_0}^{\vec{r}_1} \hat{l} \cdot d\vec{r} = \int_{\phi_0}^{\phi_1} \frac{d\rho}{d\phi} d\phi + \rho d\phi + \rho \sin\phi \frac{d\theta}{d\phi} d\phi$$

The two unknown functions $\frac{d\rho}{d\phi}$ and $\frac{d\theta}{d\phi}$ can be defined from the definition of the ellipsoid surface $\rho(\phi)$ and the heading (a constant h) respectively.

$$l = \int_{\vec{r}_0}^{\vec{r}_1} \hat{l} \cdot d\vec{r} = \rho(\phi_1) - \rho(\phi_0) + \int_{\phi_0}^{\phi_1} \rho + h\rho \sin\phi d\phi$$

Ideally, this would have an analytic solution, but the alone ρ term makes it (by definition) an elliptic integral (specifically the incomplete elliptic integral of the first kind). The secondary term can be integrated using a change of variables leading to an inverse tangent function. This unfortunately makes solving for ϕ an optimization problem, as an analytic solution cannot be calculated.

$$l = \int_{\vec{r}_0}^{\vec{r}_1} \hat{l} \cdot d\vec{r} = \rho(\phi_1) - \rho(\phi_0) + a(F(\phi_1, 2f - f^2) - F(\phi_0, 2f - f^2)) + \int_{\phi_0}^{\phi_1} h\rho \sin\phi d\phi$$

The last term can be dealt with separately. Writing ρ as a function of \cos to properly change variables.

$$h \int_{\phi_0}^{\phi_1} \frac{a}{\sqrt{1 - (2f - f^2) \sin^2 \phi}} \sin\phi d\phi = ha \int_{\phi_0}^{\phi_1} \frac{\sin\phi}{\sqrt{(1 - f)^2 + (2f - f^2) \cos^2 \phi}} d\phi$$

With $u = \cos\phi$

$$\begin{aligned} h \int_{\phi_0}^{\phi_1} \frac{a}{\sqrt{1 - (2f - f^2) \sin^2 \phi}} \sin\phi d\phi &= ha \int_{u_1}^{u_0} \frac{1}{\sqrt{(1 - f)^2 + (2f - f^2) u^2}} du \\ &= \frac{ha}{1 - f} \int_{u_1}^{u_0} \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 + \frac{(2f - f^2)}{(1 - f)^2} u^2}} du \end{aligned}$$

$$g = \sqrt{\frac{(2f - f^2)}{(1 - f)^2}} u$$

$$= \frac{ha}{\sqrt{2f - f^2}} \int_{g_1}^{g_0} \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 + g^2}} dg = \frac{ha}{\sqrt{2f - f^2}} (\tan^{-1}(g_0) - \tan^{-1}(g_1))$$

Using the definitions of g and u the original definition in ϕ can be written out. This function of \tan^{-1} , F and $\rho(\phi)$ will be minimized for a specified distance l to yield the proper ϕ_1 . With the heading, this can be used to calculate θ_1 . These can be used for time zone.

One thing to note is that great care must be taken going over a pole. I am not sure if it will break so I will likely have to code in a special try catch for it.