



Re: Orbit of the earth & intelligent design

|>by approximating Earth's orbit to a circle and dividing it up  
|>into straight line segments so as to be a polygon, one can calculate  
|>the distance at the centre of a chord to the locus. What that  
|>has to do with "design" only Bert Thompson, Ph.D., (theology)  
|>would hallucinate.  
|>  
|>Let's have a go for the fun of it.  
|>  
|>Mean radius: 93,000,000 miles  
|>  
|>Circumference:  $2\pi * \text{radius} = 584336233.56770154235405166928999$  miles  
|>  
|>Divide by 18 miles: a 32,463,124-sided polygon.  
|>  
|>Angle between vertices:  
|>  $2\pi/32,463,124 = 1.9354838709677419354838709677419e-7$  radians  
|>  
|>Mid-point between vertices is half that:  
|>  $9.6774193548387096774193548387097e-8$  radians.  
|>  
|>Cosine: 0.9999999999999531737773152966026  
|>  
|>Multiply by 93,000,000 miles = 92999999.999999564516129032258404 miles  
|>  
|>Difference between chord and locus:  
|>  $4.3548387096774159561612560164185e-7$  miles  
|>  
|> =  $2.5258064516129012545735284895228e-4$  feet  
|> = 0.0030309677419354815054882341874273 inches  
|>  
|>His 1/9 inch is a gross exaggeration, over 18 miles the Earth  
|>deviates from a straight line by 3 thousandths of an inch, not  
|>111 thousandths as claimed.  
|>  
|>The resource you need is on your calculator.  
|>If you wish to be more accurate:  
|> [http://www.astro-tom.com/getting\\_started/earth-sun\\_distance.htm](http://www.astro-tom.com/getting_started/earth-sun_distance.htm)  
|  
|  
|>Simpler to use Pythagoras, I would have thought.

I did. Cosine is adjacent/hypotenuse of a right triangle.

|  
|>If the Earth continues in a straight line for 18 miles,

In hypothetical sentences introduced by 'if' and referring to past time, where conditions are to be deemed 'unfulfilled', the verb will regularly be found in the pluperfect subjunctive, in both protasis and apodosis.

— Donet, "Principles of Elementary Latin Syntax"

## Re: Orbit of the earth & intelligent design

It doesn't, it follows the locus of an ellipse which I approximated to a circle. Actually it doesn't do that either, only the barycentre of the Earth–Moon system does.

Cranks are always coming up with 'if' and ignoring facts.

| then its

| distance from the Sun will be the hypotenuse of a triangle whose other  
| sides are 93,000,000 miles and 18 miles. So the distance is the square  
| root of  $93,000,000^2$  and  $18^2$  ie. the square root of  
| 8,649,000,000,000,324 which is 93,000,000.00000174193. So the increase  
| in distance is 00000174193 miles and multiplying by 63,360 to convert  
| to inches, we have 0.1103, which is pretty close to 1/9th.

It's away from the straight line for nine miles, back toward the straight line for the next nine miles at runs parallel at the mid point. Try again.

Thanks for labelling me a crank, but I'll try again anyway. What I meant was that if we draw a tangent to the Earth's orbit and look at a point 18 miles from the point of contact with the orbit, we will find that a radius of the Earth's orbit, extended by 1/9th inch will reach the tangent..This is what I think the OP meant and the fact that my answer agrees with his is reasonable evidence for that assumption. You are assuming an 18 mile tangent with the Earth's orbit touching the tangent at mid–point, which I'll agree is a possible interpretation, but I don't think it's the correct one.

Your answer would therefore have been 1/4 of mine if it wasn't for the fact that you have used a figure of 580 feet in a mile instead of 5280.

Try again.

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