

Re: Calculating a Distance on the Surface of the Earth

Source: <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.geo.satellite-nav/2008-01/msg00250.html>

- *From:* Bob Ball <bobball@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
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I'm no scientist nor that good at math, but the original poster seemed to ask a question which didn't quite fit with the drawing he put up on a website or the first answer I read.

He proposed a 200km line tangential to the earth's surface at the starting point. He then proposed dropping a line "straight down" to the earth from that point, and measuring the distance between the starting point and the ending point on the earth's surface.

The line he dropped to the earth's surface was shown by angle and symbol as a right angle to the original tangential line. Straight down to the earth's surface to me would be a radial line, one from the end of the 200km line toward the center of the earth.

I suppose the line dropped at a right angle was intended. I'm curious to know the reasoning behind the question.

Bob Ball

If you want to think positive thoughts, surround yourself with positive people.
If you want to email me, eliminate the negative.

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