

How Were Those Tables Computed?

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Dear All:

Before the computer/calculator age, people used trigonometric, logarithmic tables. For instance, to find out $\sin(38.52 \text{ deg})=?$, you had to use such a table. There were of courses tables of many other functions. And there were slide rules to use, but the precision was low. The logarithmic table, on the other hand, could provide 7 digits after the decimal points.

Now the questions: (1) What formulas were used for the computation of the values in those tables? (2) Were the computation done manually by some hard-working mathematicians? Or by some adding machine?

Roland

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- *Follow-Ups:*
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