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OFFICE NOTE 241

WIND REPRESENTATION ON NMC GRIDS

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This is an unreviewed manuscript, primarily
intended for informal exchange of information
among NMC staff members.

INTRODUCTION

Eight codes in the NMC subroutine library (W3LIB) which manipulate winds on stereographic grids, neglect to take proper account of wind values at the poles. This note discusses a solution to this problem and illustrates the methods used at NMC to represent winds at the poles and elsewhere. The procedures used in the aforementioned subroutines involve the conversions of true winds to grid oriented winds, the converse of this process, the conversion of vector wind u,v components to true direction and speed, and finally the converse of this process. The results section summarizes and verifies the accuracy of the revised codes.

True direction and speed, in degrees and knots (or meters/second) and u,v vector components are the most widely used methods of wind representation at NMC.

Wind direction, at all points excluding the pole point, is the true direction from which the wind is blowing (Figure 1a). Within one degree of the pole however, winds must be reported in accordance with the WMO convention (Figure 1b). A simple definition of this standard for wind direction at the poles is:

Facing the wind at or within one degree of the north pole, the wind direction is the west longitude meridian from which the wind is blowing. Facing the wind at or within one degree of the south pole, the wind direction is the east longitude meridian from which the wind is blowing.

A second convention for specifying winds at the north pole, the ATA (Air Transport Association) convention, orients the direction of the wind opposite from that of the WMO convention. The ATA convention is used primarily for aircraft flight planning and therefore will not be dealt with in this note.

Two ways in which wind vectors (i.e. u,v component form) can be graphically represented on NMC grids are: 1) with respect to a latitude/longitude (lola) coordinate system and 2) with respect to a grid-oriented coordinate system. At all points except the pole points on the northern hemisphere lola coordinate system, a west wind (west to east) is defined as a positive u component while a south wind (south to north) is defined as a positive v component. The grid-type system orients a positive u component as a wind blowing from left to right along the horizontal axis of the NMC 65 x 65 polar stereographic grid and a positive v component as a wind blowing from bottom to top along the vertical axis of the polar stereographic grid. Figure 2 illustrates positive u and v components on a northern and southern hemisphere grid-type system.

PROCEDURE

The following variables are used throughout the W3FC codes dealing with winds (see table 2) and are defined as follows:

FFID = I grid-unit distance from the pole
[I(pole)-I(point)]

FFJD = J grid-unit distance from the pole
[J(pole)-J(point)]

FU = true u component of the wind

FV = true v component of the wind

FGU = grid-oriented u component of the wind

FGV = grid-oriented v component of the wind

DFP = grid unit distance from the pole $\text{SQRT} [\text{FFID}^2 + \text{FFJD}^2]$

SIN θ = FFJD / DFP

COS θ = FFID / DFP

SPEED = wind speed $\text{SQRT} [\text{FU}^2 + \text{FV}^2]$ or $\text{SQRT} [\text{FGU}^2 + \text{FGV}^2]$

DIR = true direction of the wind

In the following basic equations for a conversion from one two-dimensional coordinate system to a second two dimensional coordinate system, (x,y) are units in the old system of coordinates and (x',y') are units in the new system of coordinates (Figure 3). The new origin is coincident with the old origin and the new axes make an angle θ (defined as positive when rotating from old to new axis counterclockwise) with the old axes. (Burington, 1957)

$$x' = x * \cos\theta + y * \sin\theta$$

$$y' = -x * \sin\theta + y * \cos\theta$$

From these equations follow:

$$x = x' * \cos\theta - y' * \sin\theta$$

$$y = x' * \sin\theta + y' * \cos\theta .$$

When converting from a lola system to a grid-oriented system at the north pole, a coordinate rotation of 100° (1.745 radians) is made, making the positive v-axis coincident with 80° W - 100° E. At the south pole a coordinate rotation of 260° (4.538 radians) is made, making the positive v-axis coincident with 100° E - 80° W. The following equations (derived from the basic rotation equations) are used in this transformation:

AT THE POLE

ELSEWHERE

(NORTHERN HEMISPHERE)

$$FGU = FU * \cos\theta + FV * \sin\theta \quad FGU = FU * (FFJD/DFP) + FV * (FFID/DFP)$$

$$FGV = -FU * \sin\theta + FV * \cos\theta \quad FGV = FV * (FFJD/DFP) - FU * (FFID/DFP)$$

(SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE)

$$FGU = FU * \cos\theta + FV * \sin\theta \quad FGU = -FU * (FFJD/DFP) - FV * (FFID/DFP)$$

$$FGV = FU * \sin\theta - FV * \cos\theta \quad FGV = -FV * (FFJD/DFP) + FU * (FFID/DFP)$$

The conversion from grid-oriented coordinates to lola coordinates at the north pole uses a 260° coordinate rotation, making the positive v-axis coincident with the prime meridian. At the south pole, a coordinate rotation of 100° is made, making the positive v-axis coincident with 180° . The derived equations for these transformations are:

AT THE POLE

ELSEWHERE

(NORTHERN HEMISPHERE)

$$FU = FGU * \cos\theta + FGV * \sin\theta \quad FU = FGU * (FFJD/DFP) - FGV * (FFID/DFP)$$

$$FV = -FGU * \sin\theta + FGV * \cos\theta \quad FV = FGU * (FFID/DFP) + FGV * (FFJD/DFP)$$

(SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE)

$$FU = -FGU * \cos\theta - FGV * \sin\theta \quad FU = -FGU * (FFJD/DFP) + FGV * (FFID/DFP)$$

$$FV = FGU * \sin\theta - FGV * \cos\theta \quad FV = -FGU * (FFID/DFP) - FGV * (FFJD/DFP)$$

The basic equations for converting from true direction and speed to u,v components in either system at the north pole are:

$$u = \cos\theta * \text{speed}$$

$$v = \sin\theta * \text{speed} \quad (\text{Figure 4}).$$

At the north pole on the grid-oriented system, θ is the angle measured counterclockwise from 10° E to the west longitude meridian from which the wind is blowing. At the north pole on the lola system, θ is the angle measured counterclockwise from the prime meridian to the west longitude meridian from which the wind is blowing.

AT THE NORTH POLE

ELSEWHERE

1)

$$\text{FGU} = \text{COS}\theta * \text{SPEED} \quad \text{FGU} = -\text{SPEED} * [\text{SIN}(\text{DIR}) * (\text{FFJD}/\text{DFP}) + \text{COS}(\text{DIR}) * (\text{FFID}/\text{DFP})]$$

$$\text{FGV} = \text{SIN}\theta * \text{SPEED} \quad \text{FGV} = \text{SPEED} * [\text{SIN}(\text{DIR}) * (\text{FFID}/\text{DFP}) - \text{COS}(\text{DIR}) * (\text{FFJD}/\text{DFP})]$$

2)

$$\text{FU} = \text{COS}\theta * \text{SPEED} \quad \text{FU} = -\text{SPEED} * \text{SIN}(\text{DIR})$$

$$\text{FV} = \text{SIN}\theta * \text{SPEED} \quad \text{FV} = -\text{SPEED} * \text{COS}(\text{DIR})$$

The converse operations [3) grid-oriented components to direction and speed and 4) true components to direction and speed] use the following basic and derived equations:

$$\theta = \arctan [u/v] \quad (\text{Figure 4})$$

AT THE NORTH POLE

ELSEWHERE

3)

$$\theta = \text{ARCCOS} (\text{FGU} / \text{SPEED}) \quad \text{DIR} = \text{ARCTAN} (\text{FGU} / \text{FGV}) + 180$$

4)

$$\theta = \text{ARCTAN} (\text{FV} / \text{FU}) \quad \text{DIR} = \text{ARCTAN} (\text{FU} / \text{FV}) + 180 .$$

At the north pole, θ is defined the same as in the conversion from true direction and speed to u,v components. From this angle (relative to either 10° E for grid-oriented winds or the prime meridian for lola oriented winds) the direction can be calculated in accordance with WMO standards.

RESULTS

The aforementioned subroutines have been modified to calculate winds properly at the poles. Figures 5 and 6 show the conversions on a subset of the 65 x 65 grid surrounding the north pole [point (33,33)] from true u,v components to grid-oriented u,v components, and then back to true u,v components. Figures 7 and 8 show conversions from grid-oriented u,v components to true direction and speed and back to grid-oriented u,v components. Figures 9 and 10 show the conversions from true u,v components to true direction and speed and back to true u,v components. Table 1 shows conversions using hypothetical winds at an arbitrary speed of 7.123 blowing from every five degrees across the north pole. This table confirms that the new code inserted into the subroutines indeed does work at the pole. Table 2 gives a list of the subroutines that have been modified, gives a brief synopsis of the conversions they do and gives their newly assigned names.

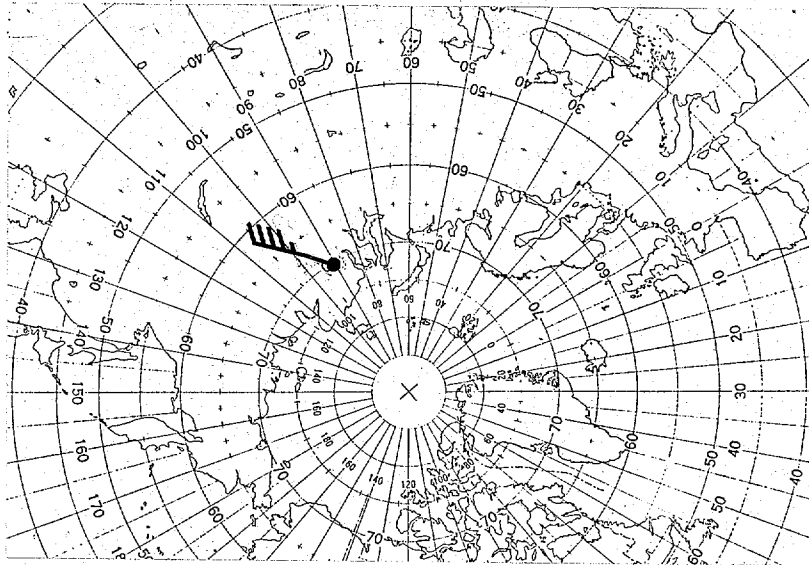


Figure 1a. Representation of a 140° , 45 knot wind at a point not at the pole.

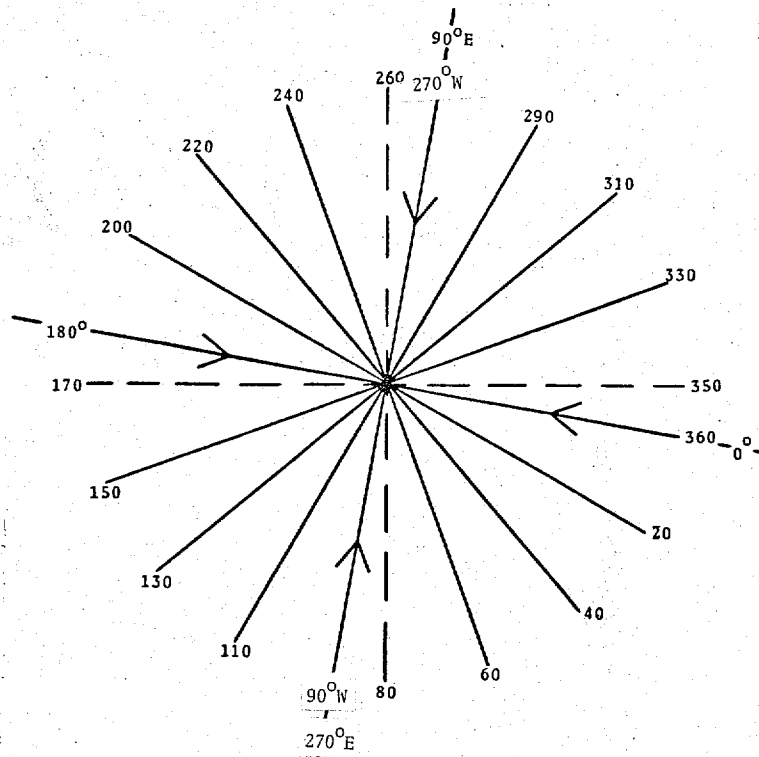


Figure 1b. Wind directions at either pole (indicated by direction of the arrows) are reported as the meridian (west longitude-north pole, east longitude-south pole) from which the wind is blowing. eg: A wind blowing from 90° E (270° W) is reported as a 270° wind at the north pole and as a 90° wind at the south pole.

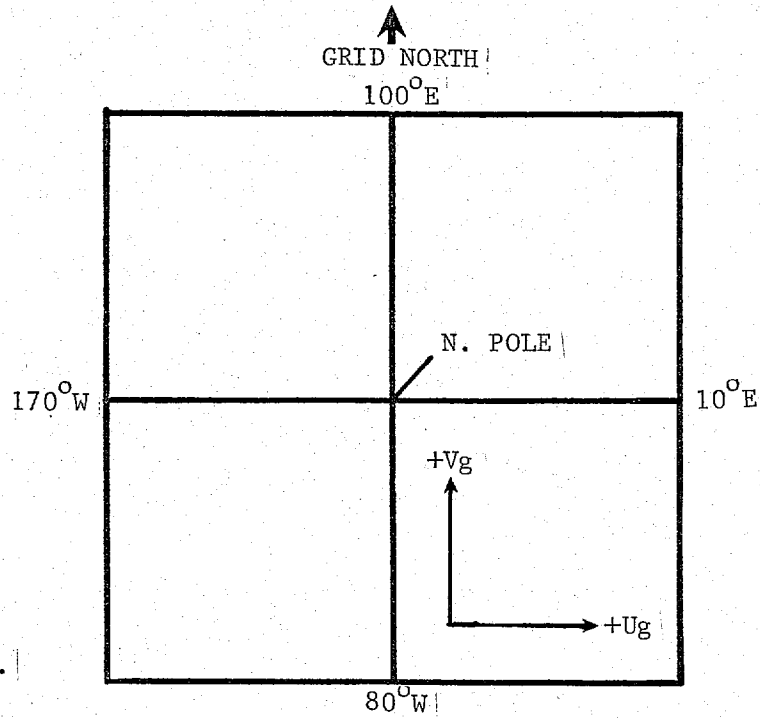


Figure 2a.

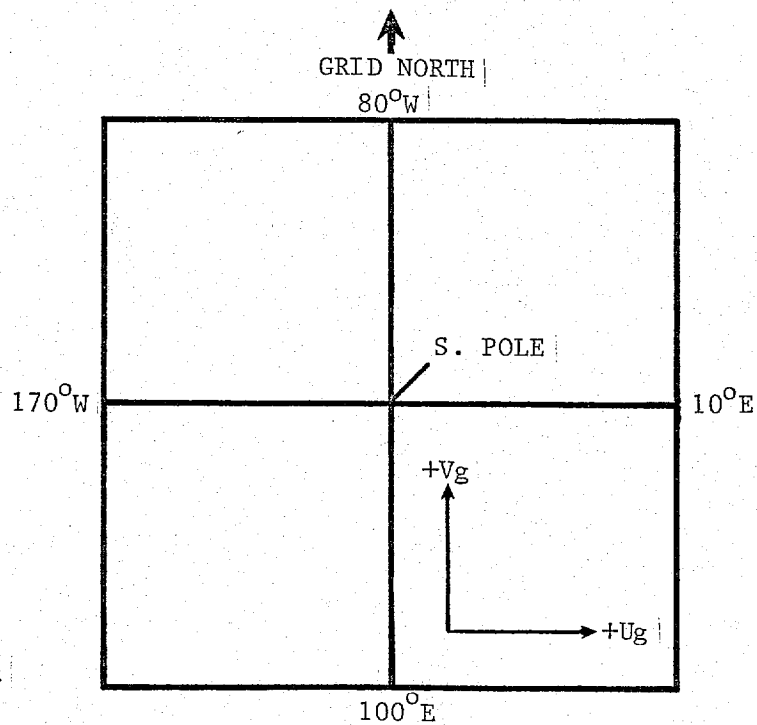


Figure 2b.

- 2a) Positive U and V components on a northern hemisphere grid-type coordinate system.
- 2b) Positive U and V components on a southern hemisphere grid-type coordinate system.

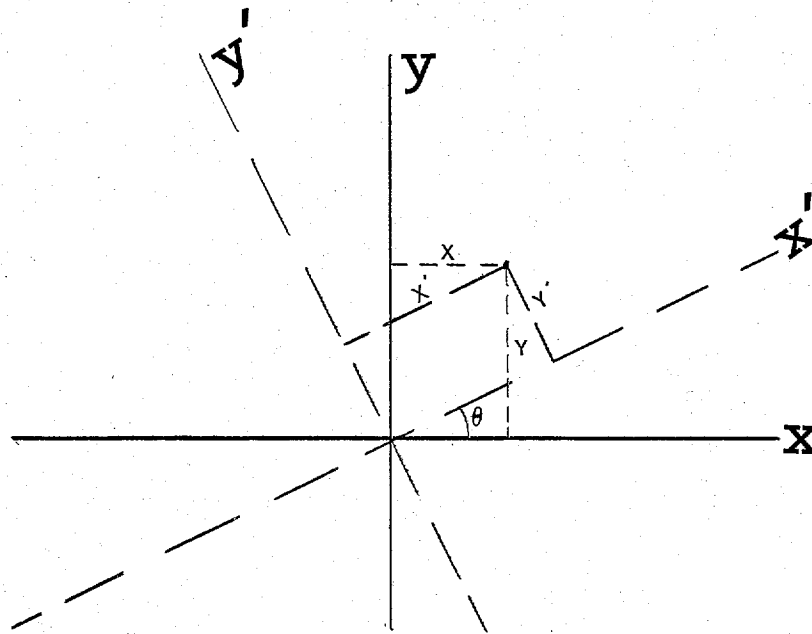


Figure 3. Coordinate transformation or rotation.

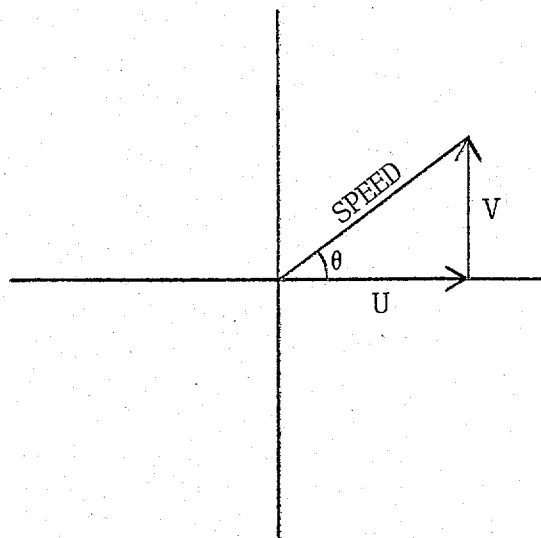


Figure 4. $\text{COS } \theta = U / \text{SPEED}$
 $U = \text{COS } \theta \times \text{SPEED}$

$\text{SIN } \theta = V / \text{SPEED}$
 $V = \text{SIN } \theta \times \text{SPEED}$

$\text{TAN } \theta = V / U$
 $\theta = \text{ARCTAN } (V / U)$

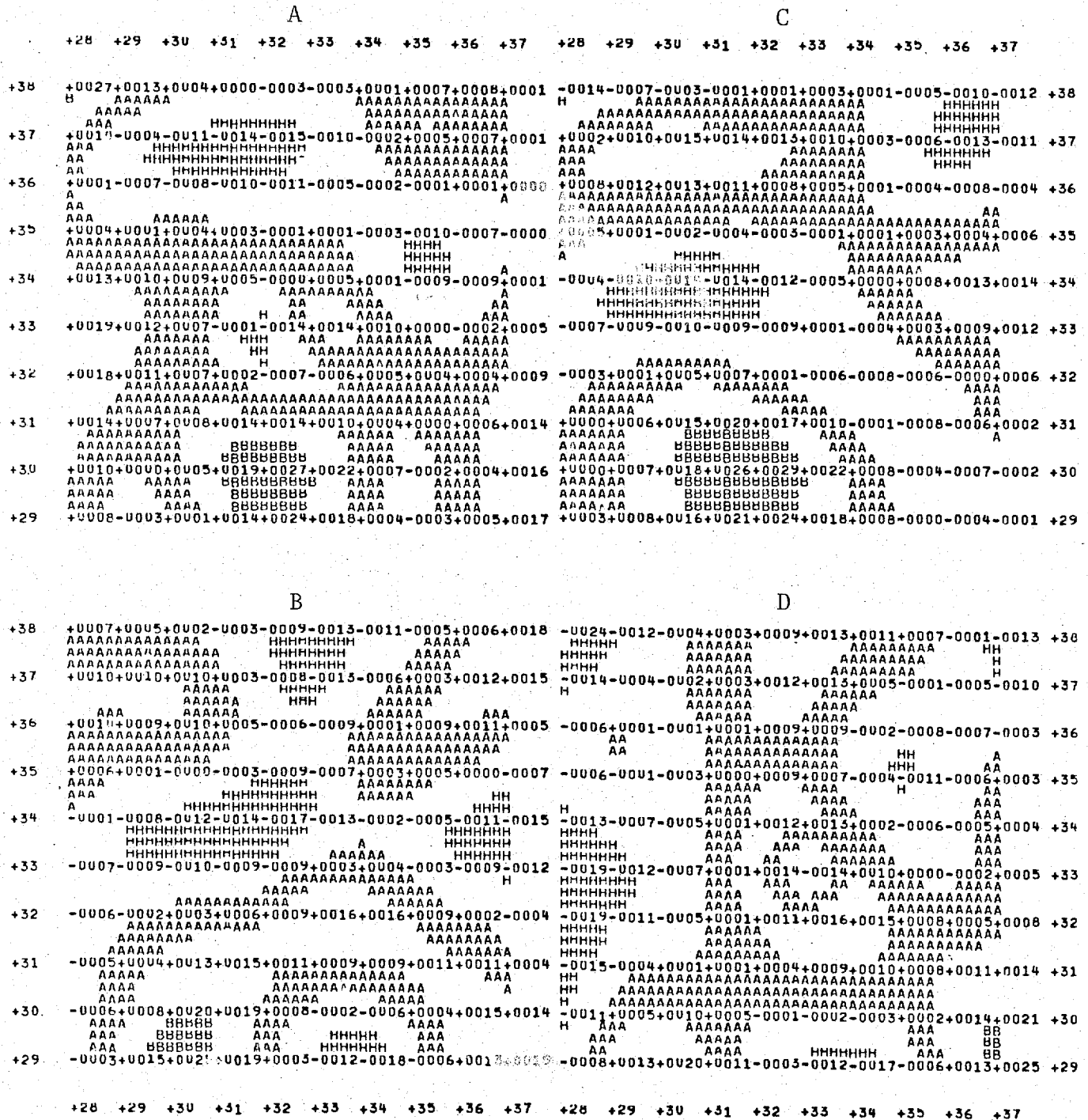


Figure 5. Gridplot of true and grid-oriented u,v components.

- a) true u components, pole value = 13.8773
- b) true v components, pole value = 3.1438
- c) grid-oriented u components, pole value = 0.6863
- d) grid-oriented v components, pole value = -14.2124

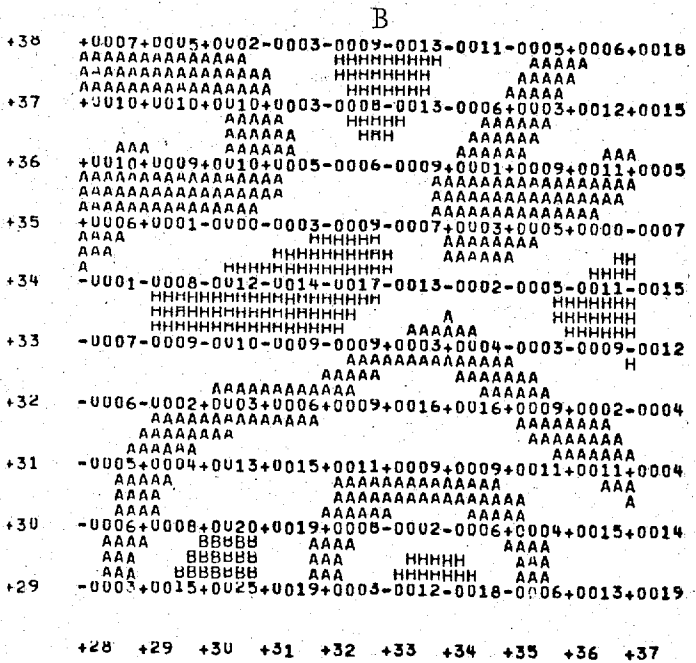
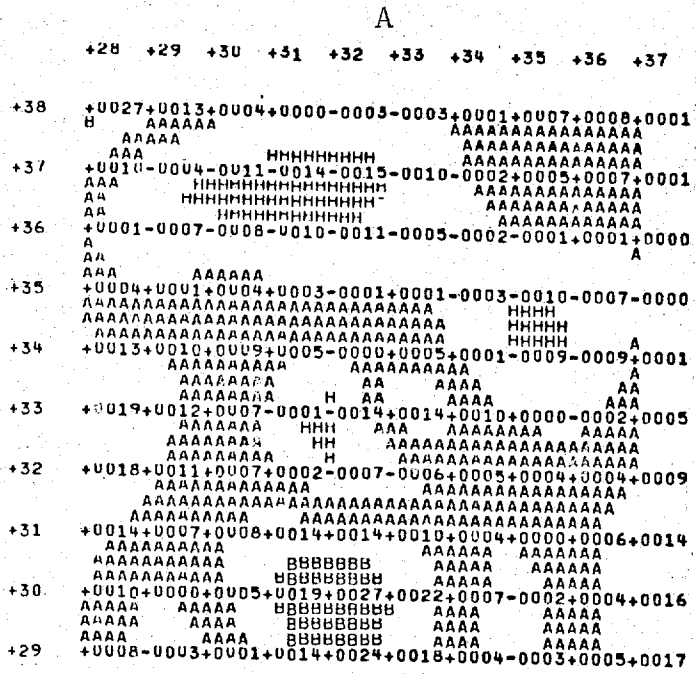


Figure 6. Gridplot of true u,v components.

a) true u components, pole value = 13.8773

b) true v components, pole value 3.1438

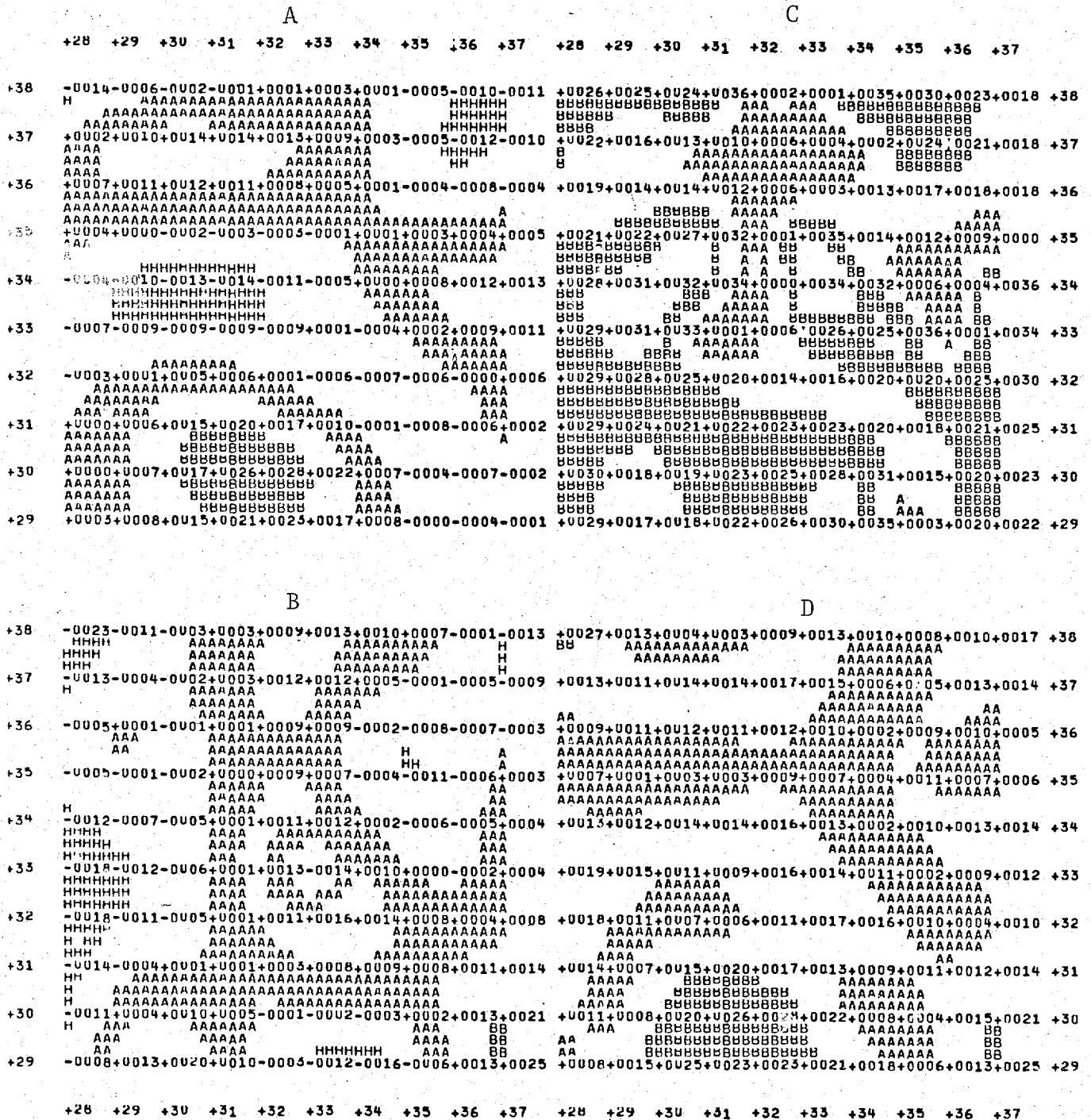
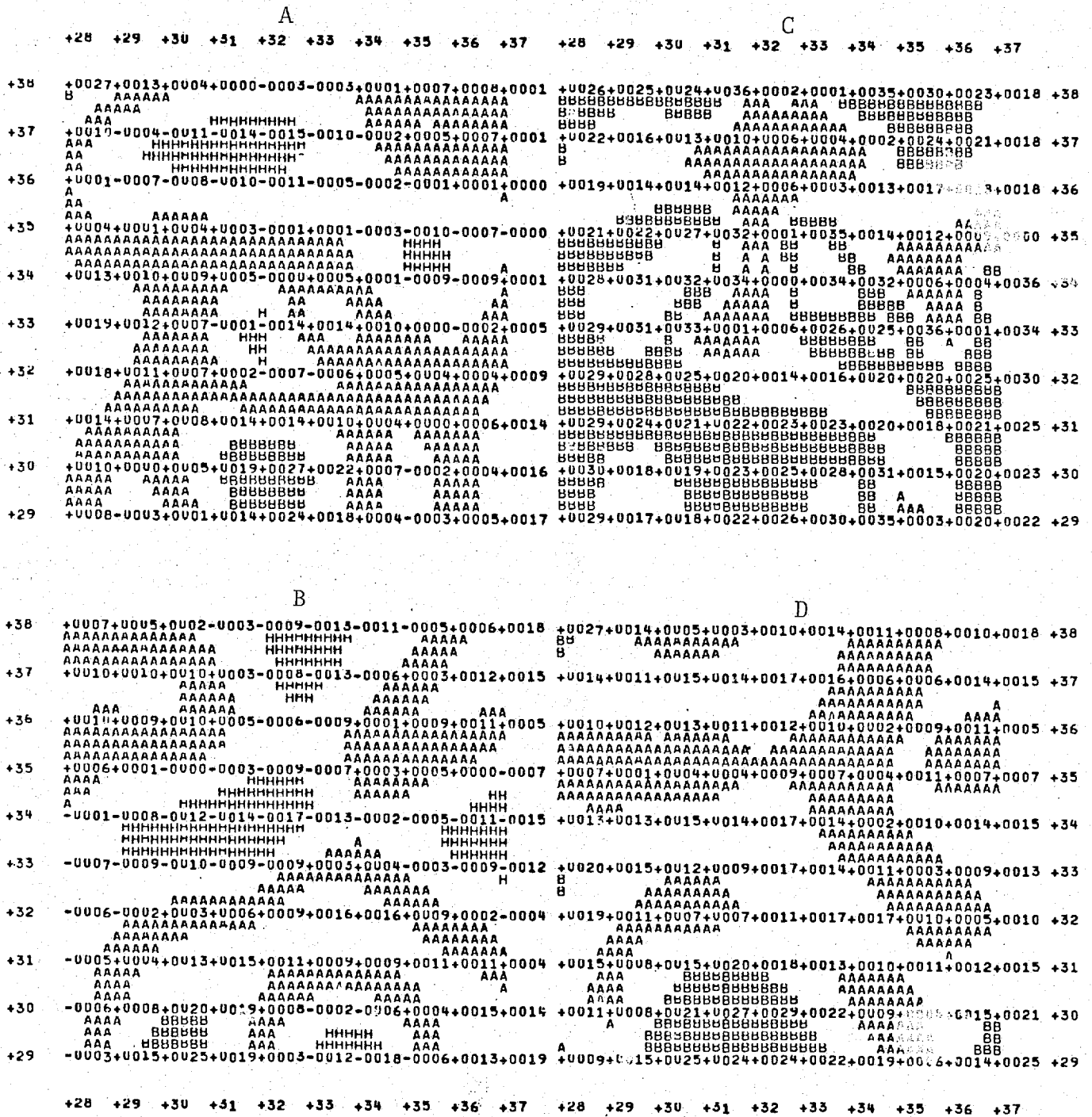


Figure 7. Gridplot of grid-oriented u,v components and true direction and speed.

- a) grid-oriented u components, pole value = .6863
- b) grid-oriented v components, pole value = -14.2124
- c) true direction (tens of degrees), pole value = 257.2351
- d) wind speed (knots), pole value = 14.2290



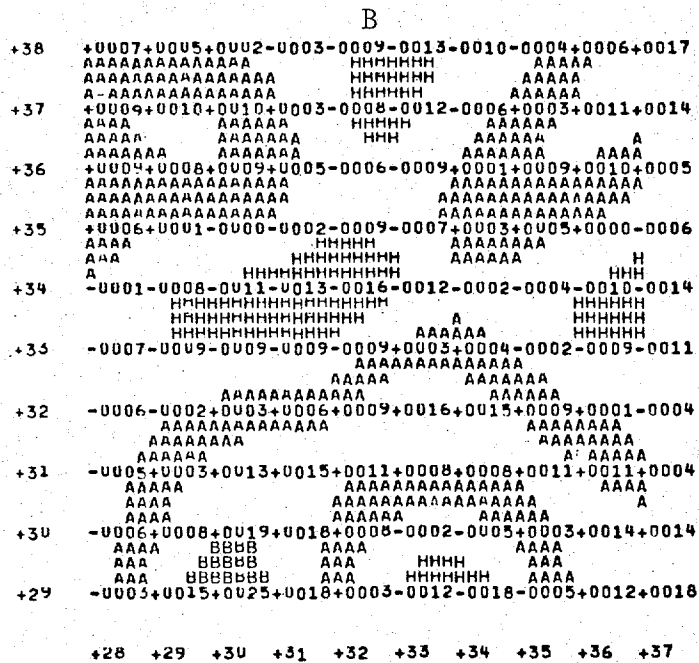


Figure 10. Gridplot of true u,v components.

- a) true u components, pole value = 13.8773
- b) true v components, pole value = 3.1438

<u>SUBROUTINE</u>	<u>FUNCTION</u>	<u>NEW NAME</u>
<u>NORTHERN HEMISPHERE</u>		
W3FC07	grid-oriented components to true components	W3FC07
W3FC08	true components to grid-oriented components	W3FC08
W3FC02	grid-oriented components to true direction and speed	W3FC02
W3FC00	true components to true direction and speed	W3FC05
W3FC03	true direction and speed to grid-oriented components	W3FC03
W3FC01	true direction and speed to true components	W3FC06
<u>SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE</u>		
W3FC11	grid-oriented components to true components	W3FC11
W3FC10	true components to grid-oriented components	W3FC10

Table 2.

REFERENCE

1. Handbook of Math Tables and Formulas, Burington, 1957, pp. 27.