During to horrible rerouting, I recently flew around the world: Dallas-London-Seoul-Dallas. Trying to console myself, I
did a quick estimate the frequent flyer miles I’d rack up by computing the length of the middle parallel in this journey.
This, however, turned out to be a significant overestimate. Why was this such a bad estimate? How could I do better,
using either naive estimates or some differential geometry? These questions give us a way to introduce to students or
reinforce basic concepts associated with map projections. (Received September 15, 2014)