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Assessment of Adjustments Methods in Traverse Networks for Positioning

Hart L.^{1,*}, Basil D. D.² and Oba T.³

^{1,2,3}Department of Surveying and Geomatics, Faculty of Environmental Sciences, Rivers State University, Port Harcourt, Nigeria

Corresponding Author: *lawrence.hart@ust.edu.ng; basildevote@gmail.com

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ABSTRACT

Various factors contribute to the degree of accuracy of the adjusted parameter (coordinate), one of which is the choice of adjustment model. Adjustment models seeks to eliminate (accounts) for the presence of random errors present in a given observations. The choice is critical for surveyors and other spatial analysts for optimal positioning and mapping projects since different adjustment models will yield different level of accuracy of spatial information generated irrespective of the quality of observations. For a traversing network, various adjustment models have been put forward which include; the Transit, the Bowditch, and the Crandels models. In spite of these models, internal consistency and reliability indicators of the network of positions are determined using the least squares adjustment model (observation equation and condition equation models). The aim of this work is to analyze the various traverse adjustment models. The approach deployed in this work was to compute the provisional coordinate of six traverse stations using the approximate methods of adjustment i.e., Bowditch and transit methods of traverse adjustment models. In addition, the least square adjustment models were deployed to minimize the propagation of residuals of the obtained values. The adjusted distances and directions were then compared with the observed distances and directions to obtain the residuals. The coordinate of positions was determined and the Root Mean Square Error (RMSE) associated with the traverse adjustment models are given as 0.128702264 and 0.008560954. Similarly, the RMSE of the adjusted values using the least square models are given as 0.007181432, and 0.005763969 for the observation and condition equation models respectively. The analysis of these results reveals that the traverse adjustment models are unique with capabilities embedded in the determination of the observables during data acquisition. However, for mapping and engineering survey of small locations, the transit method is more preferable to the Bowditch method.

Keywords: Adjustment models, Least squares adjustment, Traverse, Root Mean Square Error (RMSE)

1.0. Introduction

The determination of the precise position of point and survey line on the earth is critical for such purpose as topographic mapping, property boundary demarcation, engineering construction, environmental management and protection, navigations and fleet management, monitoring of dynamic changes on the earth crust. The process of determining the precise coordinate of a point on land, at sea, or in space with respect to an implied coordinate system is referred to as positioning (Vanicek and Krakiwsky, 1986), which is the basic role of the geomatics professionals (FIG 2004 as in Fajimirokun, 2012). Positioning can either be carried out by the classical methods which include, the method of traversing, triangulation, trilateration, intersection, and resection (Ghilani and Wolf, 2016) or by space-based positioning techniques (El-Rabbany, 2002; Hofmann-Wellenhof *et al.*, 2008; Fubara *et al.*, 2014).

Precise traverse is the most common classical method of positioning to the geomatics professionals. A traverse consists of a series of straight lines connecting successive points whose lengths and direction has been determined from field observations. These field observations are subject to error as a result

of imperfection of instruments, environmental factors and limitation of the operator's skills. Accordingly, there is the need to carry out adjustment of computed spatial information obtained from these field observations. The consequence of adjustment methods is to spread the residuals between the observations, so that the observations become consistent and create convergent network of lines that defines the geometry. Although the approximation methods of adjustment are inadequate in adjusting high precision survey networks involving traverse, trilateration and triangulation networks, they are still very attractive to land surveyors who specialize in property boundary establishment, engineering construction, mapping activities in conjunction with satellite imageries. Consequently, the geomatician and other practitioners is therefore faced with the difficulty of choosing the most appropriate traverse adjustment model out of several. The best adjustment model is said to yield the minimum variance estimate (Uotila 1967; Vanicek, 1980; Ghilani and Wolf, 2006; Ogundare 2019). The process of adjustment accounts for any presence of random errors (not systematic errors) in observations and increases the precisions of final values computed for the unknown parameters. In view of the requirement for the precision and reliability of adjusted values of spatial data, the need to identify the most optimal traverse adjustment models has become very critical. Hence, the traverse coordinate obtained using these techniques provided better estimates for position of all traverse stations and the accuracy of the adjustment can be checked and statistically tested. This research therefore seeks to investigate comparatively the various adjustment models to determine their individual uniqueness, fitness, weakness and strength as it relate to the purpose of positioning.

The various adjustment models used by geomatics and allied professionals for the adjustment of traverse network which is principally the approximation method; the transit method, the Bowditch method and Crandel method. The least squares adjustment was used to determine the most probable values of the coordinates and associated reliability indicators (i.e. standard error) to serve as a baseline of comparison.

1.1. Study Area

The study area is within Rivers State University (RSU), Nkpolu-Oroworukwu, Port Harcourt, Rivers State. It is within the bounds of latitude 004° 49' 34".66N and 004° 46' 34".66N of the equator, longitude 006° 57'25" E and 006° 58' 38".30E. It is bounded in the north and east by Diobu Area, in the south by Eagle Island and in the West by Rumeme Agip. The Study covers an approximate area of 60 hectares and is bounded by the following geodetic monument WSP003, SVG GPS 001 to SVG GPS 006; it covers the entire area of the Senate Building, the F and G block Hostel, the Faculty of Sciences, Engineering, Management and Environmental Sciences including the Post Graduate School as shown in the Figure 1. The sample field observations as obtained from the study area was subjected to the adjustment models discussed in this paper.



Figure 1: Study Area (Google earth imagery 2018)

2.0. Methodology

2.1. Materials

This study adopts the quantitative research approach. It relies primarily on the sample observables (data) as shown in Table 1 obtained through field observation in the study area as shown in Figure 1. In other to have the best possible result and to facilitate the computation process, the following

software were used in the process of carrying out this research, MATLAB version 2018b, Microsoft Excel 2013, AutoCAD 2007 and CASIO fx-7400 GII Programmable Calculator.

Station from	Distances (m)	Angles (° ' ")	Station to						
WGPS003	435.925	224 00 12	SVG/05/2018/001						
SVG/05/2018/001	435.389	275 08 05	SVG/05/2018/002						
SVG/05/2018/002	413.74	193 43 22	SVG/05/2018/003						
SVG/05/2018/003	312.331	249 42 34	SVG/05/2018/004						
SVG/05/2018/004	310.411	183 11 48	SVG/05/2018/005						
SVG/05/2018/005	439.859	268 28 32	SVG/05/2018/006						
SVG/05/2018/006	573.603	182 02 18	SVG GPS 003						

 Table 1: Traverse Observables (Marcus, 2018)

2.2. Methods

This research emphasis on the analysis of the various adjustment models to determine their fitness, uniqueness, weakness and strength as it relate to the purpose of positioning and orientation. In order to quantify the effect of any adjustment based on any method, the adjusted observations (distances and angles) are analyzed rather than the plane coordinates computed from those observations, (Ogundare, 2019). The traverse computation and adjustment were done with the aid of Micro Soft Excel 2013, while the method of Least Squares MATLAB was used to facilitate the computational and Adjustment Process as seen in Figure 2 and 3. The steps for quantifying the effect of any adjustment can be given as follows: calculate the coordinates from the field measurements, calculate angles and distances by back-computations using the calculated coordinates and compare the back-computed quantities with the actual measurements to see how far they deviate from the actual measurements.

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Figure 3: Screenshot of the Derived Parameters for the Condition Equation

2.2.1. Traverse adjustment model

The approximation method of adjustment of traverse network used by geomatics and allied professional includes but not limited to the followings; the transit method, the Bowditch method and the Crandall method. We will critically analyze the models of transit and Bowditch in this work.

2.2.2. Transit Adjustment Model

The transit rule method is an empirical method of adjustment that has no theoretical basis. Kimmick (1949) asserts that the displacement of the traverse points is parallel to the error vector and is proportional to the absolute values of the partial northings and eastings. The method assumes the angles measured with transit are more precise than the corresponding distances measured with tape (Duggal, 2008; Ogundare, 2019). The compass rule method, however, determines adjustments or corrections to coordinate changes as follows. For a given total closure error of a traverse in the northing direction as e_N , the correction ($C_{\Delta N}$) to be applied to the change in northing value (ΔN_i) for the traverse leg *i* can be given in Equation 1:

$$C_{\Delta N} = -e_{N} \left(\frac{|\Delta N_{i}|}{\sum_{i}^{n} |\Delta N_{i}|} \right)$$
(1)

where $|\Delta Ni|$ is the absolute value of the change in northing value for the given traverse leg *i*. Similarly, the correction $(C_{\Delta E_i})$ to be applied to the change in easting value (ΔEi) for the traverse leg *i* can be given in Equation 2:

$$C_{\Delta E} = -e_E \left(\frac{\left| \Delta E_i \right|}{\sum_{i}^{n} \left| \Delta E_i \right|} \right)$$
(2)

where $|\Delta Ei|$ is the absolute value of the change in easting value for the given traverse leg *i*. The adjusted coordinate changes for a given traverse leg *i* are given in Equations 3 and 4:

$$\Delta \hat{N} = \Delta N_i + C_{\Delta N_i} \tag{3}$$

$$\Delta N \hat{E} = \Delta E_i + C_{\Delta E_i} \tag{4}$$

where ΔNi and ΔEi are the adjusted changes in northing and easting values for the given traverse leg *i*. The adjusted coordinates for a given traverse point *k* are given in Equations 5 and 6:

$$\hat{N}_{k} = \hat{N}_{k-1} + \Delta \hat{N}_{k-1 \longrightarrow k}$$

$$\hat{n} = \hat{n} \longrightarrow \hat{n}$$
(5)

$$\hat{E}_{k} = \hat{E}_{k-1} + \Delta \hat{E}_{k-1 \longrightarrow k} \tag{6}$$

where \hat{N}_k and \hat{E}_k are the adjusted northing and easting coordinate values, respectively, for the current traverse point k; \hat{N}_{k-1} and \hat{E}_{k-1} are the previously adjusted northing and easting coordinate values, respectively, for the traverse point k - 1 preceding the current traverse point k; $\Delta \hat{N}_{k-1}$ and $\Delta \hat{E}_{k-1}$ are the adjusted changes in northing and easting values for the traverse leg from point k - 1 to point k.

2.2.3. Bowditch Adjustment Model

The Bowditch model underscores the displacement of each point which is parallel to the error vector and proportional to the aggregate of the distances of the locations from the traverse origin, GTM, 1938. The method assumes that the bearing and distance measurements of a traverse leg are uncorrelated. The compass rule method, however, determines adjustments or corrections to coordinate changes as given in Equations 7 and 8 (Jack *et al.*, 2013).

$$C_{lat} = \sum \Delta N \times \left(\frac{L}{D}\right) \tag{7}$$

 $C_{dep} = \sum \Delta E \times \left(\frac{L}{D}\right) \tag{8}$

where: C_{lat} = correction of latitude, C_{dep} = correction of departure, $\sum \Delta E$ = total closure in easting, $\sum \Delta N$ = total closure in northing, L = cumulative distance of traverse leg, D = total distance of the traverse.

2.2.4. Least Squares Adjustment Model

The least squares is the most rigorous method of adjustment and it yields the unbiased estimates for the parameters which are to be determined. Actually, least squares adjustment is a statistical technique for carrying out objective quality control of measurements by processing set of redundant observations according to mathematically well-defined rules (Leick *et al.*, 2015; Ogundare, 2019). The method of least squares used by spatial analysts for adjustment of traverse includes but not limited to; the method of least squares by observation equation and the method of least squares by condition equation. We can also have the mixed model approach.

2.2.5. Observation Equation Model

Observation equations are sets of equations that show the functional relation between observed parameters and the adjusted parameters (Ayeni, 1981). The observation equation method is also known as the parametric least squares model, the method of variation of parameter and also as the Gauss–Markov model (Ogundare, 2019). According to (Uotila, 1978; Vanicek, 1980; Ayeni, 1981; Ghilani and Wolf, 2006; Leick *et al.*, 2015; Ogundare, 2019; Opuaji, 2020), the following mathematical models as given in Equation (9-14) holds true for the observation equation model of least squares adjustment:

$$v = A\hat{x} + l \tag{9}$$

$$\hat{x} = -\left(A^T P A\right)^{-1} A^T P l \tag{10}$$

$$\sigma_0^2 = \left(\frac{V^T P V}{n-m}\right) \tag{11}$$

$$\sum_{I_{a}} X = \sigma^{2} (A^{T} P A)^{-1}$$
(12)

$$\sum L^{a} = A \sum \hat{x} A^{T}$$
(13)
(14)

Equation (9) is the linearized model of the observation equation useful for the determination of the residual of a given observations. Equation (10) is the correction to be applied to the approximate observation to obtain the adjusted parameter. Equation (11) gives the unit weight variance and tell us about the fitness of the adjustment model to the observation (Ayeni, 1981; Opuaji, 2020). It is called the aposterior variance, Equation (12) is the variance covariance matrix, it is fundamentally important because, the diagonal element yield the variance of the adjusted parameter, from which we can determine the standard deviation as a measure of the precision of the observation. From Equation (13) the adjusted observation can be determined and Equation (14) is the covariance matrix of the adjusted observations, v is

the vector of residual, P is the weight matrix, n is the number of observations, m is the number of unknown parameter (n - m) is actually the degree of freedom or redundancy.

2.2.6. Least Squares Adjustment by Method of Condition Equation

The condition equation is expressed as a function of the adjusted observation:

$$F(L^a) = 0 \tag{15}$$

$$L^{a} = L^{b} + V$$

$$F(L^{b} + V) = 0$$
(16)
(17)

Linearizing Equation 17 using Taylor's series and truncating at the first order term, gives Equation 18 as shown below:

$$B\hat{V} + W = 0 \tag{18}$$

Using Lagrange Multiplier \hat{K}^T to minimize the sum of the squares of the weighted residuals $\hat{V}^T P \hat{V}$, therefore,

$$\mathcal{G} = \hat{V}P\hat{V} - \hat{K}^{T}(B\hat{V} + W) = \text{minimum}$$
⁽¹⁹⁾

Differentiating Equation 19 with respect \hat{V} and \hat{K}^{T} to and solving simultaneously yield:

$$\hat{V} = -P^{-1}B^{T} \left(BP^{-1}B^{T} \right)^{-1} W$$
(20)

It is to be noted that the number of condition equations to be formed must equals the difference between the number of observations and the number of unknown parameters. A detailed derivation on condition equation techniques is given by (Uotila, 1978; Vanicek, 1980; Ayeni, 1981; Leick *et al.*, 2015; Ogundare, 2019; Opuaji, 2020).

2.2.7. Root Mean Square Error

A statistical test is one of the ways in checking the degree of internal consistency and reliability of the various adjustment model to give credence to the adjusted observations. The Root Mean Square Error (RMSE) also called the root mean square deviation is a statistical tool used in measuring the difference between the adjusted observations and the observed values (the residual). Equation 21 is the mathematical model for the determination of the root mean square error as given by (Uotila, 1967; Vanicek, 1980; Ayeni, 1981; Ghilani and Wolf, 2006; Alsadik, 2019; Oba *et al.*, 2020):

$$RMSE = \sqrt{\left(\frac{\sum_{i=1}^{n} (x - \bar{x})^2}{n - 1}\right)}$$
(21)

3.0. Results and Discussion

From Table 2, the linear misclosure in eastings is 0.00514 meters and northings as 0.013485 meters. The perimeter of the traverse network is 2,921.258 meters (2.921258 kilometers). Similarly, from Tables 3 and 4 showed that the variation in the values of the adjusted coordinates obtained from the Bowditch and transit approximation methods of traverse adjustment are in sub meters value. The impact of these variations may not be significant in small locations as was the case of this study, however, their inherent attributes was contributory to the variations. In another vein, Tables 5 and 6 describes the scale and azimuth variation between computed and observed values. The Bowditch model showed high values in azimuth 19.49 and 22.43 seconds as against 3.08 and 6.01 seconds

respectively using the transit model on the same stations. There was no significant variation in the distances as applicable to both models. This notwithstanding, Tables 7 and 8 showed the values of the magnitude of the residuals in terms of the distances and angles as compared with the residual values of the condition equation method of least square adjustment model. Further to these, the graphical representations of the computed residuals for distances and angles are given Figures 4 and 5 it can be clearly seen that the Bowditch adjustment models yield the highest residual with a Root Mean Squares of 0.128702264. This is because this method of adjustment only takes into consideration linear measurement in the adjustment process. The maximum values of angular residuals as indicated at stations SVG/05/2018/003 and SVG/05/2018/004 respectively. The residuals of both methods are significantly convergent at station SVG/05/2018/005 and 006. Conversely, the Bowditch model revealed a significant variation in the residuals of the distances as against the transit model that showed correlation with the values of the least square adjustment model. However, the propagation of error to the unknown parameter (coordinates) is a function of both the distances and the directions. Since error in angular measurement increases over long distances, the Bowditch method is therefore not suitable for the adjustment of traverse network of large areas. Although, the transit adjustment models take into considerations both the linear and directional measurement during the adjustment process, its weakness lies in the fact that it makes no provision for assigning appropriate weight to the observations in the adjustment processes. Hence the degree of precision in which the measurement where captured is irrelevant in the adjustment process. The result of the Root Means Squared Error (RMSE) of the various models is given as 0.128702264, 0.008560954, and 0.005763969 for the Bowditch model, transit model, and condition equation model respectively.

	Distances		Delta		Unadjusted	Unadjusted	
Station from	(m)	Bearings	Northing	Delta Easting	Easting (m)	Northings (m)	Station to
			$\Delta N(m)$	ΔE (m)	275992.841	530933.315	WGPS003
WGPS003	435.925	88.977026	7.782727	435.85552	276428.69652	530941.0977	SVG/05/2018/001
SVG/05/2018/001	435.389	184.11323	-434.268	-31.22943	276397.46709	530506.8302	SVG/05/2018/002
SVG/05/2018/002	413.740	197.83753	-393.851	-126.73631	276270.73078	530112.9791	SVG/05/2018/003
SVG/05/2018/003	312.331	267.54793	-13.3627	-312.04502	275958.68576	530099.6164	SVG/05/2018/004
SVG/05/2018/004	310.411	270.74295	4.024902	-310.38490	275648.30086	530103.6413	SVG/05/2018/005
SVG/05/2018/005	439.859	359.22012	439.8183	-5.98700	275642.31386	530543.4595	SVG/05/2018/006
SVG/05/2018/006	573.603	1.2568856	573.465	12.58200	275654.89586	531116.9245	SVG GPS 003
				_	275654.90100	531116.9380	
	2,921.258			MISCLOSURE	0.00514	0.013485474	

Table 2: Result of the Provisional Coordinates before Adjustment

Table 3: Adjustment of the Traverse Network using the Bowditch Method

	Horizontal		Corrected	Corrected			
	Distance	Corrected	Delta	Delta	Adjusted	Adjusted	
Station from	(m)	Bearings	Northings	Eastings	Eastings (m)	Northings (m)	Station to
			$\Delta N(m)$	ΔE (m)	275992.8410	530933.3150	WGPS003
WGPS003	435.925	88.977026	7.78349	435.8575329	276428.6985	530941.0985	SVG/05/2018/001
SVG/05/2018/001	435.389	184.11323	-434.26602	-31.22540709	276397.4731	530506.8325	SVG/05/2018/002
SVG/05/2018/002	413.74	197.83753	-393.84885	-126.7303787	276270.7427	530112.9836	SVG/05/2018/003
SVG/05/2018/003	312.331	267.54793	-13.35989	-312.0376415	275958.7051	530099.6237	SVG/05/2018/004
SVG/05/2018/004	310.411	270.74295	4.02826	-310.3760976	275648.3290	530103.6520	SVG/05/2018/005
SVG/05/2018/005	439.859	359.22012	439.82238	-5.976165	275642.3528	530543.4744	SVG/05/2018/006
SVG/05/2018/006	573.603	1.2568856	573.47013	12.59548543	275654.9483	531116.9445	SVG GPS 003

Fable 4: Adjustment of the Traverse	Network using the Transit M	lethod
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	Correction	Correction	Corrected	Corrected			
	for Delta	for Delta	Delta	Delta	Adjusted	Adjusted	
Station from	Northings	Eastings	Northings	Eastings	Eastings (m)	Northings (m)	Station to
			$\Delta N(m)$	ΔE (m)	275992.84100	530933.3150	WGPS003
WGPS003	0.01349	0.00514	7.79621	435.86066	276428.70166	530941.11121	SVG/05/2018/001
SVG/05/2018/001	0.01325	0.0003437	-434.25430	-31.22909	276397.47257	530506.85691	SVG/05/2018/002
SVG/05/2018/002	0.00635	0.001097	-393.84475	-126.73521	276270.73736	530113.01216	SVG/05/2018/003
SVG/05/2018/003	0.00021	0.0017706	-13.36249	-312.04325	275958.69412	530099.64967	SVG/05/2018/004
SVG/05/2018/004	6.4E-05	0.0013117	4.02497	-310.38359	275648.31052	530103.67463	SVG/05/2018/005
SVG/05/2018/005	0.00459	2.518E-05	439.82284	-5.98698	275642.32355	530543.49747	SVG/05/2018/006
SVG/05/2018/006	0.00414	5.237E-05	573.46913	12.58205	275654.90560	531116.96661	SVG GPS 003

Point ID (From)	Observed distances (m)	Adjusted Distances (m)	Difference (m)	Observed Angles (⁰ · · ·)	Adjusted Angles (⁰ · · ·)	Diff. (⁰ ' '')	Point ID (To)
WGPS 003	435.925	435.92703	0.00203	224 00 12			SVG/05/2018/001
SVG/05/2018/001	435.389	435.38719	-0.00181	275 08 05	275 08 17.29	0 0 12.29	SVG/05/2018/002
SVG/05/2018/002	413.74	413.73603	-0.00397	193 43 22	193 43 27.62	0 0 05.62	SVG/05/2018/003
SVG/05/2018/003	312.331	312.32351	-0.00749	249 42 34	249 42 53.49	0 0 19.49	SVG/05/2018/004
SVG/05/2018/004	310.411	310.40224	-0.00876	183 11 48	183 11 25.57	-0 0 22.43	SVG/05/2018/005
SVG/05/2018/005	439.859	439.86298	0.00398	268 28 32	268 28 35.58	0 0 3.58	SVG/05/2018/006
SVG/05/2018/006	573.603	573.60843	0.00543	182 02 18	182 02 14.59	-0 0 03.41	SVG GPS 003

 Table 5: Differences between Observed and Adjusted Distances and Angles after Adjustment using Bowditch Method

Table 6: Differences between Observed and Adjusted Distances and Angles after Least Squares

 Adjustment using Transit method

Point ID (From)	Observed distances (m)	Adjusted Distances (m)	Diff.(m)	Observed Angles (⁰ · · ·)	Adjusted Angles (⁰ ' '')	Difference (⁰ · · '')	Point ID (To)
WGPS 003	435.925	435.93038	0.0054	224 00 12			SVG/05/2018/001
SVG/05/2018/001	435.389	435.37576	-0.0132	275 08 05	275 08 16.95	0 0 11.95	SVG/05/2018/002
SVG/05/2018/002	413.74	413.73362	-0.0064	193 43 22	193 43 27.62	0 0 5.62	SVG/05/2018/003
SVG/05/2018/003	312.331	312.32922	-0.0018	249 42 34	249 42 37.08	0 0 3.08	SVG/05/2018/004
SVG/05/2018/004	310.411	310.40969	-0.0013	183 11 48	183 11 41.99	0 0 6.01	SVG/05/2018/005
SVG/05/2018/005	439.859	439.86359	0.0046	268 28 32	268 28 37.89	0 0 5.89	SVG/05/2018/006
SVG/05/2018/006	573.603	573.60714	0.0041	182 02 18	182 02 12.27	-0 0 5.73	SVG GPS 003

Table 7: Result showing the Computed Distances Residuals for the Two-Adjustment Methods against the Least Square Method

Station From	Transit Method	Bowditch Method	Condition Equation Method	Station To
WGPS001	0.0054	0.1185	0.005	SVG/05/2018/001
SVG/05/2018/001	-0.0132	0.0305	0.006	SVG/05/2018/002
SVG/05/2018/002	-0.0064	0.2592	0.004	SVG/05/2018/003
SVG/05/2018/003	-0.0018	-0.0993	-0.005	SVG/05/2018/004
SVG/05/2018/004	-0.0013	-0.0845	-0.005	SVG/05/2018/005
SVG/05/2018/005	0.0046	-0.0037	-0.006	SVG/05/2018/006
SVG/05/2018/006	0.0041	0.0114	-0.006	SVG GPS 003

Table 8: Angular Residuals in Decimal of Degree for the Various Adjustment Methods

Stations	Bowditch Method	Transit Method	LSA condition equation
SVG/05/2018/001	0.003412500	0.003318333	0.0003
SVG/05/2018/002	0.001562222	0.001561389	0.0003
SVG/05/2018/003	0.005414722	0.000855556	0.0002
SVG/05/2018/004	-0.006230000	-0.001670000	0.0002
SVG/05/2018/005	0.000994444	0.001636111	0.0002
SVG/05/2018/006	-0.000948333	-0.001590833	0.0002
TOTAL	0.004205555	0.004110555	0.0014



Figure 4: Showing plot of distance residual for the three adjustment methods



Figure 5: Plot of distance residual for the three adjustment methods

4.0. Conclusion

In our quest to properly map the earth or near-earth surfaces particularly using classical approach of data acquisition, which requires the measurement of distances and determination of angles of various accuracies this will underscore the choice of adjustment model. Therefore, any adjustment model adopted will seek to propagate the magnitude of the errors of the observations on the traverse stations irrespective of the method and facilities deployed. This means that the surveyor who purchases an accurate surveying instrument will have to ignore the accuracy achieved with such an instrument when adjusting the measurements acquired with the instrument, which will be unreasonable. However, these traverse adjustment models are considered fit for less precise surveys involving small areas. The condition equation model is unique in that it gives the minimum residual in angles. This can be attributed to the fact that outside making provision for appropriate weighting of the observations, condition equations also take into consideration the geometry properties of the network.

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