

Doc 11, 1962

W. Minovich is a graduate student in Math since 1958 (He was a student in my Physics 10 class several years ago & had a good record). While working at JPL during the summer of 1961 he got interested in the space trajectory problem & how to use the gravitational field of other planets to change the course of interplanetary vehicles. Approximate methods were apparently discussed by Battin of MIT. M.H. says he found a very convenient vector approach (in the book of Brand) & having found out that JPL had not used this method he put it on his own & wrote up specs. & recom. for a program which was never coded at JPL. He then went on on his own after coming back to UCLA & got P. Hencici to sponsor his calculations - P.H. was apparently very enthusiastic & recommended that he be allowed stand by time on the 70. M.H. finally delugged his program after a couple of months & from what he says JPL was deeply impressed by his results (cf. Victor Clarke, trajectory specialist at JPL). They let him run for on their computer for whole week ends. According to M.H. he has explored the possible Mars-Venus-Earth orbit to 1975, the Mercury Mars or Venus, earth orbit & the many planets cargo slip discovering good new ones. He is presenting a paper at JPL around X-mas & writing up a paper for the Aero Space Journal. If 1/10 of what he says is true this is quite an accomplishment & I feel we should encourage this problem as much as possible.

Ed Adams