

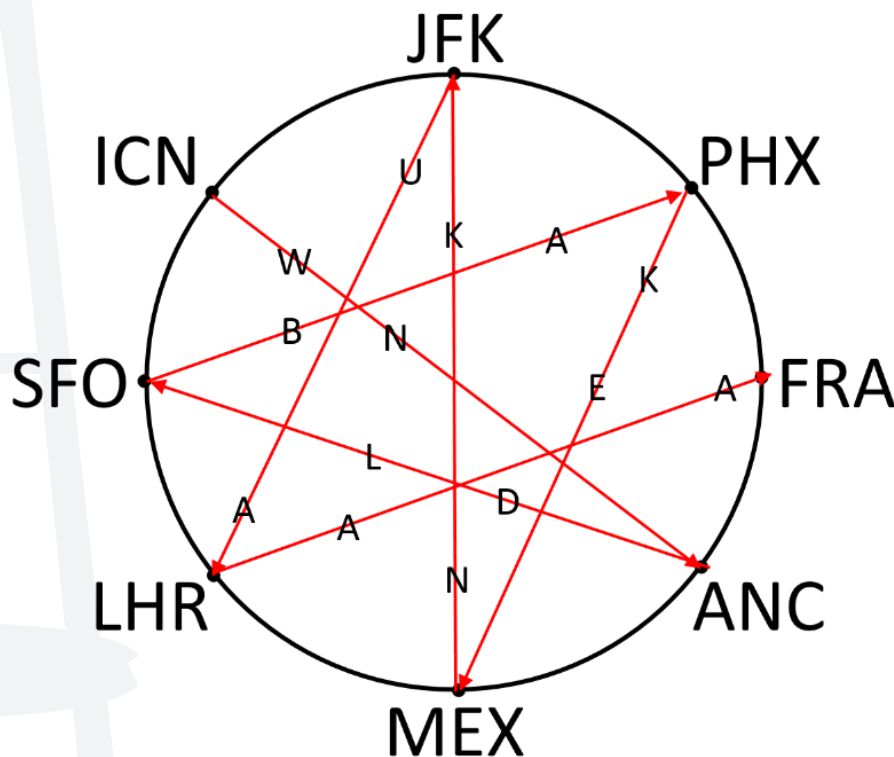
All Flights Lead to Vegas

By: Han-Wen Yeh

The three-letter words around the circle are all IATA airport codes. They are:

- JFK – John F Kennedy International Airport (New York City)
- PHX – Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport
- FRA – Frankfurt Airport
- ANC – Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport
- MEX – Benito Juárez International Airport (Mexico City)
- LHR – London Heathrow Airport
- SFO – San Francisco International Airport
- ICN – Incheon International Airport (Seoul)

The second sentence in the first paragraph of the flavor text mentions “as far West as Incheon to as far East as Frankfurt”. Look for the airports on a map and list the airports from west to east, starting from ICN and ending in FRA. In the circle, connect each airport code with the next on the list, and the circle will look like this:



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In the third sentence of the first paragraph of the flavor text, it is mentioned that McCarran International Airport has “a couple of terminals”, and each terminal has “its own set of airlines”. Each line in the circle should intersect with two letters, and each two-letter pair is an IATA airline code. Each of the airlines has planes that fly to McCarran International Airport, and each airline either operates in Terminal 1 or Terminal 3. An online search will bring up several sources listing the terminal in McCarran that each airline operates in. In the order of the lines drawn, they are:

1. WN – Southwest Airlines (Terminal 1)
2. DL – Delta Air Lines (Terminal 1)
3. BA – British Airways (Terminal 3)
4. KE – Korean Air (Terminal 3)
5. NK – Spirit Airlines (Terminal 1)
6. UA – United Airlines (Terminal 3)
7. AA – American Airlines (Terminal 1)

The terminal number represents an index to either the first or third words in the phrase “CURIOUS filtering SYSTEMS”. For example, the second airline in the list, Delta Air Lines, operates in Terminal 1, so it represents the second letter in the first word, “CURIOUS”. The fourth airline in the list, Korean Air, operates in Terminal 3, so it represents the fourth letter in the third word, “SYSTEMS”.

Thus, after extracting each letter from the phrase in order, you find out that my friend is currently in **CUSTOMS**.

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