## LIGHT AND SHADOW OVER EARTH AS SEEN ON REAL-TIME NAVIGATION DURING FLIGHT

## ACHINTYA PAL

In modern day international and long-haul domestic flights, the flight paths are shown on screens in different scales along with information on speed of aircraft, external temperature, remaining distance to destination and its local time etc. In addition to these, map of the whole earth is periodically displayed on the screen with an overlay of lighted and shadow zones over it giving an overall idea to the viewer in which parts of the world it is day and in which ones it is evening or night at that moment. Though the sun shines on spherical earth resulting in a circular cross-section (twilight zone) separating lighted and dark areas on surface of the earth, the article explains why it appears like an undulatory curve on a flat display just as continents on the earth near the poles look inevitably distorted on a flat map.