

Altitude correction



Introduction

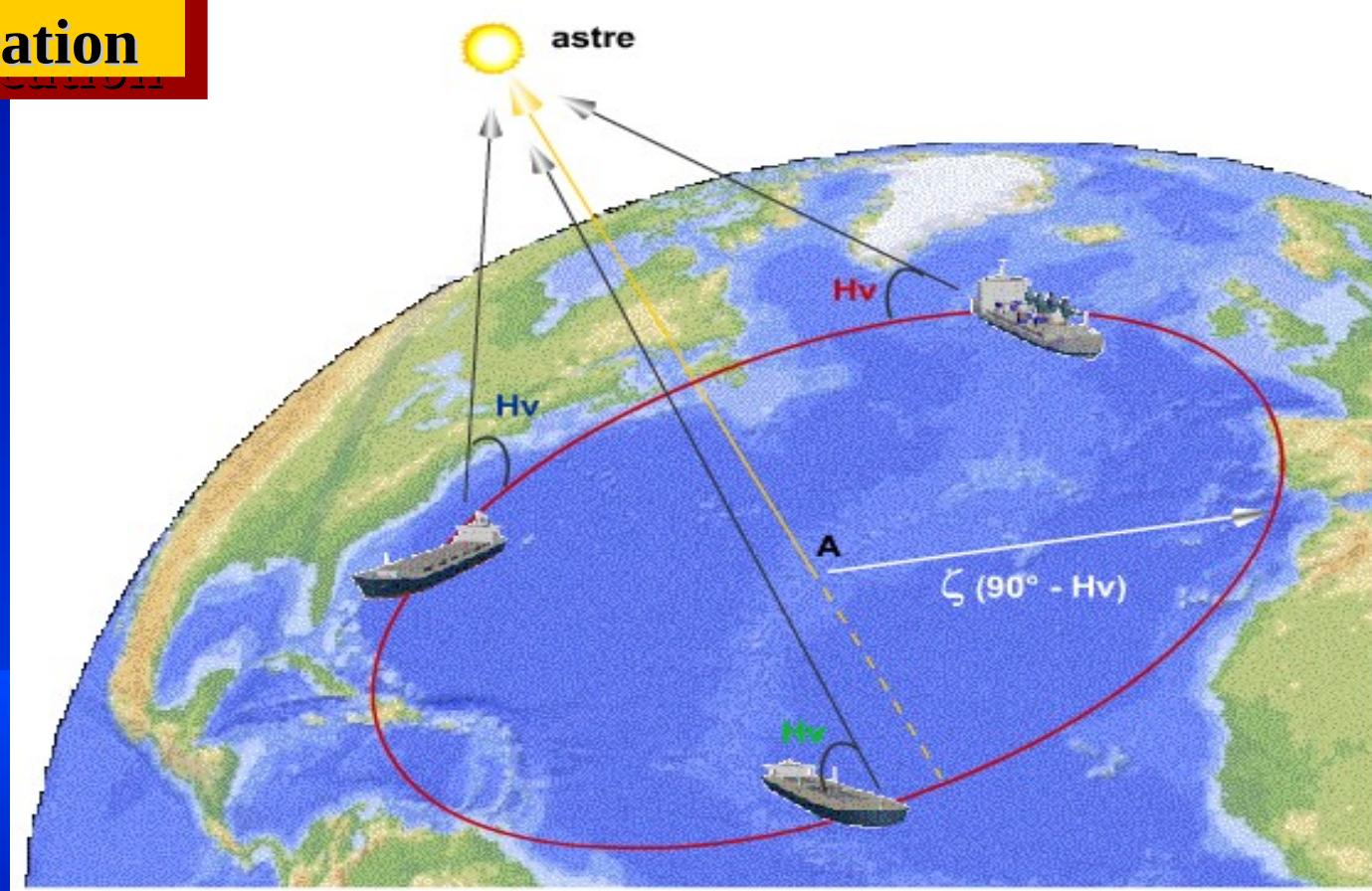
Importance of the altitude

Altitude

#

Location

Location



1- Factors affecting the altitude

2- Relations between altitudes

3- Nautical Almanac & corrections

- 1 -

Factors affecting the altitude

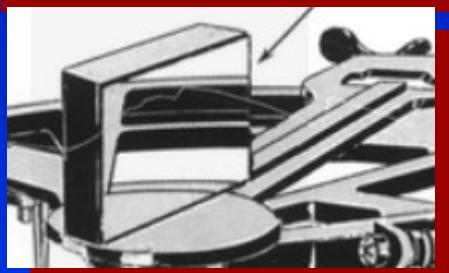
1- Factors affecting the altitude

Sextant

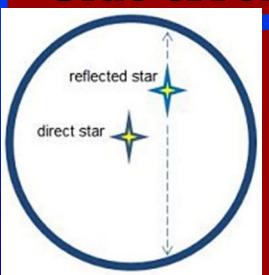
Instrument error



Perpendicularity Error



Side error



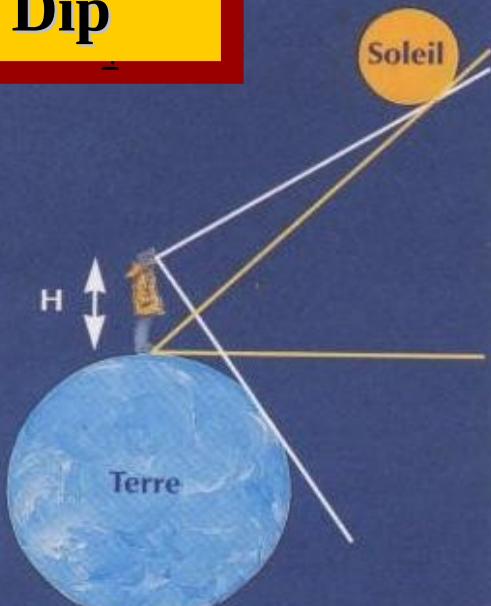
Index Error (IE)

Collimation Error

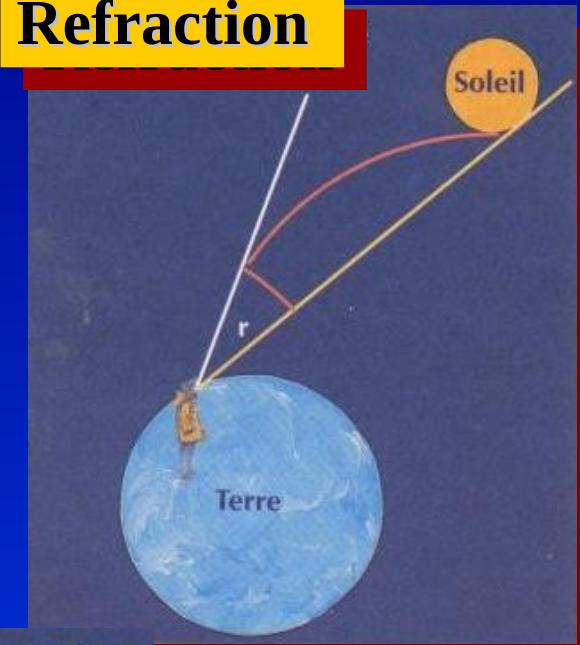
1- Factors affecting the altitude

Environnement – Altitude correction

Dip



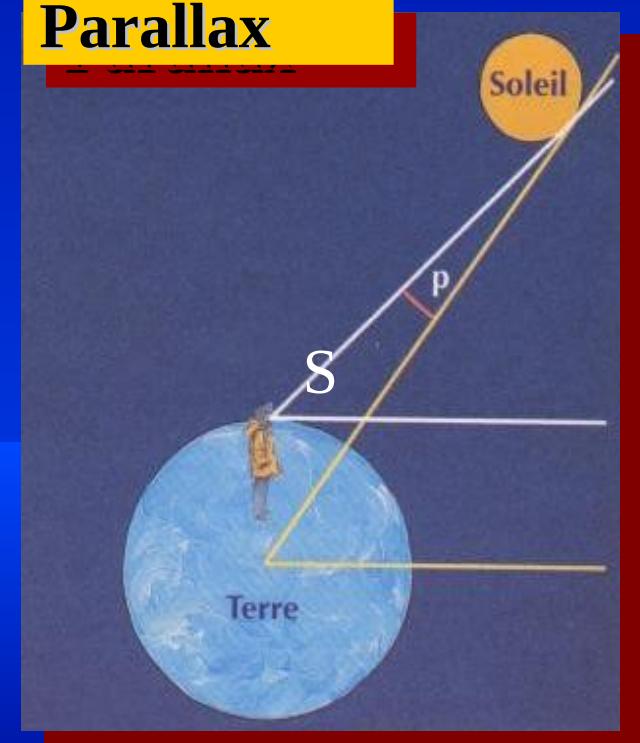
Refraction



Semidiameter



Parallax



1- Factors affecting the altitude

2- Relations between altitudes

3- Nautical almanac and altitude correction

- 2 -

Relations between altitudes

2- Relations between altitudes

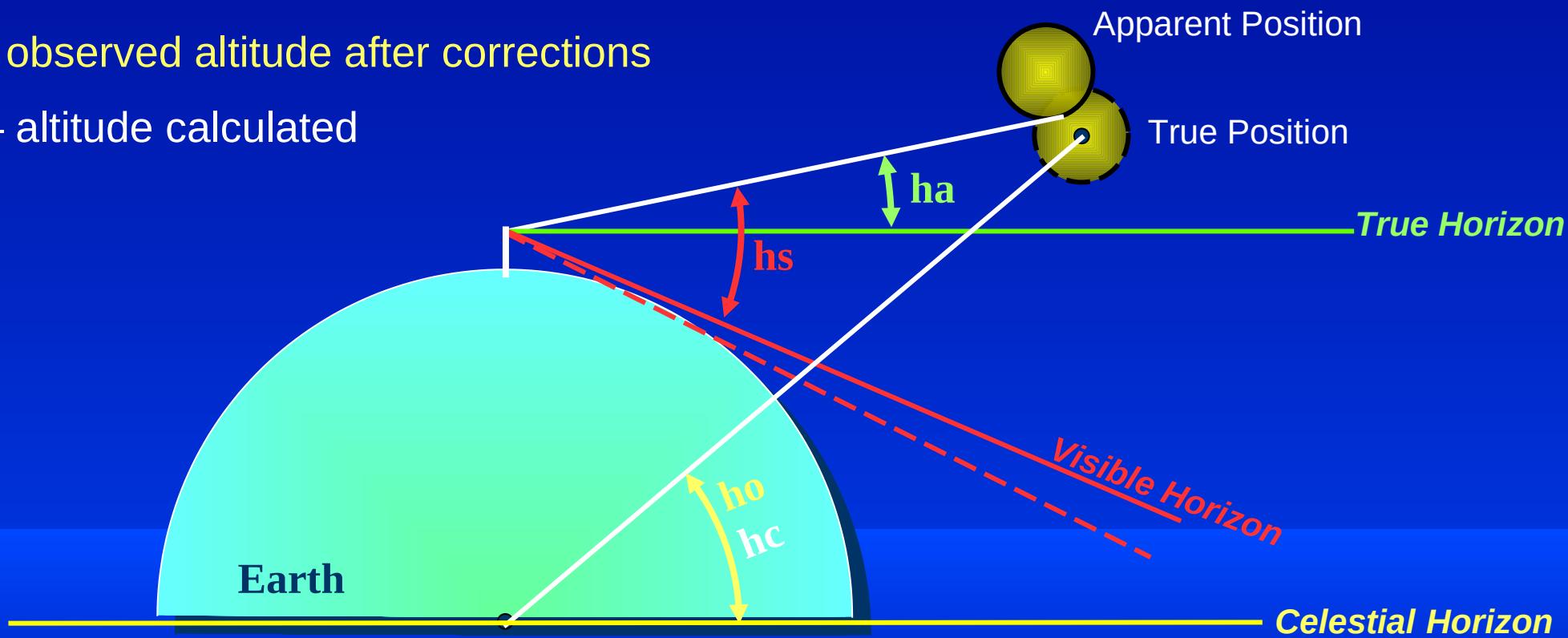
Different horizons / different altitudes

hs : altitude measured with sextant

ha : hs corrected for 'IE' and 'dip'
used to enter Altitude Correction Tables

ho : observed altitude after corrections

hc – altitude calculated



2- Relations between altitudes

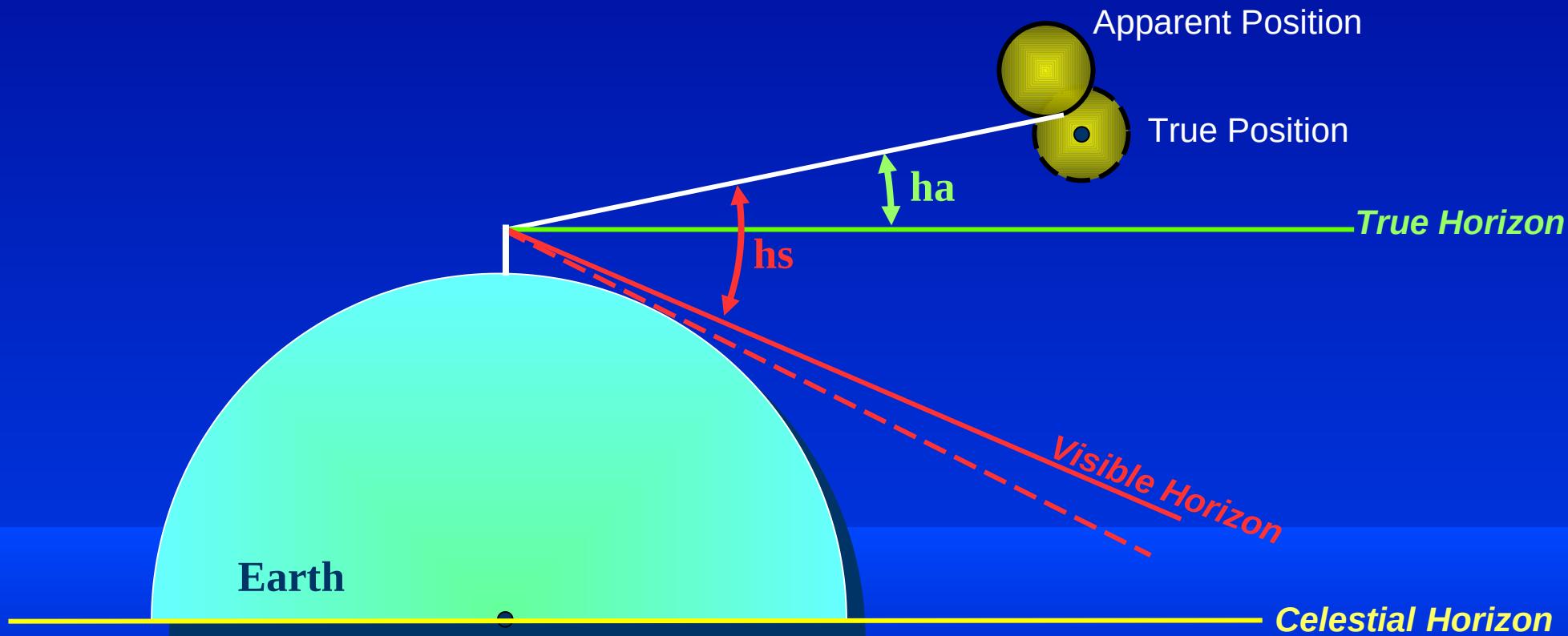
Apparent altitude & sextant altitude

hs : altitude measured with sextant

$$Ha = Hs + IC + Dip$$

ha : hs corrected for 'IE' and 'dip'

used to enter Altitude Correction Tables



2- Relations between altitudes

Observed altitude

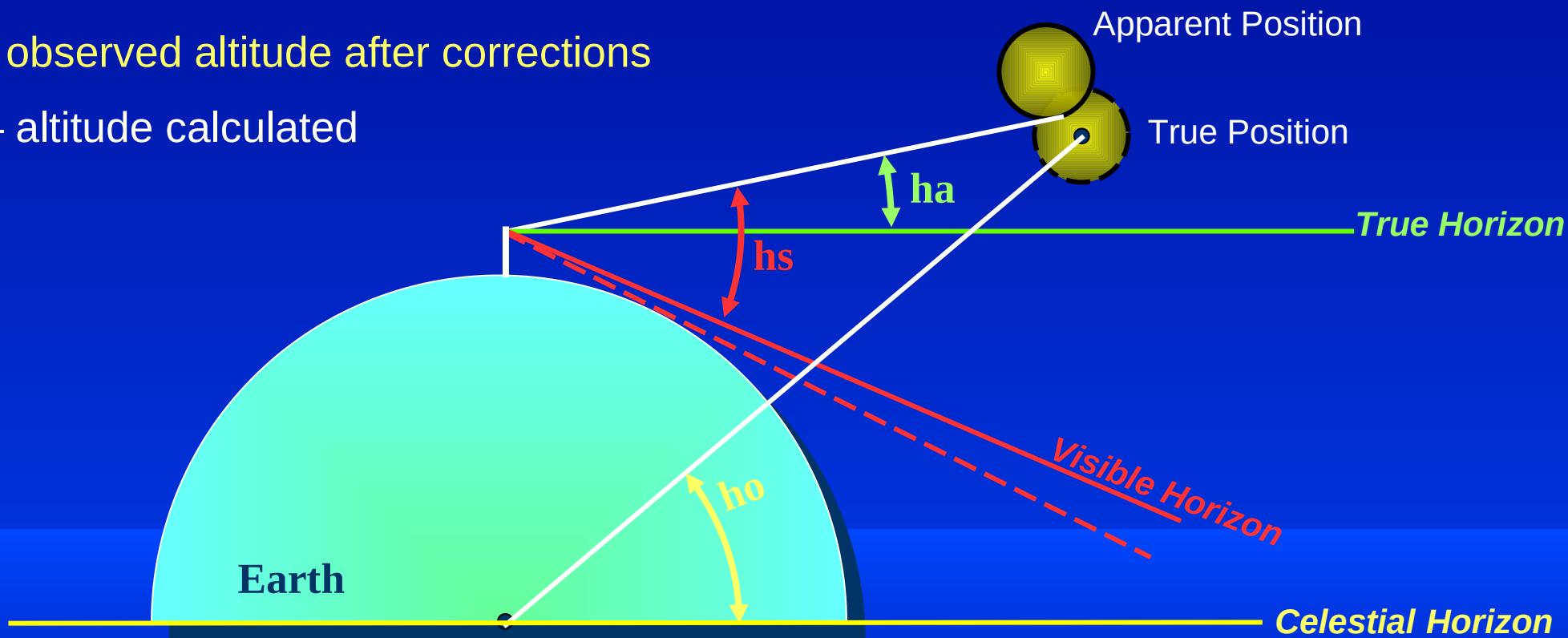
hs : altitude measured with sextant

$$ho = ha + \text{Alt. Corr.}$$

ha : hs corrected for 'IE' and 'dip'
used to enter Altitude Correction Tables

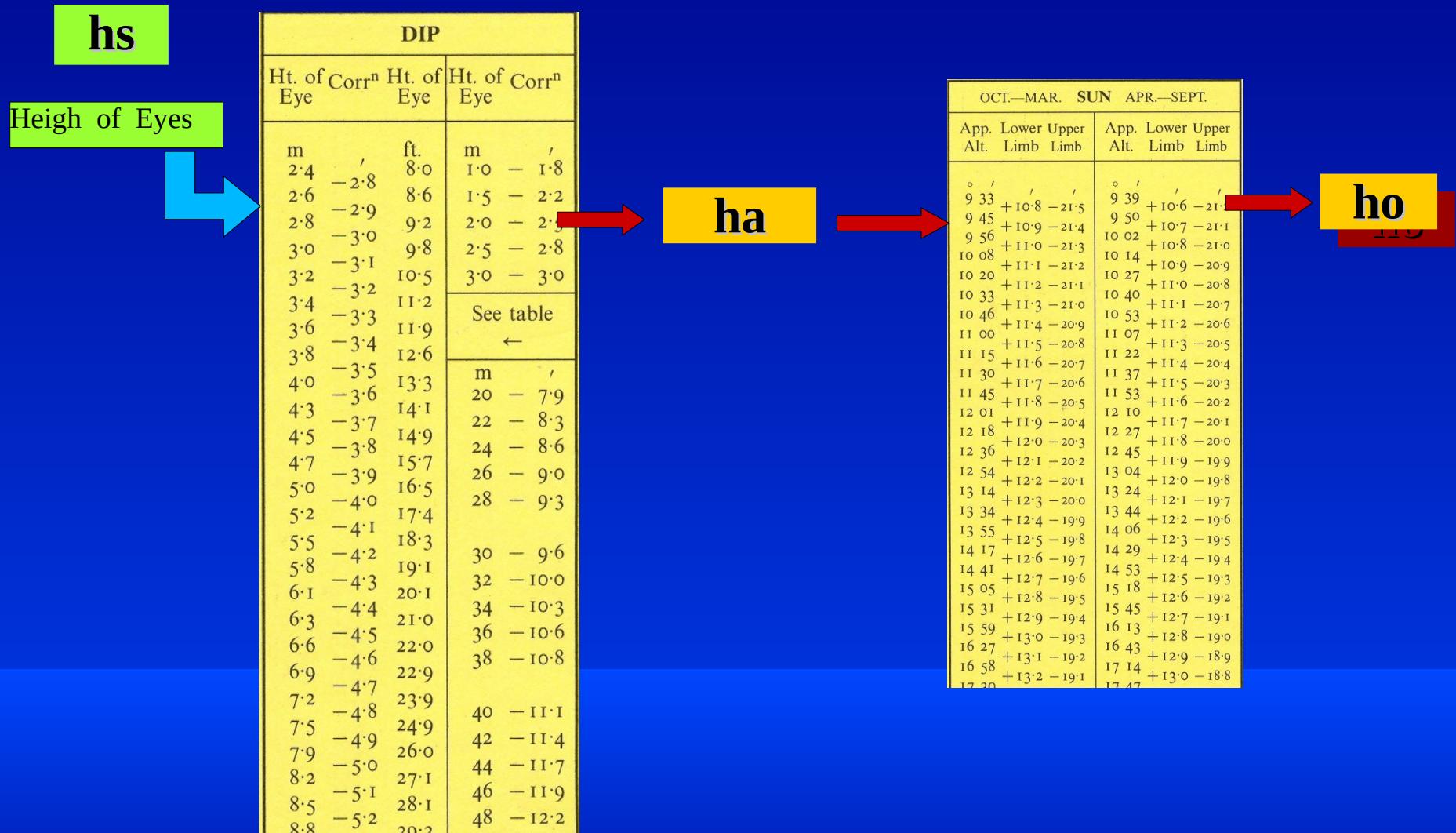
ho : observed altitude after corrections

hc – altitude calculated



2- Relations between altitudes

Principle with the tables in nautical almanac



$$\text{Ha} = \text{Hs} + \text{IC} + \text{DIP}$$

$$\text{Ho} = \text{Ha} + \text{Alt. Corr.}$$

- 1- Factors affecting the altitude
- 2- Relation between altitude
- 3- Nautical almanac & altitude correction

- 3 -

Nautical Almanac altitude correction

3- Nautical Almanac

Dip correction table

DIP			
Ht. of Eye	Corr ⁿ	Ht. of Eye	Corr ⁿ
m	,	ft.	,
2.4	-2.8	8.0	1.0 - 1.8
2.6	-2.9	8.6	1.5 - 2.2
2.8	-3.0	9.2	2.0 - 2.5
3.0	-3.1	9.8	2.5 - 2.8
3.2	-3.2	10.5	3.0 - 3.0
3.4	-3.3	11.2	See table ←
3.6	-3.4	11.9	
3.8	-3.5	12.6	
4.0	-3.6	13.3	m ,
4.3	-3.7	14.1	20 - 7.9
4.5	-3.8	14.9	22 - 8.3
4.7	-3.9	15.7	24 - 8.6
5.0	-4.0	16.5	26 - 9.0
5.2	-4.1	17.4	28 - 9.3
5.5	-4.2	18.3	30 - 9.6
5.8	-4.3	19.1	32 - 10.0
6.1	-4.4	20.1	34 - 10.3
6.3	-4.5	21.0	36 - 10.6
6.6	-4.6	22.0	38 - 10.8
6.9	-4.7	22.9	
7.2	-4.8	23.9	40 - 11.1
7.5	-4.9	24.9	42 - 11.4
7.9	-5.0	26.0	44 - 11.7
8.2	-5.1	27.1	46 - 11.9
8.5	-5.2	28.1	48 - 12.2
8.8		29.2	

$$Ha = Hs + IC + Dip$$

- “Dip Table”
 - DO NOT require interpolation
- Extreme right-hand column of “Dip Table” correction
(less than 8ft or greater than 70ft)
 - DOES require interpolation

3- Nautical Almanac

Dip correction table

DIP			
Ht. of Eye	Corr ⁿ	Ht. of Eye	Corr ⁿ
m	,	ft.	'
2.4	-2.8	8.0	1.0 - 1.8
2.6	-2.9	8.6	1.5 - 2.2
2.8	-3.0	9.2	2.0 - 2.5
3.0	-3.1	9.8	2.5 - 2.8
3.2	-3.2	10.5	3.0 - 3.0
3.4	-3.3	11.2	See table ←
3.6	-3.4	11.9	
3.8	-3.5	12.6	
4.0	-3.6	13.3	m ,
4.3	-3.7	14.1	20 - 7.9
4.5	-3.8	14.9	22 - 8.3
4.7	-3.9	15.7	24 - 8.6
5.0	-4.0	16.5	26 - 9.0
5.2	-4.1	17.4	28 - 9.3
5.5	-4.2	18.3	30 - 9.6
5.8	-4.3	19.1	32 - 10.0
6.1	-4.4	20.1	34 - 10.3
6.3	-4.5	21.0	36 - 10.6
6.6	-4.6	22.0	38 - 10.8
6.9	-4.7	22.9	
7.2	-4.8	23.9	40 - 11.1
7.5	-4.9	24.9	42 - 11.4
7.9	-5.0	26.0	44 - 11.7
8.2	-5.1	27.1	46 - 11.9
8.5	-5.2	28.1	48 - 12.2
8.8		29.2	

$$Ha = Hs + IC + Dip$$

- “Dip Table”
 - DO NOT require interpolation
- Extreme right-hand column of “Dip Table” correction
(less than 8ft or greater than 70ft)
 - DOES require interpolation

3- Nautical Almanac

Altitude correction table- sun, stars & planets

The Altitude Correction Tables the combined correction for refraction, semi-diameter and parallax under standard atmosphere conditions,

ALTITUDE CORRECTION TABLES 10°-90°—SUN, STARS, PLANETS

OCT.—MAR. SUN APR.—SEPT.				STARS AND PLANETS				DIP							
App.	Lower	Upper		App.	Lower	Upper		App.	Additional	Corr ⁿ	Ht. of Eye	Corr ⁿ	Ht. of Eye	Corr ⁿ	Ht. of Eye
Alt.	Limb	Limb		Alt.	Limb	Limb		Alt.	Corr ⁿ		m	'	ft.	m	'
o	,	,		o	,	,		9 55	-5·3		2·4	'	8·0	1·0	- 1·8
9 33	+ 10·8	- 21·5		9 39	+ 10·6	- 21·2		10 07	-5·2		2·6	- 2·8	8·6	1·5	- 2·2
9 45	+ 10·9	- 21·4		9 50	+ 10·7	- 21·1		10 20	-5·1		2·8	- 2·9	9·2	2·0	- 2·5
9 56	+ 11·0	- 21·3		10 02	+ 10·8	- 21·0		10 32	-5·0		3·0	- 3·0	9·8	2·5	- 2·8
10 08	+ 11·1	- 21·2		10 14	+ 10·9	- 20·9		10 46	-4·9		3·2	- 3·1	10·5	3·0	- 3·0
10 20	+ 11·2	- 21·1		10 27	+ 11·0	- 20·8		10 59	-4·8		3·4	- 3·2	11·2		See table
10 33	+ 11·3	- 21·0		10 40	+ 11·1	- 20·7		11 14	-4·7		3·6	- 3·3	11·9		←
10 46	+ 11·4	- 20·9		10 53	+ 11·2	- 20·6		11 29	-4·6		3·8	- 3·4	12·6		
11 00	+ 11·5	- 20·8		11 07	+ 11·3	- 20·5		11 44	-4·5		4·0	- 3·5	13·3	m	'
11 15	+ 11·6	- 20·7		11 22	+ 11·4	- 20·4		12 00	-4·4		4·3	- 3·6	14·1	20	- 7·9
11 30	+ 11·7	- 20·6		11 37	+ 11·5	- 20·3		12 17	-4·3		4·5	- 3·7	14·9	22	- 8·3
11 45	+ 11·8	- 20·5		11 53	+ 11·6	- 20·2		12 35	-4·2		4·7	- 3·8	15·7	24	- 8·6
12 01	+ 11·9	- 20·4		12 10	+ 11·7	- 20·1		12 53	-4·1		5·0	- 3·9	16·5	26	- 9·0
12 18	+ 12·0	- 20·3		12 27	+ 11·8	- 20·0		13 12	-4·0		5·2	- 4·0	17·4	28	- 9·3
12 36	+ 12·1	- 20·2		12 45	+ 11·9	- 19·9		13 32	-3·9		5·5	- 4·1	18·3		
12 54	+ 12·2	- 20·1		13 04	+ 12·0	- 19·8		13 53	-3·8		5·8	- 4·2	19·1	30	- 9·6
13 14	+ 12·3	- 20·0		13 24	+ 12·1	- 19·7		14 16	-3·7		6·1	- 4·3	20·1	32	- 10·0
13 34	+ 12·4	- 19·9		13 44	+ 12·2	- 19·6		14 39	-3·6		6·3	- 4·4	21·0	34	- 10·3
13 55	+ 12·5	- 19·8		14 06	+ 12·3	- 19·5		14 56	-3·5		6·6	- 4·5	22·0	36	- 10·6
14 17	+ 12·6	- 19·7		14 29	+ 12·4	- 19·4		15 03	-3·5		6·9	- 4·6	22·9	38	- 10·8
14 41	+ 12·7	- 19·6		14 53	+ 12·5	- 19·3		15 29	-3·4		7·2	- 4·7	23·9		
15 05	+ 12·8	- 19·5		15 18	+ 12·6	- 19·2		15 56	-3·3		7·5	- 4·8	24·9	40	- 11·1
15 31	+ 12·9	- 19·4		15 45	+ 12·7	- 19·1		16 25	-3·2		7·9	- 4·9	26·0	42	- 11·4
15 59	+ 13·0	- 19·3		16 13	+ 12·8	- 19·0		16 55	-3·1		8·2	- 5·0	27·1	44	- 11·7
16 27	+ 13·1	- 19·2		16 43	+ 12·9	- 18·9		17 27	-3·0		8·5	- 5·1	28·1	46	- 11·9
16 58	+ 13·2	- 19·1		17 14	+ 13·0	- 18·8		18 01	-2·9		8·8	- 5·2	29·2	48	- 12·2
17 20	+ 13·2	- 19·1		17 47	+ 13·0	- 18·8		18 27	-2·9						

For the sun

The correction is a combination of refraction, semi-diameter and parallax

For stars and planets

The correction is the refraction correction, and depending on the date, additional corrections might be required for Venus and Mars for parallax and phase.

3- Nautical Almanac

Altitude correction table- sun, stars & planets

The Altitude Correction Tables the combined correction for refraction, semi-diameter and parallax under standard atmosphere conditions,

ALTITUDE CORRECTION TABLES 10°-90°—SUN, STARS, PLANETS



OCT.—MAR. SUN APR.—SEPT.				STARS AND PLANETS				DIP							
App.	Lower	Upper		App.	Lower	Upper		App.	Additional	Corr ⁿ	Ht. of Eye	Corr ⁿ	Ht. of Eye	Corr ⁿ	Ht. of Eye
Alt.	Limb	Limb		Alt.	Limb	Limb		Alt.	Corr ⁿ		m	'	ft.	m	'
o	,	,		o	,	,		9 55	-5·3		2·4	'	8·0	1·0	- 1·8
9 33	+ 10·8	- 21·5		9 39	+ 10·6	- 21·2		10 07	-5·2		2·6	- 2·8	8·6	1·5	- 2·2
9 45	+ 10·9	- 21·4		9 50	+ 10·7	- 21·1		10 20	-5·1		2·8	- 2·9	9·2	2·0	- 2·5
9 56	+ 11·0	- 21·3		10 02	+ 10·8	- 21·0		10 32	-5·0		3·0	- 3·0	9·8	2·5	- 2·8
10 08	+ 11·1	- 21·2		10 14	+ 10·9	- 20·9		10 46	-4·9		3·2	- 3·1	10·5	3·0	- 3·0
10 20	+ 11·2	- 21·1		10 27	+ 11·0	- 20·8		10 59	-4·8		3·4	- 3·2	11·2		See table
10 33	+ 11·3	- 21·0		10 40	+ 11·1	- 20·7		11 14	-4·7		3·6	- 3·3	11·9		←
10 46	+ 11·4	- 20·9		10 53	+ 11·2	- 20·6		11 29	-4·6		3·8	- 3·4	12·6		
11 00	+ 11·5	- 20·8		11 07	+ 11·3	- 20·5		11 44	-4·5		4·0	- 3·5	13·3		
11 15	+ 11·6	- 20·7		11 22	+ 11·4	- 20·4		12 00	-4·5		4·3	- 3·6	14·1		
11 30	+ 11·7	- 20·6		11 37	+ 11·5	- 20·3		12 17	-4·4		4·5	- 3·7	14·9		
11 45	+ 11·8	- 20·5		11 53	+ 11·6	- 20·2		12 35	-4·3		4·7	- 3·8	15·7		
12 01	+ 11·9	- 20·4		12 10	+ 11·7	- 20·1		12 53	-4·2		5·0	- 3·9	16·5		
12 18	+ 12·0	- 20·3		12 27	+ 11·8	- 20·0		13 12	-4·1		5·2	- 4·0	17·4		
12 36	+ 12·1	- 20·2		12 45	+ 11·9	- 19·9		13 32	-4·0		5·5	- 4·1	18·3		
12 54	+ 12·2	- 20·1		13 04	+ 12·0	- 19·8		13 53	-3·9		5·8	- 4·2	19·1		
13 14	+ 12·3	- 20·0		13 24	+ 12·1	- 19·7		14 16	-3·8		6·1	- 4·3	20·1		
13 34	+ 12·4	- 19·9		13 44	+ 12·2	- 19·6		14 39	-3·7		6·3	- 4·4	21·0		
13 55	+ 12·5	- 19·8		14 06	+ 12·3	- 19·5		15 03	-3·6		6·6	- 4·5	22·0		
14 17	+ 12·6	- 19·7		14 29	+ 12·4	- 19·4		15 29	-3·5		6·9	- 4·6	22·9		
14 41	+ 12·7	- 19·6		14 53	+ 12·5	- 19·3		15 56	-3·4		7·2	- 4·7	23·9		
15 05	+ 12·8	- 19·5		15 18	+ 12·6	- 19·2		16 25	-3·3		7·5	- 4·8	24·9		
15 31	+ 12·9	- 19·4		15 45	+ 12·7	- 19·1		16 55	-3·2		7·9	- 4·9	26·0		
15 59	+ 13·0	- 19·3		16 13	+ 12·8	- 19·0		17 27	-3·1		8·2	- 5·0	27·1		
16 27	+ 13·1	- 19·2		16 43	+ 12·9	- 18·9		18 01	-3·0		8·5	- 5·1	28·1		
16 58	+ 13·2	- 19·1		17 14	+ 13·0	- 18·8		83	+0·1		8·8	- 5·2	29·2		
17 20	+ 13·2	- 19·1		17 47	+ 13·0	- 18·8		18 27	-2·9						

For the sun

The correction is a combination of refraction, semi-diameter and parallax

For stars and planets

The correction is the refraction correction, and a depending on the date,

additional corrections might be required for Venus and Mars for parallax and phase.

3- Nautical Almanac & altitude correction

Altitude correction table- moon

ALTITUDE CORRECTION TABLES 0°									
App. Alt.	0°-4°	5°-9°	10°-14°	15°-19°	20°-24°	25°-29°	30°-34°	App. Alt.	
00	0 34'5	5 58'2	10 62'1	15 62'8	20 62'2	25 60'8	30 58'9	00	
10	36·5	58·5	62·2	62·8	62·2	60·8	58·8	10	
20	38·3	58·7	62·2	62·8	62·1	60·7	58·8	20	
30	40·0	58·9	62·3	62·8	62·1	60·7	58·7	30	
40	41·5	59·1	62·3	62·8	62·0	60·6	58·6	40	
50	42·9	59·3	62·4	62·7	62·0	60·6	58·5	50	
00	1 44'2	6 59·5	11 62·4	16 62·7	21 62·0	26 60·5	31 58·5	00	
10	45·4	59·7	62·4	62·7	61·9	60·4	58·4	10	
20	46·5	59·9	62·5	62·7	61·9	60·4	58·3	20	
30	47·5	60·0	62·5	62·7	61·9	60·3	58·2	30	
40	48·4	60·2	62·5	62·7	61·8	60·3	58·2	40	
50	49·3	60·3	62·6	62·7	61·8	60·2	58·1	50	
00	2 50·1	7 60·5	12 62·6	17 62·7	22 61·7	27 60·1	32 58·0	00	
10	50·8	60·6	62·6	62·6	61·7	60·1	57·9	10	
20	51·5	60·7	62·6	62·6	61·6	60·0	57·8	20	
30	52·2	60·9	62·7	62·6	61·6	59·9	57·8	30	
40	52·8	61·0	62·7	62·6	61·6	59·9	57·7	40	
50	53·4	61·1	62·7	62·6	61·5	59·8	57·6	50	
00	3 53·9	8 61·2	13 62·7	18 62·5	23 61·5	28 59·7	33 57·5	00	
10	54·4	61·3	62·7	62·5	61·4	59·7	57·4	10	
20	54·9	61·4	62·7	62·5	61·4	59·6	57·4	20	
30	55·3	61·5	62·8	62·5	61·3	59·5	57·3	30	
40	55·7	61·6	62·8	62·4	61·3	59·5	57·2	40	
50	56·1	61·6	62·8	62·4	61·2	59·4	57·1	50	
00	4 56·4	9 61·7	14 62·8	19 62·4	24 61·2	29 59·3	34 57·0	00	
10	56·8	61·8	62·8	62·4	61·1	59·3	56·9	10	
20	57·1	61·9	62·8	62·3	61·1	59·2	56·9	20	
30	57·4	61·9	62·8	62·3	61·0	59·1	56·8	30	
40	57·7	62·0	62·8	62·3	61·0	59·1	56·7	40	
50	58·0	62·1	62·8	62·2	60·9	59·0	56·6	50	
HP	L U	L U	L U	L U	L U	L U	L U	HP	
54·0	0·3 0·9	0·3 0·9	0·4 1·0	0·5 1·1	0·6 1·2	0·7 1·3	0·9 1·5	54·0	
54·3	0·7 1·1	0·7 1·2	0·8 1·2	0·8 1·3	0·9 1·4	1·1 1·5	1·2 1·7	54·3	
54·6	1·1 1·4	1·1 1·4	1·1 1·4	1·2 1·5	1·3 1·6	1·4 1·7	1·5 1·8	54·6	
54·9	1·4 1·6	1·5 1·6	1·5 1·6	1·6 1·7	1·6 1·8	1·8 1·9	1·9 2·0	54·9	
55·2	1·8 1·8	1·8 1·8	1·9 1·8	1·9 1·9	2·0 2·0	2·1 2·1	2·2 2·2	55·2	
55·5	2·2 2·0	2·2 2·0	2·3 2·1	2·3 2·1	2·4 2·2	2·4 2·3	2·5 2·4	55·5	
55·8	2·6 2·2	2·6 2·2	2·6 2·3	2·7 2·3	2·7 2·4	2·8 2·4	2·9 2·5	55·8	

For the moon The tables are divided two parts.

The first part

=> combination of **refraction**, semi-diameter and parallax for **the lower limb**,

=> so if the altitude of the moon is taken **from the upper limb, then 30' must be subtracted**.

The second part

=> correction for variations in semi-diameter and parallax, depending on the horizontal parallax.

3- Nautical Almanac & altitude correction

Altitude correction methodology

hs =

+ IC

+ Dip

ha =

+ Alt. correction

-30' for upper limb(Moon)

+ U,L, correction for Moon

+ Additionnal correction for Venus

+ Additional refraction correction
(non standard temp/pressure)

ho =

3- Nautical Almanac & altitude correction

Altitude correction table -additional corrections

A4 ALTITUDE CORRECTION TABLES—ADDITIONAL CORRECTIONS
ADDITIONAL REFRACTION CORRECTIONS FOR NON-STANDARD CONDITIONS

Temperature in Fahrenheit													Temperature in Celsius												
App. Alt.	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	J	K	L	M	N	P	App. Alt.										
° /'	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	° /'	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	
00 00	-7.3	-5.9	-4.6	-3.4	-2.2	-1.1	0.0	+1.0	+2.0	+3.0	+4.0	+4.9				00 00	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	
00 30	5.5	4.5	3.5	2.6	1.7	0.8	0.0	0.8	1.6	2.3	3.1	3.8	4.5	5.3	00 30										
01 00	4.4	3.5	2.8	2.0	1.3	0.7	0.0	0.6	1.2	1.8	2.4	3.0	3.6	4.2	01 00										
01 30	3.5	2.9	2.2	1.7	1.1	0.5	0.0	0.5	1.0	1.5	2.0	2.5	2.9	3.4	01 30										
02 00	2.9	2.4	1.9	1.4	0.9	0.4	0.0	0.4	0.8	1.3	1.7	2.0	2.4	2.8	02 00										
02 30	-2.5	-2.0	-1.6	-1.2	-0.8	-0.4	0.0	+0.4	+0.7	+1.1	+1.4	+1.7	+2.1	+2.4	02 30										
03 00	2.1	1.7	1.4	1.0	0.7	0.3	0.0	0.3	0.6	0.9	1.2	1.5	1.8	2.1	03 00										
03 30	1.9	1.5	1.2	0.9	0.6	0.3	0.0	0.3	0.5	0.8	1.1	1.3	1.6	1.8	03 30										
04 00	1.6	1.3	1.1	0.8	0.5	0.3	0.0	0.2	0.5	0.7	0.9	1.2	1.4	1.6	04 00										
04 30	1.5	1.2	0.9	0.7	0.5	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.4	0.6	0.8	1.0	1.3	1.5	04 30										
05 00	-1.3	-1.1	-0.9	-0.6	-0.4	-0.2	0.0	+0.2	+0.4	+0.6	1.0	0.8	+0.9	+1.1	05 00										
06	1.1	0.9	0.7	0.5	0.3	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.3	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.8	0.9	06										
07	1.0	0.8	0.6	0.5	0.3	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.7	0.8	0.9	07										
08	0.8	0.7	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.8	08										
09	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.7	09										
10 00	-0.7	-0.5	-0.4	-0.3	-0.2	-0.1	0.0	+0.1	+0.2	+0.3	+0.4	+0.5	+0.6	+0.7	10 00										
12	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.5	12										
14	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.5	14										
16	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.4	16										
18	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.1	-0.1	0.0	+0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.4	18										
20 00	-0.3	-0.3	-0.2	-0.2	-0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	+0.1	+0.1	+0.2	+0.2	+0.2	+0.3	+0.3	20 00									
25	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	25										
30	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	+0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	30										
35	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	-0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	35										
40	0.1	0.1	0.1	-0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	+0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	40										
50 00	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	+0.1	+0.1	+0.1	+0.1	+0.1	+0.1	+0.1	+0.1	+0.1	+0.1	50 00		

The graph is entered with arguments temperature and pressure to find a zone letter; using as arguments this zone letter and apparent altitude (sextant altitude corrected for index error and dip), a correction is taken from the table. This correction is to be applied to the sextant altitude in addition to the corrections for standard conditions (for the Sun, stars and planets from page A2-A3 and for the Moon from pages xxxiv and xxxv).