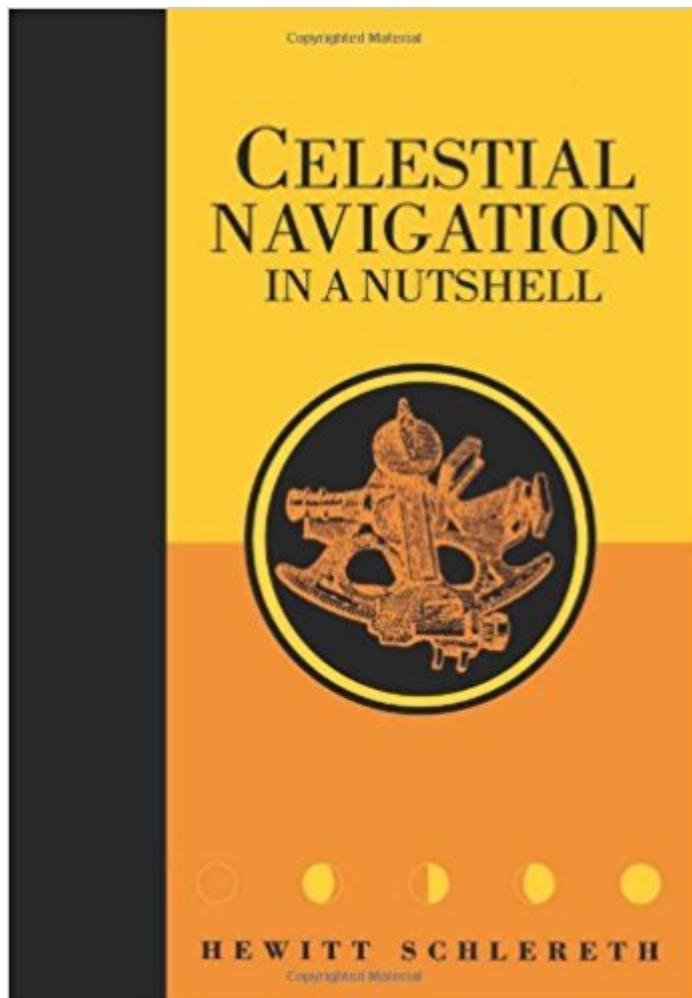


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Celestial Navigation In A Nutshell (Seafarer Books)



Synopsis

Despite the proliferation of electronic navigational devices, celestial navigation remains an essential tool for those who do not wish to be caught short when modern technology fails. In this easy-to-use guide, Hewitt Schlereth explains clearly and concisely how to navigate any stretch of sea using only a handheld sextant, a watch, a plotting sheet and a copy of the Nautical Almanac. The basic process is simple: take a sight with a sextant, establish a secondary reference or benchmark sight, compare the two, and plot the results of the comparison on a chart. *Celestial Navigation in a Nutshell* demonstrates how to take sights by the sun, moon, stars and planets, discussing the advantages and disadvantages of each method. The reader is taken carefully through several examples and situational illustrations, making this a most effective self-teaching guide. Common errors are reviewed and several tips on how to improve accuracy are given.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

In Chapter 3 page 9, as far as I've gotten, for example he explains that if you take the angle measure of the sun (or any object) and subtract from 90 degrees you get the angle measurement of your distance from the point of the earth directly under the sun (the GP). This is very true and is the fundamental of celestial navigation. But his explanation why is patent nonsense and absolutely wrong. He says one can make a triangle between the sun, the GP of the sun, and the observer. This is wrong. The sun is of such a great distance from the earth that for the intents and purposes of celestial navigation the sun is infinitely far away and all rays (and views of the sun) are parallel to

each other. So rather than a triangle, you'd get two parallel lines connected by a curved arc (the surface of the earth) with the line at the GP going straight up (perpendicular) to the curve and the line at the observe going up at the measured angle but parallel to the other line. Then he says, referring to his triangle that as all triangle angle add up to 180 degrees and the GP angle is 90 degrees (it goes straight up) so the Apex (angle at the sun) is 90 - measured angle. Angles of a triangle add up to 180 only if the sides are straight lines. If the sides are allowed to curve the angles can be anything. In fact if (as his triangle does) two sides are straight and the third curves away the sum of the angles are always less than 180. Then he concludes that the angle of the sun is equal to the angle curve of the earth because that is the side opposite it. He calls this "knowledge of a little trig". I call it out right nonsense without knowing the height of the triangle (in this case the height of the sun) you can't conclude any relationship between the two.

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