

Abstract

The importance of time and time measurement in maritime navigation is self-evident for all seafarers. But the meaning of time is not always clear. In addition, the history of time measurement is very old, and many methods and tools have been developed to measure time.

The aim of this thesis is to map out the correct meaning of time in maritime navigation. The following question is asked: What is time? and which definition of time is used on board to navigate. In addition, an overview has been drawn up of methods and instruments that have improved maritime navigation or have made trans ocean voyages possible up until John Harrison's marine chronometer. Furthermore, I have done research into the usage and accuracy of the nocturlabium.

In order to answer the previous questions, a literature study was used, and connections were made between the various subjects. Quantitative research was used to determine the accuracy of the nocturlabium.

Based on this study, time is a complex phenomenon. And that many types of time measurement are possible on board. It also appears that an accurate time measurement is necessary to determine the longitude.