

Consider two stars with zenith distances  $b = c = 45^\circ$ . Suppose that their azimuths differ by  $\alpha = 90^\circ$ . Then the distance  $a$  between the stars is obtained by the cosine theorem:

$$\cos a = \cos b \cos c + \sin b \sin c \cos \alpha. \quad (1)$$

As  $\cos b = \cos c = \sin b = \sin c = 1/\sqrt{2}$  and  $\cos \alpha = 0$ , we obtain  $\cos a = 1/2$ , so  $a = 60^\circ$ .

Now differentiate the formula (assuming  $\cos \alpha = 0$ ):

$$(\sin a)da = (\sin b \cos c)db + (\cos b \sin c)dc,$$

Using (1) and refraction at  $45^\circ$  from the almanach  $db = dc = -0'.9$  we obtain

$$da = \sqrt{2}db = 1'.27.$$

while your rule gives  $0.1 \times (60/5) = 1'.2$ .

Another example: one star at  $45^\circ$ , another at zenith. Refraction correction is the same  $0'.9$ , while  $0'.1 \times (45/5) = 0'.9$ .