



$\phi, \lambda$  - lat & long of observer

$\delta$  - declination of the celestial object.

$z$  - zenith angle of the object (would also need <sup>local</sup> ~~the~~ azimuth to locate it in the sky).

$t_0$  - GHA of the object

The unit vector along the zenith vector is

$$r = \begin{bmatrix} \cos\phi \cos\lambda \\ \cos\phi \sin\lambda \\ \sin\phi \end{bmatrix}$$

The unit vector along the celestial object is

$$u = [\cos\delta \cos t_0 \quad -\cos\delta \sin t_0 \quad \sin\delta]^T$$

The zenith angle is  $\cos z = r^T u$ .

Suppose the zenith angles to two objects are

$$r^T u_1 = \cos z_1, \quad r^T u_2 = \cos z_2.$$

This implies  $r^T (\cos z_2 u_1 - \cos z_1 u_2) = 0$ .

Let  $h = \cos z_2 u_1 - \cos z_1 u_2$  &  $g = u_1 \times u_2$ . Note that  $g \perp h$ .

Since  $r^T h = 0$ ,  $r$  lies in the plane formed by  $g$  &  $g \times h$ .

$\therefore$  Suppose  $r = a_1 g + a_2 g \times h$ .

Since  $r^T r = 1$ , we have  $a_1^2 g^T g + a_2^2 g^T g h^T h = 1$ .

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Also, } \frac{1}{\cos z_1} r^T u_1 &= a_2 (g \times h)^T u_1 \\ &= a_2 [(u_1 \times u_2) \times (\cos z_2 u_1 - \cos z_1 u_2)]^T u_1 \\ &= -a_2 \cos z_1 (u_2 \times u_1)^T (u_1 \times u_2) \\ &= a_2 \cos z_1 g^T g. \end{aligned}$$

$\therefore a_2 = 1/g^T g$ , which yields

$$a_1 = \pm \frac{\sqrt{g^T g - h^T h}}{g^T g}$$

$$\therefore r = \frac{1}{g^T g} [g \times h \pm \sqrt{g^T g - h^T h} g] \text{ - position fix.}$$