

History of Angle Measurement

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SUMMARY

The paper covers the period from the time when angles were measured using rather primitive methods and charts the requirement for increasing accuracy, which was driven by scientist and instrument makers, employing their skills in devising ways of achieving the best possible measurements.

In particular the paper summarises the development of angle reading systems over the last century, making it possible to reliably measure angles to within a fraction of a second of arc, both optically and electronically and traces the thought behind each of the advances in instrument design.