

FIGURE 1707a.—A fix obtained by advancing earlier lines of position to the time of the last observation.

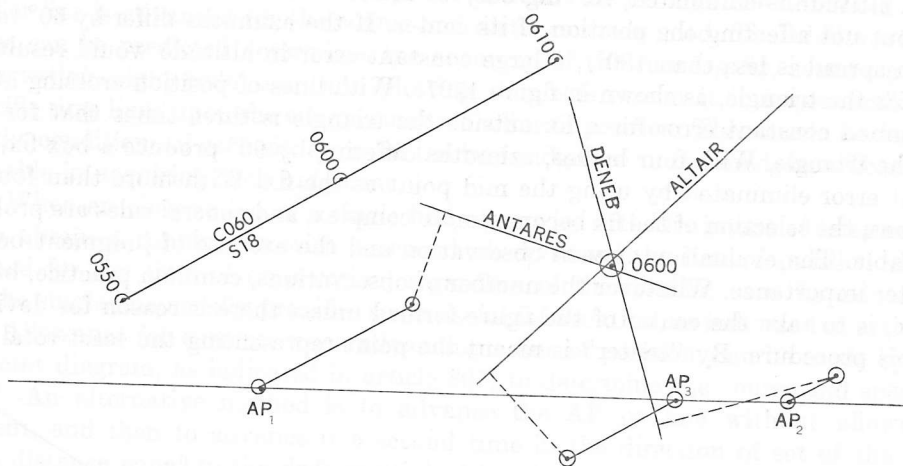


FIGURE 1707b.—A fix obtained by adjusting the lines of position of figure 1707a to a convenient time during the period of observation.

of position, as it would in running forward the dead reckoning. Under normal conditions, lines of position adjusted for a short interval to obtain a fix are moved by dead reckoning, without separate allowance for current.

Two lines of position provide a fix, but when additional celestial bodies are available, it is good practice to observe them. Additional lines serve as a check on the accuracy of the first two, and should decrease the error of the fix. However, the increased accuracy of a fix resulting from a number of lines of position, over that resulting from only two, is not great under normal conditions, and the principal reason for the additional observations is the increased confidence the navigator has in the reliability of his fix.

In selecting bodies for observation, one should generally consider azimuth primarily, and such factors as brightness, altitude, etc., secondarily. Individual circumstances, however, may dictate departures from this procedure. During twilight, when skies are clear and the entire horizon is good, one generally has ample choice of bodies to observe. It is good practice to make several more observations than the minimum considered acceptable, so that additional lines of position will be available, if needed, to resolve possible ambiguities or confirm doubtful results.