MatHist WISL901 Spring 2014

## Excercise: the Hipparchos-test

Students are supposed to work this excercise in couples, based on an assigned source. Complete item 4 before Tue Feb 11, 17:00 MET. The last item should be handed in on Fri Feb 14.

- 1. Look up what your assigned source has to say about Hipparchos, also known as Hipparchus or Hipparcos. When and where did he live and what did he do? Also try to give a brief characterisation of the (mathematical) culture in which he operated. Who paid the mathematicians? Why is Hipparchos remembered?
- 2. Write a concise abstract of your findings, maximum 160 words. Make it as honest a representation of your source as you can. Use the author or web address of your source as the title of the abstract.
- 3. How do they know? Add, if available, abbreviated references (author, title, year) on which your source depends for its information (these are excluded from the word count).
- 4. Email the abstract in **plain text** (NO doc, pdf, html, or other attachments!) to s.a.wepster at gmail.com. Remember to put the name of the author/website that you have studied in the Subject line of your email. **NB** this is the **ONLY occasion when digital submission is allowed.**
- 5. I will collect all the results in a single document and put them online on Tuesday night. Go to the website and compare the results and reflect on the similarities and differences. Write a few lines on your findings. Hand in on Fri 15, 14:15.

**Important notice.** I repeat that this is the ONLY occasion when digital submission is allowed. In particular, ANY email that contains an attachment in a windows-specific format will be deleted without further notice!