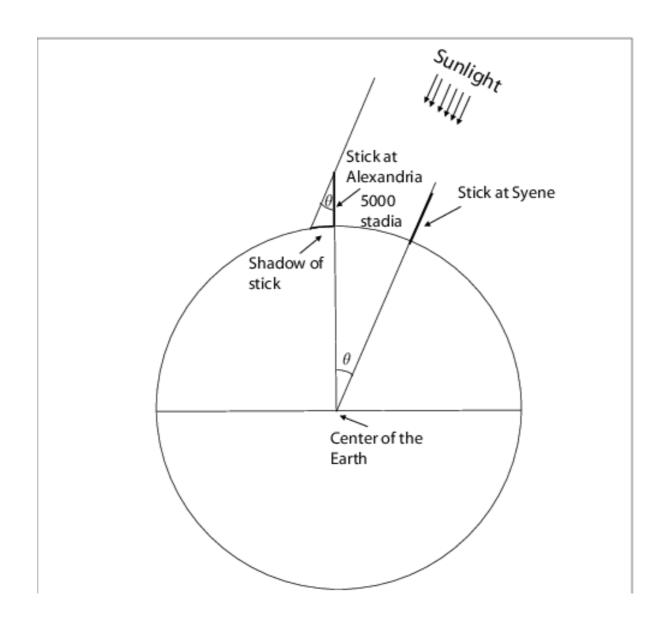
NGK Summer School, 27.08.2025

F.G.W. STRUVE AND THE MEASUREMENT OF THE EARTH

Tõnu Viik

Tartu University
Tartu Observatory



Eratosthenes used this scheme to measure the Earth

The Earth is spherical and looks like an orange and not like a lemon!

Pierre Louis Moreau de Maupertuis – Lapland expedition (1736 – 1737)

Charles Marie la Condamine – Peru expedition (1735 – 1743)



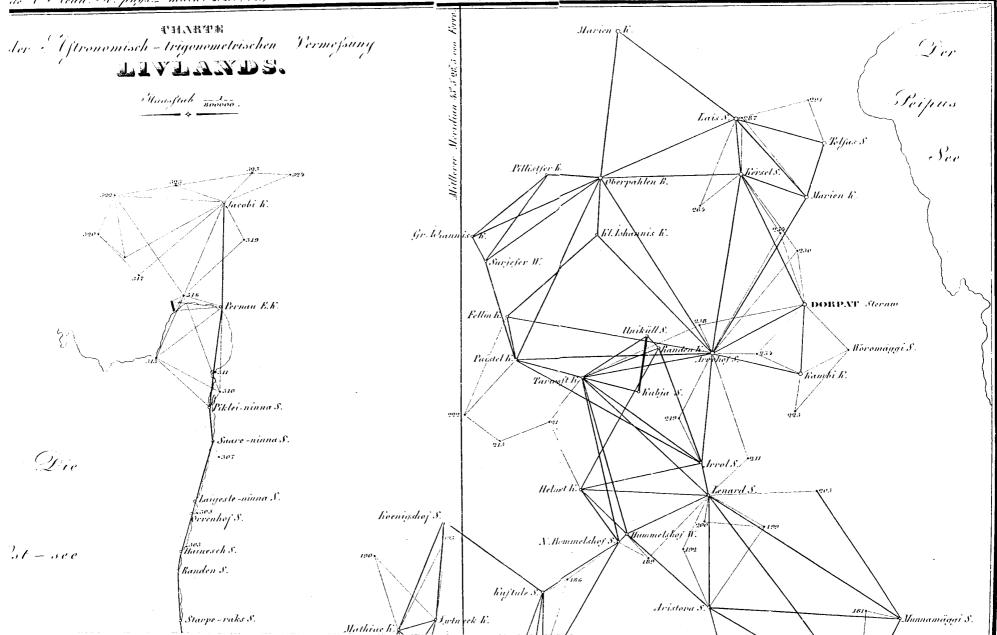
Pierre Louis Moreau de Maupertuis



Charles Marie la Condamine



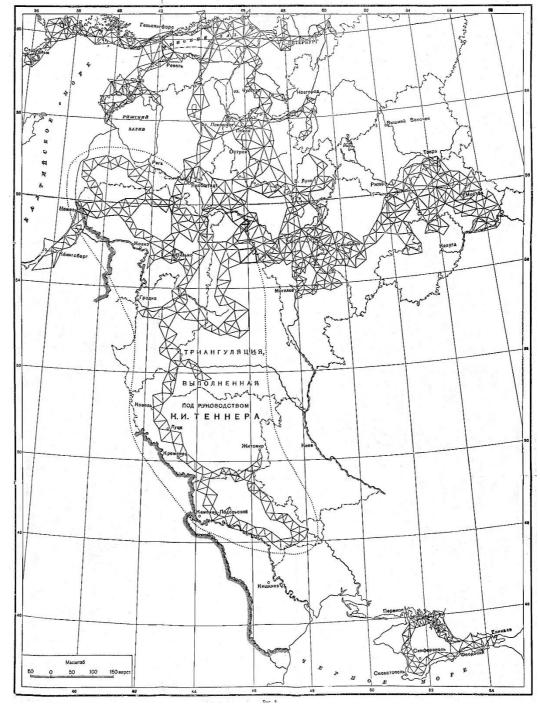
Friedrich Georg Wilhelm Struve (1793 – 1864)



Two charts of Livland measurements – close to Pärnu and around the observatory in Tartu



Karl Friedrich Tenner (1783 – 1859)



This is the map of triangulation made by Tenner or under his control

The operators

Norway – Christopher Hansteen

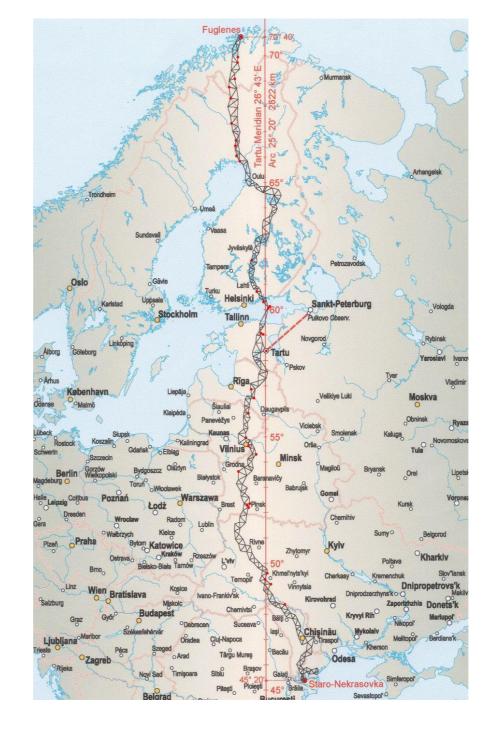
Sweden – Nils Haqvin Selander, Daniel Georg Lindhagen

Finland – Henrik Johan Walbeck, later Fredrik Woldstedt

Russia-Estonia-Latvia – Friedrich Georg Wilhelm Struve

Lithuania-Belarus-Ukraine-Moldova – Carl Friedrich

Tenner



The Struve Arc



The monument at Fuglenes in Hammerfest

DE 25° 20′

ENTRE

LE DANUBE ET LA MER GLACIALE,

MESURÉ,

DEPUIS 1816 JUSQU'EN 1855,

SOUS LA DIRECTION

N. H. SELANDER,

DIRECTEUR DE L'OBSERVATOIRE BOYAL DE STOCKHOLM,

C. DE TENNER, CHR. HANSTEEN,

L'ALTEVANT-GÉNÉRAL DE L'ÉTAT-MAJOR IMPÉRIAL DIRECTEUR DU DÉPARTEMENT GÉOGRAPPIQUE ROTAL DE NORVEGE,

F. G. W. STRUVE,

DIRECTECE DE L'ORSERVATOIRE-CENTRAL-NICOLAS

OUVRAGE COMPOSÉ SUR LES DIFFÉRENTS MATÉRIAUX ET RÉDIGÉ

F. G. W. STRIVE.

FUBLIÉ PAR L'ACADÉMIE DES SCIENCES DE ST. FÉTERSECURG.

TOME PREMIER,

OPERATIONS GÉODÉSIQUES ENTRE LE DANUBE ET LE GOLFE DE FINLANDE

ST. PÉTERSBOURG,

IMPRIMEIUE DE L'ACADEMIE IMPERTALE DES SCIENCES.

1856.

All the huge undertaking - the arc measurement from Fuglenes in Norway to Stara-Nekrasivka in Ukraine — altogether 25 degrees and 20 minutes or 2822 km - ended in 1852. The part of Tenner in it was 11 degrees 10 minutes and the Struves part - 9 degrees 38 minutes.

Thank you!