



astrocalc
British astrological software

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IBM Version 7 Additional Instructions

These instructions are additional to the main user instructions and should be read with CARE. The programs and files used by version 7 are not compatible with previous versions, except for any data files as used by the Gazetteer, Summertime correction, Client Files, Chartmaster, etc. You should therefore copy any files or systems that you have created on to your working copy of version 7 except for CF.DAT, ORB.SEQ or HORB.SEQ which are all replaced by the version 7 CF.DAT. Please note that the programs are not self-starting. They need to be started by entering the letter A and pressing the return key (not AUTOEXEC as in the user manual). With the larger programs - eg A20 - some of the subsidiary programs (harmonics tutorial and ephemeris print) will be supplied on the B disc, so floppy disc users will need to swop discs before selecting them from the menu, or create a separate A disc for these programs.

Making a Working Copy

a) Hard disc users. Create a SUB-DIRECTORY and copy all the programs and files from the MASTER disc(s) into that sub-directory. Then run the configuration program from that SUB-DIRECTORY with the MASTER copy of your drive A disc in drive A - do NOT remove the write-protect tab. To run simply enter A then select option F (the Configuration program) followed by option 1 (Natal options), then 5 (Drives for program & data storage). You should then alter all of the drive designations to C.

b) Floppy disc users. Make a backup copy of the MASTER disc(s) using your normal backup procedure and store the master(s) away in a safe place. If you have dual floppy drives then alter the drive designations so that the programs are on the drive A disc and the data files on drive B. To do this insert the drive A disc in drive A, enter A and select the option F, etc., as described above, only this time alter the data file designations 1, 3 and 4 to B and leave the program file 2 as A.

Version 7 makes even greater use of the configuration file than its predecessors. You should therefore run this configuration program as soon as you have made a working copy or installed it on hard disc - select option F from the main menu - and carefully read through the Information and Instructions given therein together with these instructions. Please note that the limitation regarding printing more than one graphics page at a time for Transits, Lunar Phases, etc., no longer applies.

Natal Options within the Configuration program

Beginners should not concern themselves with features such as the calculation of angles in the polar regions, distance values, Delta T before 1700 or after 2000 or Zodiacs and too much weight should not be

given to the naming of items as True rather than Mean. True DOESN'T necessarily mean that they are better or more accurate, just that they are calculated on a different basis.

1) **Zodiacs.** The 'normal' method used by Western Astrologers is the Tropical Zodiac. This takes its starting point as the moment when the Sun crosses the Vernal Equinox on or about March 21st each year. Because of the phenomena known as precession, this differs from the Sidereal Zodiac by a constantly increasing amount each year. Eastern Astrologers normally use the Sidereal Zodiac which measures positions against the Fixed Stars - or rather the Fixed Stars as they were at some moment in time in the past. At this moment in time there was only one Zodiac. Different authorities give different dates for when the two Zodiacs coincided, hence there are different values for the Ayanamsa (the difference between the two Zodiacs at a certain date - usually 0 hrs 1900). The Standard Value we use (you can enter your own) is the 'Official' Indian Government value, otherwise known as the Lahori value. All calculations are performed in the Tropical Zodiac and adjusted by the Ayanamsa for that moment in time to give the Sidereal positions.

The Draconic Zodiac works on the basis of subtracting the position of the Mean or True Node from all the planets and angles.

2) **Calculation of Angles in the Polar Regions.** See Recent Advances for a discussion on the relative merits.

7) **Mean and True Node switch.** This allows you to use either the Mean or True Node in calculations for aspects - both Nodes are calculated. Please note that our calculations are very accurate for the Mean Nodes but those of the so-called True Nodes are only approximate. Siderealists should only use the Mean Nodes.

9) **True or Apparent Positions.** Previous versions of Astrocalc have only ever attempted to calculate 'True' positions. These are the instantaneous positions calculated for the centre of the earth and takes no account of the time it takes for light to reach the earth. Nor does it take account of any bending of light that may occur when a planet is near the horizon. Thus when you see the Sun or Moon rising or setting they may already be above or below the horizon. If you choose the apparent option the program will calculate the positions taking account of the time that it takes light from the planet to reach the Earth. For the Sun this is about 8 mins so that true and apparent positions will differ by about 20 secs of longitude (1/3 min). The planets will also be affected depending upon their speed, the Moon not at all.

For even greater accuracy some people would take account of the geographical latitude and the height above sea level. Your choice in this matter will be determined by your view of what the planetary influence on earth actually is. Is it instantaneous/synchronistic? In which case the True positions would be correct. Or does it operate at the speed of light? In which case the apparent positions are correct. Or is light important in the way it would have been for the old astrologers who actually looked at the skies? In which case the bending of light due to the earth's atmosphere, geographical latitude and height above sea level would all appear to be necessary additional calculations. For most practical purposes and where birth times are not known to closer than 5 or 10 minutes, it probably doesn't matter which method you use. But beware

that may be, are faint background influences, whereas aspects well within the maximum limit can be relied upon to be strong.

Further references to natal interpretation will be found under *Midpoints* and *Harmonics* below; otherwise most of the remaining techniques concern prediction.

Prediction

The term is used loosely because often a predictive technique can be used in retrospect to understand a past event, but in any case such techniques are concerned with comparing a new chart with the natal chart to see what aspects appear between the two. (Signs and houses are sometimes used also but are less well established.) Inexperienced astrologers would do well to accept that they are not going to be concerned with what will *happen* to the native, nor even with what he will *do*, so much as with what he will *be* or how he will *feel*. In other words we predict psychological states which may lead to events; but it is important to remember that the latter are the combined results of current planetary effects, the innate inclinations of the individual (as revealed by his birthchart), his present environmental situation, and the exercise of free will. Thus the events are essentially unique to the individual, and interpretations given in textbooks can only be regarded as generalisations. In all the techniques that follow, aspects will form the main basis for interpretation.

Progressions (More correctly Secondary Progressions)

One of the most widely used predictive techniques. Everything rests on the idea that one day in the life of the native is symbolically equivalent to one year (probably because of the parallel between the Earth's annual orbit and its daily rotation). In other words the positions of the planets 30 days after our birth indicates what we are at age 30, and so on. Because the slower-moving planets will not have gone far even in 100 days, it is usual to ignore them in progressions and concentrate on Sun to Mars inclusive, or perhaps Jupiter as well. Aspects between the progressed planets are taken (these are called mutual aspects) also between a progressed planet and any natal planet, including the slow ones. The progressed Moon moves sufficiently fast that we normally keep track of it month by month, whereas (using the customary 1' orb) the effect of the remaining planets may be apparent for 2 years or more. Not only planets are used, but also the progressed and natal Angles (Ascendant, MC and even Vertex. The latter is the intersection of the Meridian and Prime Vertical on the Western side, and is popular in America. No book devoted to it appears to exist, but it is held to relate to fated situations; those over which the native has no control. It has been described as a kind of "unconscious" Ascendant.).

Progressions, properly speaking, should mean the *Day-for-a-year* method just described. However, there are variations of it, all of which rely on the fact that the Sun moves pretty steadily and at the rate (almost) of 1' per day. It doesn't move quite steadily, however, its daily motion varying between about 0'57" and 1'1" during the year, giving an average of 0'59'8", this latter being known as Naibod's Arc. Multiplying this figure by the age would give an arc (distance moved by Sun) which was approximately right. An even more approximate method is to take 1' for each year of life. Clearly the Naibod (or *Radix*) method and *One-degree* method are no more than rough-and-ready substitutes for the True Solar Arc, and belong to the pre-computer age of astrology. However, Astrocalc can provide modules to use all these methods if you wish to experiment with them.

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Directions, if the term is used correctly, differs from progressions in that the Sun's progressed arc (either true or mean) is computed by one of the above methods, then this arc is added to *all* natal planets and Angles to give new positions. (This rules out the use of mutual aspects, which obviously remain identical to the natal ones.)

Progressed Angles. There are various ways by which the Angles can be progressed: most astrologers assume that they move at roughly the same rate as the Sun, but strictly speaking a new chart should be computed completely for the day and time corresponding (day-for-a-year) to the forecast date, using the original birthplace, and this will give the Angles. One favourite method is to add the Solar arc to the MC, then find the Ascendant corresponding to that MC; another is to compute the true MC for a number of successive birthdays and assume that dates between the birthdays provide a suitable MC position by interpolation. This does not accord with the truth that the MC moves about 361' daily, not 1', so that you need Astrocalc's *Daily Progressed Angles* module to be spot-on.

Confused? So are most astrologers.... Basically you are being recommended to use Day-for-a-year progressions, with Daily Progressed Angles.

Transits

A close second to progressions/directions in popularity. Instead of a day-for-a-year equivalence, we use, as it were, a day-for-a-day, i.e. to predict for a particular day we use the positions of the planets as on that day. Mutual aspects are not used since they are the same for everybody on Earth; we simply take aspects from transiting positions to natal positions (max orb 1'). It is not normal to list the transits for a given day, however; rather to print out a list of dates on which each transiting aspect becomes exact. Now the slow planets are more significant than the rest, because Sun, Mercury and Venus tend to repeat the same transit sequence annually and so are played down or ignored. The effect of transiting Moon (which travels round the entire Zodiac every month, remember) is even more fleeting. However, for important dates the transits of all planets can be used in your Astrocalc module by selecting Daily Transits.

Transits to charts other than natal are possible, though there is little agreement about the value of the results.

Midpoints

A midpoint is simply the position on the ecliptic intermediate between two planets or Angles (taking the shorter route of two possibilities). It has the meaning of the two planets combined. Signs and houses of midpoints are not used, but we take the aspects of the planets to them: this normally involves combining the meanings of three planets, thus giving more precise and specific interpretation. Midpoints are much favoured by progressive astrologers of this century, and there is certainly room for exploration and discovery of their uses. However, Reinhold Ebertin and his family (of Germany) have evolved a complete astrological system based on midpoints and known as *Cosmobiology*, a rather misleading name since it resembles normal astrology rather than a physiological system. Cosmobiology virtually ignores signs and houses and concentrates on aspects: in fact it ignores many aspects also because it concentrates on multiples of 45' aspects (i.e. conjunctions, oppositions, squares, semisquares, sesquisquares). These, known as hard aspects, are more productive of events than others. The so-called 45' dial is a technique which compresses all positions into a 45' Zodiac and so reveals all hard aspects as if they were conjunctions. Your Astrocalc

midpoints module can, however, be set up to give multiples of other arcs besides 45'.

Midpoints in natal astrology provide a great number of aspects to be interpreted: for guidance see Ebertin literature. The list of aspects to each planet (called a midpoint tree) shows the planet's "cosmic state". Orbs are at most 3' for planet-to-planet and 1½' for planet-to-midpoint.

Solar arc directions is the main predictive technique here: the progressed solar arc is added to all planets/Angles and then aspects are taken to natal planets and midpoints, smaller orbs being used.

Transits to midpoints have been found to give very accurate predictions. The drawback is that the rapidly changing nature of the aspects, and their increased number, mean that dated lists are impractical, so one must make a forecast for one date at a time. Therefore Solar arc directions are used to get the overall picture, and transits to midpoints to give more detail where required.

Solar and Lunar Returns

(Sometimes called Revolutions) Every year the Sun returns to the exact position it occupied at your birth. This moment, your "astrological birthday", varies from year to year and occurs within about a day before to a day after your calendar birthday. The chart for that exact moment reveals the general pattern of life for the forthcoming year. Mutual aspects in the return chart are used, also aspects from the solar chart to the natal chart. Lunar Returns are similar but occur every month.

Relocation is involved when your Solar or Lunar Return takes place when you are not situated at your birthplace. It is generally considered better to use the Latitude and Longitude of wherever you are at the return moment.

Precession correction relies upon the fact that the Zodiac itself does not stand still, but precesses (recedes) clockwise about 50" (seconds) of arc annually. This means that by age 72 the point 0 Aries (and every other point on the Zodiac) will be 1' out from your birth positions. So the Sun must return to where it was at birth, not where it appears to be now. Computers make short work of this tricky adjustment. [There is a point of view which says that we should adjust for precession when using transits also: after all a Solar Return is only a special kind of transit chart.]

Harmonics

A comparatively new technique but one which promises to revolutionise astrology once all its implications have been explored and understood. Basically it is no more than an extension of aspects to include mini-aspects by smaller divisions of the circle than are included in the so-called major (which divide the circle by 1,2,3,4, and 6) and minor (which do so by 8 and 12). Harmonic experimenters are prepared to look at division of the circle by virtually any number, even if these have no names. Interpretation depends on the numerological symbolism of the number used to divide the circle. Thus we already knew the following:

Divisor	Name	General meaning
1	Conjunction	Integration
2	Opposition	Challenge
3	Trine	Ease
4	Square	Difficulty

but we have more recently learned the following:

5	Quintile	Artificiality, mental quality
7	Septile	Inspiration, ideal

We already knew how to interpret "combined" numbers (square, above, is an example because it is 2 x 2). Thus:

6	Sextile	Opportunity (2 x 3)
8	Semisquare	Strong effort (2 x 2 x 2)
12	Semisextile	Difficult opportunity (2 x 2 x 3)

So now we can infer that the 9th harmonic (novile) implies great ease or joy; the 10th harmonic (decile) a mental challenge; the 28th harmonic (no name yet) a difficulty at the inspirational level, and so on. All this greatly enlarges the psychological depth of interpretation. By the way, harmonics theory does not distinguish between multiples of the same arc, i.e. 1/8 and 3/8 have the same meaning, 1/12 and 5/12 are the same, quintiles and biquintiles are the same, etc.

Harmonic charts are a new technique: every natal position is multiplied by the harmonic number required (e.g. to get a 7th harmonic chart we multiply all positions by 7), first converting zodiacal positions to absolute longitude, i.e. 360° notation. Example: 13 Capricorn 30 becomes 283.5. After multiplying by the harmonic number, repeatedly subtract 360° until the result is less than 360°. In the present example, 283.5 x 7 = 1984.5, which reduces to 184.5. This can now be translated back as 4 Libra 30 for convenience in drawing up a chart, but it is very important to remember that this position is not in a real Zodiac and its sign is meaningless for interpretation purposes. What is important is the aspects within the finished chart, using major aspects. The central concept of harmonics is that this multiplication by 7 now shows all septiles, biseptiles and triseptiles as conjunctions; semiseptiles as oppositions, and so on. Thus what appear to be the 5 major aspects are actually 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th and 42nd harmonics. The whole chart has a 7th harmonic flavour and so reveals much about the native's aspirations. Without a computer all these calculations are extremely laborious, but with a harmonics program it all becomes very easy.

Natal interpretation by harmonics is nowadays done by synthesising a small handful of harmonic charts together with the natal one: numbers 1, 4, 5 and 7 give excellent results. For a fuller result add 6 and 9 if you wish. Nothing but aspects is needed, but if you do add signs and houses, remember they are valid only in the natal chart.

Progressed harmonics are extremely useful: one takes the progressed chart as if it were the natal chart, and uses its derived harmonic charts as above. Unfortunately Astrocalc have not yet produced a module devoted to harmonic progressions, but they can be arrived at by adding current age to natal age (in days!) and setting up the progressed date as a natal chart, then creating the harmonic charts.

Notes regarding above:-

i) The reason for holding the date in year month day order is that this greatly eases data selection. Whichever option is chosen will be stored in the header record - ie the 2nd digit of the header record will be 1 or 2. Similarly with choices for other fields.

ii) For compatibility with our American cousins we are storing terrestrial longitude with negative values as East. Those who wish to use this longitude for calculation should remember to reverse the sign.

iii) Zodiac:- 0=Tropical, 1=Sidereal, 2=Draconic Mean, 3=Draconic True

iv) House system:- 0=None, 1=Equal, 2=Placidus, 3=Koch, 4=Topocentric, 5=Regiomontanus, 6=Porphyry, 7=Campanus, 8=Alcabitus

v) Sex, Profession, Information Source, Time Zone and Other fields are all optional so that the values in the header record will either be Y or N.

vi) If stored the Heliocentric values, (Earth, Mercury to Pluto) will be immediately after the Planet data followed by (if stored) the house cusps, East Point, Vertex, True Node, Pars Fortuna, Declinations and Latitudes. The latter two are always stored with 8 characters preceded by a plus or minus sign.

vii) As an example, if you chose the first option in all the choices and used the Equal House system, the header record would look like this:-
"111101001NNYYYYNNNNNN"

If you answer yes to the OTHER fields option the program will request you to put in descriptions for any further fields (up to 24 characters long) that you wish to add. These will be written to the file as additional user-defined header records. When you have finished a "zzz" record will be written to the file (but only if you have written additional header fields).

To use the files that you have created you should exit the configuration program, select the Astrocalc Calculation option and enter a chart in the normal way. If you now choose option s you have the facility to save the data to both client files and research files. If you select the research option you will be prompted to input a disc in a similar manner to that for client files. The number of the research file is now requested and the program will search for that file. If found a check will be made on some of the header information with the configuration detail that you have used to calculate this chart. Thus if the header says Placidus house and you have calculated Equal it will produce an error and it will not let you save the information to that particular RES file.

If the header information is satisfactory the program will calculate an Accuracy code based on the input time and will give you the option of overwriting it. If the time is given as 0 mins (ie on the hour), the program assumes an accuracy code of 1 (ie within 30 mins). Anything else will be allocated a value of G.

The Accuracy code is as follows:-

E	+/-	5 minutes	G	+/-	15 minutes
I	+/-	30 minutes	K	+/-	1 hour
M	+/-	2 hours	O	+/-	4 hours
Q	+/-	12 hours	S	+/-	24 hours
U	+/-	48 hours	W		rectified
Y		accuracy not known	Z		time not known

If you have requested Sex, Profession, Information Source or Time Zone, the program will ask you to enter these details. Use M=Male, F=Female, N=Neutral, E=Event, etc; C=Certificate, W=Word of mouth, D=Document and a coding system for the profession with possibly some elaboration in OTHER fields.

The program will now calculate and display the information that is going to be stored, apart from the OTHER field information. This detail can also be printed and we would strongly advise you to do this. If there is OTHER data to enter the program will read in the descriptions previously stored in the header record and allow you to put data to these fields. What you enter is entirely up to you except that a leading space will be ignored and **COMMAS SHOULD NOT BE USED.**

The order of the data stored in the data records (where present) will be:- Date, Time, Latitude, Longitude, Accuracy code, Sex, Profession, Information Source, Time Zone, planet data, heliocentric positions, house cusps (2,3,11,12), East Point, Vertex, True Node, Pars Fortuna, Declinations, Latitudes, other fields.

Please note that when we write +/- we mean plus or minus, not plus slash minus. Also except when writing the records as a single string, or when writing the planetary information, leading + signs (as in date, latitude and longitude) will be omitted.

Planet data will be in the order:- Sun, Moon, Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune, Pluto, Mean North Node, Ascendant and Mid-heaven. The format is +/-/SSDDMMSSHH, where SS=sign number (1-12), DD=degrees (0-29), MM=minutes (0-59), SS=Seconds (0-59), HH=House position (1-12) and may be as a single field, or separated, or number as specified. Negative values indicate a planet is retrograde and a leading space indicates that the planet is stationary or moving very slowly (less than 1/35 of its mean speed). Heliocentric and house cusp data will be in a similar format without the preceding +/- (or house nos with house cusps). Except for the fixed length continuous string format, each complete record will be separated by *** denoting end of record.

IMPORTANT. Whilst Astrocalc endeavour to create the facilities for research to the best of our ability, we cannot accept any responsibility for any loss of information or data as a result of using our programs. If you are going to do research then care should be taken to always backup any research files that you create after each session. Documentation is also very important and the information on file should be consistent. Always take care with items such as the Information Source and the Accuracy Code where you should err on the side of caution and assume the worst possible. Every effort has been made to eliminate errors, but if YOU introduce new codes, or change codes or definitions in mid-stream then you cannot expect your results to be meaningful.