

Seminar SAW : Mathematical practices in the context of the Astral Sciences

Abstract :

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The mathematics underlying parallax in Sanskrit sources

A canonical value for the maximum parallax in the Sanskrit astral sciences is '4 *ghaṭikās*'. Where does this come from? Twelfth century commentator Āmarāja tells us exactly where it comes from and his explanation involves operations on triangles of cosmological proportions, sexagesimal arithmetic, trigonometry, approximation, and metrological conversion. We lay out the mathematical intricacies of his derivation and its relations to the geometry of the cosmological model.