

SAW Three-Month Workshop:
Mathematical Practices in relation to the Astral Sciences

Abstract

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Remarks on mean motion computations and fixed sexagesimal place value notation (short talk)

Abstract: Using a passage of John of Lignières *Tabule magne*, we point a simple but currently overlooked property of the sexagesimal numbers present in many traditions of astral sciences: these numbers are perfectly shaped to easily perform specific modulo computations. This important feature is linked, in a crucial way, to the fact that these sexagesimal numbers are fixed rather than floating.