

מַזְל סַרְטָן

Cancer nou מזל סרטן

<http://www.morfix.co.il/en/cancer>

بُرْجُ السَّرَطَانِ

cancer (n.) {The Crab} {astron.} بُرْجُ السَّرَطَانِ

<http://www.arabdict.com/en/english-arabic/cancer>

سرطان

cancer

سرطان

<https://translate.google.com/#auto/fa/cancer>

Καρκίνος

καρκίνος - Wiktionary

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καρκίνος. Definition from Wiktionary, the free dictionary. Jump to: navigation, search.

See also: **Καρκίνος** ... Could be from a Proto-Indo-European *karkros, with cognates including Latin **cancer**, ... From **Ancient Greek** **καρκίνος** (karkínos, "crab") ...

cancer - Wiktionary

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From Latin **cancer** ("crab"), from **Ancient Greek** **καρκίνος** (karkínos, "crab"); applied to cancerous tumors because the enlarged veins resembled the legs of a crab ...

καρκίνος (Greek, Ancient Greek): meaning, definition ...

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καρκίνος (**Ancient Greek**). Origin & history. Uncertain. Could be from a Proto-Indo-European *karkros, with cognates including Latin **cancer**, and possibly ...

Cancer (astrology)

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Cancer (♋) is the fourth astrological sign, which is associated with the constellation Cancer. It spans the 90-120th degree of the zodiac, between 90 and 125.25 degree of celestial longitude. Under the tropical zodiac, the Sun transits this area on average between June 21 and July 22, and under the sidereal zodiac, the Sun transits this area between approximately July 16 and August 15. A person under this sign is called a Moon child. The symbol of the crab is based on the Karkinos, a giant crab that harassed Hercules during his fight with the Hydra.^[1] The Cancer-Leo cusp lasts from July 19 to July 23.

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Astrology



A symbolic representation of Cancer.

Cancer lies east of Gemini and can be recognized by the Beehive Cluster, Praesepe.^[2] Along with Scorpio and Pisces, the constellations form the Watery Trigon.^[2] The Watery Trigon is one of four elemental trigons, fiery, earthy, airy, and watery.^[3] When a trigon is influential, it affects changes on earth.^[3] Cancer is said to be the house of Neptune and the exaltation of Jupiter, both astronomical bodies having influence over those born under Cancer.^{[4][5]} The right ascension of Cancer is 8 h 38.96 m.^[6] Its declination is +19 degrees 48.35 m and it is located in quadrant NQ2.^[6] Cancer is most visible at 21:00 in March between the latitudes of +90 and -60 degrees.^[6]

Associations

The sign of Cancer is said to be associated with the characteristics: watery, phlegmatic, feminine, cardinal, northern, commanding, nocturnal, weak, mute, and fruitful.^[4] Those who are born from June 21 to July 22 are born under Cancer.^{[7][8]} Cancer is a northern sign and its opposite Southern sign is Capricorn.^{[4][5]} Those born under Cancer can have a

fair pale complexion, round face, grey blue eyes, weak voice, large upper body, slender arms, small feet, and an effeminate constitution.^[4] Places that Cancer is associated with are the sea, rivers, brooks, wells, wash-houses, marsh grounds, and trenches.^[5] The areas of the body that Cancer governs are the breast and the stomach.^[4] Cancerians are said to be people of sensation and feeling. They tend to go by their own intuition as opposed to reasonable advice.^[9] People under Cancer are also said to reflect the qualities of the moon. This causes their emotions to sometimes swing from high to low and a Cancerian can sometimes be smothering in nature.^[9] Since the domain of Neptune is at night, Cancerians are suited to the night when their creativity is high.^[9]

Three classes of Cancer

June 21 - July 3

People born during this class of Cancer are said to be exceedingly under the influence of the Moon.^[9] They seem to be loyal, brave, kind and are very lovely, though their temper is fair it might shift as the moon changes phases. Even though this cancer is said to be moody they are quite kind and reassuring. They are considered royalty in nature. Although most born during this class of Cancer seem to be esoteric, one must place careful consideration of this unique class. June 27 is the day that is believed to be Earth's "Savior" birthday. This Royalty shall be underestimated at first glance but nevertheless, perfection will be achieved by kind natured son of nature & celestial peaceful sign. Thus, the manifestation of powerful vibratory of the revealing of God & Man/Woman's true connection of grace. They are very hardworking in nature. Mighty is the Ocean's most deep and emotional magnetism - Cancer.^[9]

July 4 - July 13

Individuals born into this class of Cancer are said to have developed a high degree of concentration and want more than an average life.^[9] They are sometimes possessive and domineering toward loved ones but are also loyal and will do their best to help them achieve happiness.^[9]

July 14 - July 22

Those who are in this class of Cancer have the influence of both Cancer and Leo.^[9] This class of Cancers love others unconditionally.^[9]

Mythology

Greek mythology

The story of Cancer the Crab is said to be connected to Hercules. Some storytellers say that during Hercules's fight with Lernaean Hydra, Hera, sent a crab to snap at Hercules's toes because Hera had sworn to kill Hercules.^[10] Hercules was able to kill the crab by smashing its shell with his foot.^[11] As a reward for its efforts serving her, Hera placed the crab in the sky and it became Cancer.^[11]

Chinese mythology

In Chinese star lore, Cancer is in the 23rd of the 28 mansions or *xiu*.^[12] This mansion is called Gui which

roughly translates to "ghosts".^[12] The Chinese divided the sky into four quarters, each with its own direction, season, and mythical creature. Cancer exists in the Red (Vermillion) Bird of the south. It is associated with summer.^[12]

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External links

- The dictionary definition of Cancer at Wiktionary
- Media related to Cancer at Wikimedia Commons

Retrieved from "http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Cancer_(astrology)&oldid=664979006"


Categories: Astrological signs | Mythical aquatic creatures | Mythical arthropods | Astrology stubs

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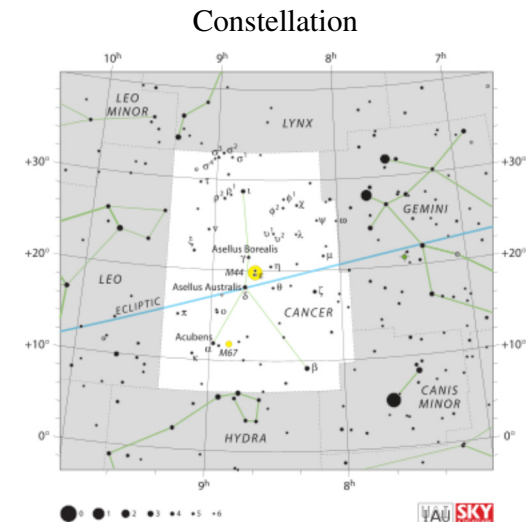
Cancer (constellation)

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Cancer is one of the twelve constellations of the zodiac. Its name is Latin for crab and it is commonly represented as one. Its astrological symbol is ♋ (Unicode ♋). Cancer is a medium-size constellation with an area of 506 square degrees and its stars are rather faint, its brightest star Beta Cancri having an apparent magnitude of 3.5. It contains two stars with known planets, including 55 Cancri, which has five: one super-earth and four gas giants, one of which is in the habitable zone and as such has expected temperatures similar to Earth. Located at the center of the constellation is Praesepe (Messier 44), one of the closest open clusters to Earth and a popular target for amateur astronomers.

Coordinates:  09^h 00^m 00^s, +20° 00′ 00″

Cancer



List of stars in Cancer

Abbreviation	Cnc ^[1]
Genitive	Cancri ^[1]
Pronunciation	/ˈkænsər/ , genitive /ˈkæŋkraɪ/
Symbolism	the Crab
Right ascension	07 ^h 55 ^m 19.7973 ^s –09 ^h 22 ^m 35.0364 ^s ^[2]
Declination	33.1415138°–6.4700689° ^[2]
Family	Zodiac
Area	506 sq. deg. (31st)
Main stars	5
Bayer/Flamsteed stars	76
Stars with planets	10
Stars brighter than 3.00^m	0
Stars within 10.00 pc (32.62 ly)	2
Brightest star	β Cnc (Altarf) (3.53 ^m)
Nearest star	DX Cnc (11.84 ly, 3.63 pc)

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Characteristics

Cancer is a medium-sized constellation that is bordered by Gemini to the west, Lynx to the north, Leo Minor to the northeast, Leo to the east, Hydra to the south, and Canis Minor to the southwest. The three-letter abbreviation for the constellation, as adopted by the International Astronomical Union in 1922, is 'Cnc'.^[3] The official constellation boundaries, as set by Eugène Delporte in 1930, are defined by a polygon of 10 sides

(*illustrated in infobox*). In the equatorial coordinate system, the right ascension coordinates of these borders lie between 07^h 55^m 19.7973^s and 09^h 22^m 35.0364^s, while the declination coordinates are between 33.1415138° and 6.4700689°.^[2] Covering 506 square degrees or 0.921% of the sky, it ranks 31st of the 88 constellations in size. It can be seen at latitudes between +90° and -60° and is best visible at 9 p.m. during the month of March.

Notable features

Stars

Cancer is the dimmest of the zodiacal constellations, having only two stars above the fourth magnitude.^[1] The German cartographer Johann Bayer used the Greek letters Alpha through Omega to label the most prominent stars in the constellation, followed by the letters A, then lowercase b, c and d.^[4]



The constellation Cancer as it can be seen by the naked eye. AlltheSky.com (<http://www.allthesky.com/constellations/cancer.html>)

Messier objects	2
Meteor showers	Delta Cancriids
Bordering constellations	Lynx Gemini Canis Minor Hydra Leo Leo Minor (corner)

Visible at latitudes between +90° and −60°.

Best visible at 21:00 (9 p.m.) during the month of March.

Also known as Altarf, Beta Cancri is the brightest star in Cancer at apparent magnitude 3.5 and located 290 light-years from Earth.^[5] It is a binary star system, its main component an orange giant of spectral type K4III that varies slightly from a baseline magnitude of 3.53—dipping by 0.005 magnitude over a period of 6 days.^[6] An ageing star, it has expanded to around 50 times the Sun's diameter and shines with 660 times its luminosity. It has a faint magnitude 14 red dwarf companion located 29 seconds away that takes 76,000 years to complete an orbit.^[5] Altarf represents a part of Cancer's body.^[1]

At magnitude 3.9 is Delta Cancri, also known as Asellus Australis.^[7] Located 131±1 light-years from Earth,^[8] it is an orange-hued giant star that has swollen and cooled off the main sequence to become an orange giant with a radius 11 times and luminosity 53 times that of the Sun.^[7] Its common name means "southern donkey".^[1] The star also holds a record for the longest name, "Arkushanangarushashutu," derived from ancient Babylonian language, which translates to "the southeast star in the Crab." Delta Cancri also makes it easy to find X Cancri, the

reddest star in the sky. Known as Asellus Borealis "northern donkey", Gamma Cancri is a white-hued A-type subgiant of spectral type A1IV and magnitude 4.67,^[9] that is 35 times as luminous as of the Sun.^[10] It is located 181 ± 2 light-years from Earth.^[8]

Iota Cancri is a wide double star. The primary is a yellow-hued G-type bright giant star of magnitude 4.0, around 300 light-years from Earth. It spent much of its stellar life as a B-type main sequence star before expanding and cooling to its current state as it spent its core hydrogen. The secondary is a white main sequence star of spectral type A3V and magnitude 6.57. Despite having different distances when measured by the HIPPARCOS satellite, the two stars share a common proper motion and appear to be a natural binary

system.^[11]

Located 174 ± 9 light-years from Earth,^[8] Alpha Cancri (Acubens) is a multiple star with a primary component an apparent white main sequence star of spectral type A5 and magnitude 4.26. The secondary is of magnitude 12.0 and is visible in small amateur telescopes. Its common name means "the claw".^[1] The primary is actually two very similar white main sequence stars that are 5.3 AU distant from each other and the secondary is two small main sequence stars, most likely red dwarfs, that are 600 AU from the main pair. Hence the system is a quadruple one.^[12]

Zeta Cancri or Tegmine ("the shell") is a multiple star system that contains at least four stars located 83 light-years from Earth. The two brightest components are a binary star with an orbital period of 1100 years; the brighter component is a yellow-hued star of magnitude 7.0 and the dimmer component is a yellow-hued star of magnitude 6.2. The brighter component is itself a binary star with a period of 59.5 years; its primary is of magnitude 5.6 and its secondary is of magnitude 6.0. This pair will be at its greatest separation in 2018.^[1]

Ten star systems have been found to have planets. Rho-1 Cancri or 55 Cancri is a binary star approximately 40.9 light-years distant from Earth. 55 Cancri consists of a yellow dwarf and a smaller red dwarf, with five planets orbiting the primary star; one low-mass planet that may be either a hot, water-rich world or a carbon planet and four gas giants. 55 Cancri A, classified as a rare "super metal-rich" star, is one of the top 100 target stars for NASA's Terrestrial Planet Finder mission, ranked 63rd on the list. The red dwarf 55 Cancri B, a suspected binary, appears to be gravitationally bound to the primary star, as the two share common proper motion.

YBP 1194 is a sunlike star in the open cluster M67 that has been found to have three planets.

Deep-sky objects

Cancer is best known among stargazers as the home of Praesepe (Messier 44), an open cluster also called the *Beehive Cluster*, located right in the centre of the constellation. Located 577 light-years from Earth, it is one of the nearest open clusters to our Solar System. M 44 contains about 50 stars, the brightest of which are of the sixth magnitude. Epsilon Cancri is the brightest member at magnitude 6.3. Praesepe is also one of the larger open clusters visible; it has an area of 1.5 square degrees, or three times the size of the full Moon.^[1] It is most easily observed when Cancer is high in the sky. North of the Equator, this period stretches from February to May. Ptolemy described the Beehive Cluster as "the nebulous mass in the breast of Cancer." It was one of the first objects Galileo observed with his telescope in 1609, spotting 40 stars in the cluster. Today, there are about 1010 high-probability members, most of them (68 percent) red dwarfs. The Greeks and Romans identified the nebulous object as a manger from which two donkeys, represented by the neighbouring stars [1213] Asellus Borealis and [1210] Asellus Australis, were eating. The stars represent the donkeys that the god Dionysus and his tutor Silenus rode in the war against the Titans. The ancient Chinese interpreted the object as a ghost or demon riding in a carriage, calling it a "cloud of pollen blown from under willow catkins."

The smaller, denser open cluster Messier 67 can also be found in Cancer, 2500 light-years from Earth. It has an area of approximately 0.5 square degrees, the size of the full Moon. It contains approximately 200 stars, the brightest of which are of the tenth magnitude.^[1]

QSO J0842+1835 is a quasar used to measure the speed of gravity in VLBI experiment conducted by Edward Fomalont and Sergei Kopeikin in September 2002.

OJ 287 is a BL Lacertae object located 3.5 billion light years away that has produced quasi-periodic optical

outbursts going back approximately 120 years, as first apparent on photographic plates from 1891. It was first detected at radio wavelengths during the course of the Ohio Sky Survey. Its central supermassive black hole is among the largest known, with a mass of 18 billion solar masses,^[13] more than six times the value calculated for the previous largest object.^[14]

History

Cancer is said to have been the place for the Akkadian Sun of the South, perhaps from its position at the summer solstice in very remote antiquity. But afterwards it was associated with the fourth month *Duzu* (June–July in the modern western calendar), and was known as the Northern Gate of Sun.

Showing but few stars, and its brightest stars being of only 4th magnitude,^[1] Cancer was often considered the "Dark Sign", quaintly described as black and without eyes. Dante, alluding to this faintness and position of heavens, wrote in *Paradiso*:

“
 Then a light among them brightened,
 So that, if Cancer one such crystal had,
 Winter would have a month of one sole day. ”

Cancer was the location of the Sun's most northerly position in the sky (the summer solstice) in ancient times, though this position now occurs in Taurus due to the precession of the equinoxes, around June 21. This is also the time that the Sun is directly overhead at 23.5°N, a parallel now known as the Tropic of Cancer.^[1]

In Greek mythology, Cancer is identified with the crab that appeared while Hercules was fighting the many-headed Hydra. The crab bit Hercules on the foot, Hercules crushed it and then the goddess Hera, a sworn enemy of Hercules, placed the crab among the stars.

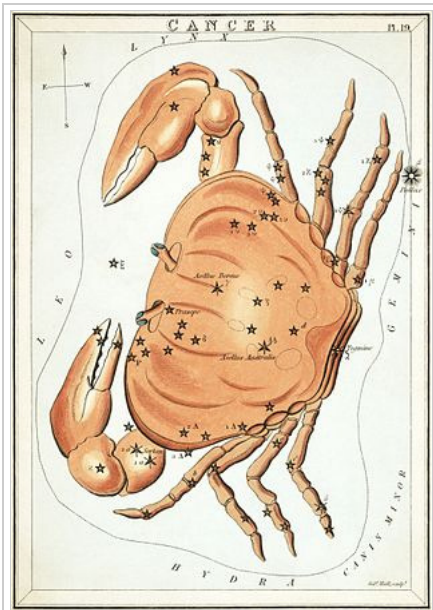
Illustrations

The modern symbol for Cancer represents the pincers of a crab, but Cancer has been represented as many types of creatures, usually those living in the water, and always those with an exoskeleton.

In the Egyptian records of about 2000 BC it was described as Scarabaeus (Scarab), the sacred emblem of immortality. In Babylonia the constellation was known as MUL.AL.LUL, a name which can refer to both a crab and a snapping turtle. On boundary stones, the image of a turtle or tortoise appears quite regularly and it is believed that this represents Cancer as a conventional crab has not so far been discovered on any of these monuments. There also appears to be a strong connection between the Babylonian constellation and ideas of death and a passage to the underworld, which may be the origin of these ideas in later Greek myths associated with Hercules and the Hydra.^[15] In the 12th century, an illustrated astronomical manuscript shows it as a water beetle. Albumasar writes of this sign in *Flowers of Abu Ma'shar*. A 1488 Latin translation depicts cancer as a large crayfish,^[16] which also is the constellation's name in most Germanic languages. Jakob Bartsch and Stanislaus Lubienitzki, in the 17th century, described it as a lobster.

Names

In Ancient Greece, Aratus called the crab *Καρκίνοϛ* (*Karkinos*), which was followed by Hipparchus and



Cancer as depicted in Urania's Mirror, a set of constellation cards published in London c.1825.

Ptolemy. The Alfonsine tables called it *Carcinus*, a Latinized form of the Greek word. Eratosthenes extended this as *Καρκινός, Ονοί, και Φατνη* (*Karkinos, Onoi, kai fatne*): the Crab, Asses, and Crib.

The Indian language Sanskrit shares a common ancestor with Greek, and the Sanskrit name of Cancer is *Karka* and *Karkata*. In Telugu it is "Karkatakam", in Kannada "Karkataka" or "Kataka", in Tamil *Karkatan*, and in Sinhalese *Kagthaca*. The later Hindus knew it as *Kulira*, from the Greek *Κολουρος* (*Koloyros*), the term originated by Proclus.

In Ancient Rome, Manilius and Ovid called the constellation *Litoreus* (shore-inhabiting). *Astacus* and *Cammarus* appear in various classic writers, while it is called *Nepa* in Cicero's *De Finibus* and the works of Columella, Plautus, and Varro; all of these words signify crab, lobster, or scorpion.

Athanasius Kircher said that in Coptic Egypt it was *Κλαρια* (*Klaria*), the *Bestia seu Statio Typhonis* (the Power of Darkness). Jérôme Lalande identified this with Anubis, one of the Egyptian divinities commonly associated with Sirius.

In most Germanic and Slavic languages, the constellation is known as

"The Crayfish".

Mythology

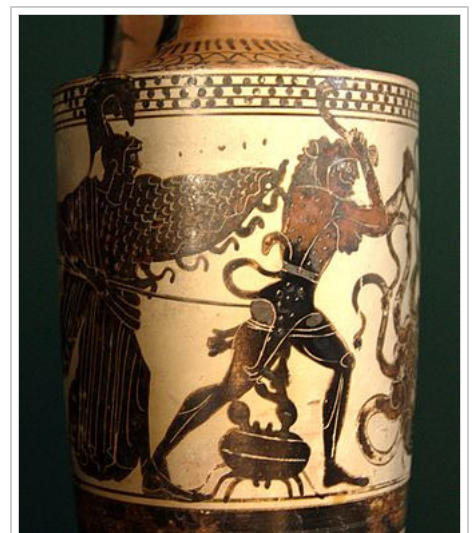
The creation of the constellation is explained in Greek mythology by the short-lived association of the crab Karkinos with one of the Twelve Labors of Heracles, in which Heracles battled the multi-headed Lernaean Hydra. Hera had sent Karkinos to distract Heracles and put him at a disadvantage during the battle, but Heracles quickly dispatched the crab by kicking it with such force that it was propelled into the sky. Other accounts had Karkinos grabbing onto Heracles's toe with its claws, but Heracles simply crushed the crab under his foot. Hera, grateful for Karkinos's effort, gave it a place in the sky.^[1] Some scholars have suggested that Karkinos was a late addition to the myth of Heracles in order to make the Twelve Labors correspond to the twelve signs of the Zodiac.^[17]

Astrology

As of 2002, the Sun appears in the constellation Cancer from July 21 to August 9. In tropical astrology, the Sun is considered to be in the sign Cancer from June 21 to July 22, and in sidereal astrology, from July 16 to August 15.

Equivalents

In Chinese astronomy, the stars of Cancer lie within the The Vermillion Bird of the South (南方朱雀, *Nán Fāng*



Heracles attacked by Karkinos (bottom) and the Lernaean Hydra, under the aid of Athena. White-ground Ancient Greek Attic lekythos, ca. 500–475 BC. Louvre Museum, Paris.

Zhū Què).^[18]

See also

Cancer (Chinese astronomy)

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External links

- The Deep Photographic Guide to the Constellations: Cancer (<http://www.allthesky.com/constellations/cancer/>)
- Star Tales – Cancer (<http://www.ianridpath.com/startales/cancer.htm>)
- Cancer Constellation at Constellation Guide (<http://www.constellation-guide.com/constellation-list/cancer-constellation/>)



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| Constellations listed by Ptolemy

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Hindu astrology

Jyotisha (or **Jyotish** from Sanskrit *jyotiṣa*, from *jyōtis-* “light, heavenly body”) is the traditional Hindu system of astrology, also known as **Hindu astrology**, **Indian astrology**, and more recently **Vedic astrology**. The term *Hindu astrology* has been in use as the English equivalent of *Jyotiṣa* since the early 19th century, whereas *Vedic astrology* is a relatively recent term, entering common usage in the 1980s with self-help publications on *Āyurveda* or *Yoga*. *Vedāṅga Jyotiṣa* is one of the earliest texts about astronomy within the Vedas.^{[1][2][3]} However, historical documentation shows that horoscopic astrology in the Indian subcontinent came from Hellenistic influences, post-dating the Vedic period.^[4]

Jyotisha has been divided into three main branches:^[5]

- **Siddhānta**: Indian astronomy/ Hindu astronomy. Siddhanta Jyotisha calculates the position of the planets and other heavenly bodies. Hindu calendar (Pāñchāṅga) is created from that calculation. 'Siddhāntā Sirómāni' and 'Sūryā Śiddhāntā' are two main books on Hindu astronomy. According to this theory, the earth is motionless and it is not considered as a planet. Seven planets (Moon, Mercury, Venus, Sun, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn) revolve around the earth.
- **Samhitā**: Mundane astrology, predicting important events related to countries such as war, earthquakes, political events, financial positions, house and construction related matters (*Vāstu Śāstra*), animals, portents, omens, and so on. It is also concerned with the calculation of Sūbhā Mūhūrtā for Brātā, pārbhā and Sānskārā.
- **Horā** or 'Jātakā': Predictive astrology in detail. It is about knowing every events in man's life by watching birth chart (Jānmā kūndālī). Astrologer can find out about education, wealth, health, marriage, children and many more things by looking at birth chart. Birth chart is made from the accurate time and date of birth. Positions of stars and planets are noted at that time of birth and prediction is made. It is believed that planets are responsible for individual's fate. Hora is mainly based on birth chart for fortune-telling.

Following a judgement of the Andhra Pradesh High Court in 2001, which favoured astrology, some Indian universities offer advanced degrees in Hindu astrology.

Astrology is rejected by the scientific community as pseudoscience.

1 History

Further information: Indian astronomy and Hindu chronology

Jyotiṣa is one of the Vedāṅga, the six auxiliary disciplines used to support Vedic rituals.^{[6]:376} Early jyotiṣa is concerned with the preparation of a calendar to fix the date of sacrificial rituals.^{[6]:377} Nothing is written on planets.^{[6]:377} There are mentions of eclipse causing “demons” in the Atharvaveda and Chāndogya Upaniṣad, the Chāndogya mentioning Rāhu.^{[6]:382} In fact the term *graha*, which is now taken to mean planet, originally meant demon.^{[6]:381} The Ṛgveda also mentions an eclipse causing demon, Svarbhānu, however the specific term of “graha” becomes applied to Svarbhānu in the later Mahābhārata and Rāmāyaṇa.^{[6]:382}

The foundation of Hindu astrology is the notion of bandhu of the Vedas, (scriptures), which is the connection between the microcosm and the macrocosm. Practice relies primarily on the sidereal zodiac, which is different from the tropical zodiac used in Western (Hellenistic) astrology in that an *ayanāṁśa* adjustment is made for the gradual precession of the vernal equinox. Hindu astrology includes several nuanced sub-systems of interpretation and prediction with elements not found in Hellenistic astrology, such as its system of lunar mansions (*Nakṣatra*). It was only after the transmission of Hellenistic astrology that the order of planets in India was fixed in that of the seven-day week.^{[6]:383[7]} Hellenistic astrology and astronomy also transmitted the twelve zodiacal signs beginning with Aries and the twelve astrological places beginning with the ascendant.^{[6]:384} The first evidence of the introduction of Greek astrology to India is the *Yavanaajātaka* which dates to the early centuries CE.^{[6]:383} The *Yavanaajātaka* (“Sayings of the Greeks”) was translated from Greek to Sanskrit by Yavaneśvara during the 2nd century CE, under the patronage of the Western Satrap Saka king Rudradaman I, and is considered the first Indian astrological treatise in the Sanskrit language.^[8] However the only version that survives is the later verse version of Sphujidhvaja which dates to AD 270.^{[6]:383} The first Indian astronomical text to define the weekday was the *Āryabhaṭīya* of Āryabhaṭa (born AD 476).^{[6]:383}

According to Michio Yano, Indian astronomers must have been occupied with the task of Indianizing and Sanskritizing Greek astronomy during the 300 or so years between the first *Yavanaajātaka* and the *Āryabhaṭīya*.^{[6]:388}

The astronomical texts of these 300 years are lost.^{[6]:388} The later *Pañcasiddhāntikā* of Varāhamihira summarizes the five known Indian astronomical schools of the sixth century.^{[6]:388} It is interesting to note that Indian astronomy preserved some of the older pre-Ptolemaic elements of Greek astronomy.^{[6]:389}

The main texts upon which classical Indian astrology is based are early medieval compilations, notably the *Bṛhat Parāśara Horāśāstra*, and *Sārāvalī* by Kalyāṇavarma. The *Horāśāstra* is a composite work of 71 chapters, of which the first part (chapters 1–51) dates to the 7th to early 8th centuries and the second part (chapters 52–71) to the later 8th century. The *Sārāvalī* likewise dates to around 800 CE.^[9] English translations of these texts were published by N.N. Krishna Rau and V.B. Choudhari in 1963 and 1961, respectively.

2 Modern Hindu astrology

Astrology remains an important facet in the lives of many Hindus. In Hindu culture, newborns are traditionally named based on their jyotiṣa charts, and astrological concepts are pervasive in the organization of the calendar and holidays as well as in many areas of life, such as in making decisions made about marriage, opening a new business, and moving into a new home. Astrology retains a position among the sciences in modern India.^[10] Following a judgement of the Andhra Pradesh High Court in 2001, some Indian universities offer advanced degrees in astrology.^[11]

Astrology remains an important facet of Hindu folk belief in contemporary India. Many Hindus believe that heavenly bodies, including the planets, have an influence throughout the life of a human being, and these planetary influences are the “fruit of karma.” The Navagraha, planetary deities, are considered subordinate to Ishvara, i.e., the Supreme Being, in the administration of justice. Thus, these planets can influence earthly life.^[12]

2.1 Status of astrology

See also: Astrology and science and Hindu astrology § Science

The University Grants Commission and the Ministry of Human Resource Development of the Government decided to introduce “Jyotir Vigyan” (i.e. *jyotir vijñāna*) or “Vedic astrology” as a discipline of study in Indian universities, saying that “vedic astrology is not only one of the main subjects of our traditional and classical knowledge but this is the discipline, which lets us know the events happening in human life and in universe on time scale.”^[13] The decision was backed up by the Andhra Pradesh High Court, despite widespread protests from the scientific community in India and Indian scientists work-

ing abroad.^[14] A petition sent to the Supreme Court of India stated that the introduction of astrology to university curricula is “a giant leap backwards, undermining whatever scientific credibility the country has achieved so far”, but it refused to intervene in the matter.^[13]

In 2004 the Supreme Court dismissed a further petition, concluding that the teaching of astrology did not qualify as the promotion of religion.^{[15][16]} In February 2011, the Bombay High Court referred to the 2004 Supreme Court ruling when it dismissed a case which had challenged astrology’s status as a science.^[17] Despite continuing complaints by scientists,^{[18][19]} astrology is still, as of 2014, taught at various universities in India,^{[16][20]} and there is a movement in progress to establish a national Vedic University to teach astrology together with the study of tantra, mantra, and yoga.^[21]

3 Elements

There are sixteen **Varga** (Sanskrit: *varga*, 'part, division'), or divisional, charts used in Hindu astrology:^{[22]:61–64}

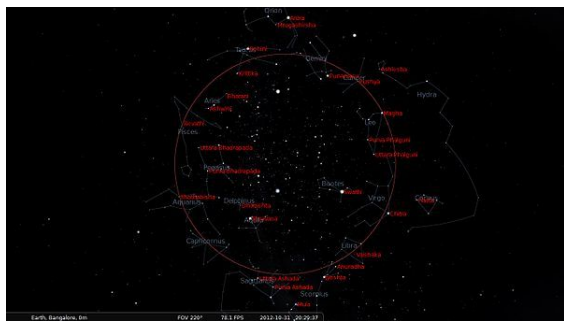
3.1 Rāśi – zodiacal signs

Around 2500 BC many extant texts were written by sages such as Agastya and Bhrigu. Each sign was divided in three more strata called “charna” similar to decanates of Western astrology.

The Nirayana, or sidereal zodiac, is an imaginary belt of 360 degrees, which, like the Sāyana, or tropical zodiac, is divided into 12 equal parts. Each twelfth part (of 30 degrees) is called a sign or **rāśi** (Sanskrit: 'part'). Vedic (Jyotiṣa) and Western zodiacs differ in the method of measurement. While synchronically, the two systems are identical, Jyotiṣa uses primarily the sidereal zodiac (in which stars are considered to be the fixed background against which the motion of the planets is measured), whereas most Western astrology uses the tropical zodiac (the motion of the planets is measured against the position of the Sun on the Spring equinox). This difference becomes noticeable over time. After two millennia, as a result of the precession of the equinoxes, the origin of the ecliptic longitude has shifted by about 22 degrees. As a result the placement of planets in the Jyotiṣa system is consistent with the actual zodiac, while in western astrology the planets fall into the following sign, as compared to their placement in the sidereal zodiac, about two thirds of the time.

3.2 Nakṣatras - lunar mansions

A **Nakṣatra** or lunar mansion is one of the 27 divisions of the sky, identified by the prominent star(s) in them, used in Hindu astrology.^{[22]:168}



Nakshatras

Historical (medieval) Hindu astrology enumerated either 27 or 28 nakṣatras. Today, popular usage favours a rigid system of 27 nakṣatras covering 13°20' of the ecliptic each. The missing 28th nakṣatra is *Abhijeeta*. Each nakṣatra is divided into quarters or *padas* of 3°20'. Of the greatest importance is the *Abhiśeka* Nakṣatra which is the King amongst all the Nakṣatras and worshipping and propitiating this Nakṣatra has the power to remedy all the other Nakṣatras. Remedial measures are in general the high-water mark of all realistic predictive astrology work and go a long way in mitigating Karma.

3.3 Daśā-s – planetary periods

The word *Dasha* (Devanāgarī: दश, Sanskrit, *daśā*, 'planetary period') means 'state of being' and therefore the *Daśā* governs to a large extent the state of being of a person. The *Daśā* system shows which planets may be said to have become particularly active during the period of the *Daśā*. The ruling planet (the *Daśānātha* or 'lord of the *Daśā*') eclipses the mind of the native, compelling him or her to act as per the nature of the planet.

There are several *dasha* systems, each with its own utility and area of application. There are *Daśās* of *Grahas* (planets) as well as *Daśās* of the *Rāśis* (signs). The primary system used by astrologers is the *Viṃśottarī Daśā* system, which has been considered universally applicable in the *Kaliyuga* to all horoscopes.

The first *Mahā-Daśā* is determined by the position of the natal Moon in a given *Nakṣatra*. The lord of the *Nakṣatra* governs the *Daśā*. Each *Mahā-Daśā* is divided into sub-periods called *bhuktis*, or *antar-daśās*, which are proportional divisions of the *maha-dasa*. Further proportional sub-divisions can be made (but error margin based on accuracy of the birth-time grows exponentially). The next sub-division is called *pratyantar-daśā*, which can in turn be divided into *sookshma-antardasa*, which can in turn be divided into *praana-antardaśā*, which can be sub-divided into *deha-antardaśā*. Such sub-divisions also exist in all other *Daśā* systems, some of which have been named above.

3.4 Grahas – planets

Nine *grahas* (**Navagrahas**) are used.^{[22]:38–51} from **Graha** (Devanāgarī: ग्रह, Sanskrit: *graha*, 'seizing, laying hold of, holding')^[23]

The Nine Planets of Vedic Astrology or *Jyotiṣa* are the forces that capture or eclipse the mind and the decision making of the human being—thus the term 'Graha'. When the *Grahas* are active in their *Daśās* or periodicities they are particularly empowered to direct the affairs of the person or the inanimate being as the case may be. Even otherwise, *Grahas* are always busy capturing us in some way or other, for better or for worse.

3.5 Gocharas – transits

The natal chart shows the position of the *grahas* at the moment of birth. Since that moment, the *grahas* have continued to move around the zodiac, interacting with the natal chart *grahas*. This period of interaction is called **Gochara** (Sanskrit: *gochara*, 'transit').^{[22]:227}

The study of transits is based not only on the transit of the Moon/ *Candra*, which spans roughly two days, but also the movement of the slightly faster planets such as Mercury/*Budha* and Venus/ *Śukra*. The movement of the slower planets *Guru*, *Śani* and *Rāhu-Ketu* is always of considerable import. Astrologers must study the transit of the *Daśā* lord and must also study transits from various reference points in the horoscope.

3.5.1 Yogas – planetary combinations

Yoga (Sanskrit: *yoga*, 'union') is a combination of planets placed in a specific relationship to each other.^{[22]:265}

It is usually advisable to study the underlying theme behind the *Yogas* rather than attempt to memorize them. *Rāja Yogas* are givers of fame, status and authority and are formed typically by the association of the Lord of *Keṅdras/ quadrants*, when reckoned from the *Lagna/ ascendant*, and the Lords of the *Tṛkoṇa/ trines*. The *Rāja Yogas* are culminations of the blessings of *Viṣṇu* and *Lakṣmī*. Some planets, such as Mars for Leo *Lagna*, do not need another *Graha* to create *Rājayoga*, but are capable of giving *Rājayoga* suo-moto due to their own lordship of the 4th *Bhāva* and the 9th *Bhāva* from the *Lagna*, the two being a *Keṅdra* and *Tṛkoṇa Bhāva* respectively.

Dhana Yogas are formed by the association of wealth-giving planets such as the *Dhaneśa* or the 2nd Lord and the *Lābheśa* or the 11th Lord from the *Lagna*. *Dhana Yogas* are also formed due to the auspicious placement of the *Dārāpada/ A7*, when reckoned from the *Ārūḍha Lagna* (AL). The combination of the *Lagneśa* and the *Bhāgyeśa* also leads to wealth through the *Lakṣmī Yoga*.

Sanyāsa Yogas are formed due to the placement of four or more *Grahas*, excluding the Sun, in a *Keṅdra Bhāva*

from the Lagna.

There are some overarching Yogas in Jyotiṣa such as Amāvasyā Doṣa, Kāla Sarpa Yoga-Kāla Amṛta Yoga and Graha Mālika Yoga that can take precedence over Yamaha yogar planetary placements in the horoscope.

3.6 Bhāvas – houses

The Hindu Jātaka, or Birth Chart, is the **Bhāva** (Sanskrit: 'division') **Cakra** (Sanskrit: 'wheel'), the complete 360° circle of life, divided into houses, and represents our way of enacting the influences in the wheel. Each house has associated kāraka (Sanskrit: 'significator') planets that can alter the interpretation of a particular house.^{[22]:93–167} Each Bhāva spans an arc of 30 degrees and therefore there are twelve Bhāvas in any chart of the horoscope. These are a crucial part of any horoscopic study since the Bhāvas, understood as 'state of being' personalize the Rāśis/ Rashis to the native and each Rāśi/ Rashi apart from indicating its true nature reveals its impact on the person based on the Bhāva occupied. The best way to study the various facets of Jyotiṣa is to see their role in chart evaluation of actual persons and how these are construed.

3.7 Dṛṣṭis – aspects

Drishti (Sanskrit: *Dṛṣṭi*, 'sight') is an aspect to an entire house. Grahas cast only forward aspects, with the furthest aspect being considered the strongest. For example, Mars aspects the 4th, 7th, and 8th houses from its position, and its 8th house aspect is considered more powerful than its 7th aspect, which is in turn more powerful than its 4th aspect.^{[22]:26–27}

The principle of Dristi (aspect) was devised on the basis of the aspect of an army of planets as deity and demon in a war field.^{[24][25]} Thus the Sun, a Deity King with only one full aspect, is more powerful than the Demon King Saturn, which has three full aspects.

Aspects can be cast both by the planets (Graha Dṛṣṭi) and by the signs (Rāśi Dṛṣṭi). Planetary aspects are a function of desire, while sign aspects are a function of awareness and cognizance.

There are some higher aspects of Graha Dṛṣṭi (planetary aspects) that are not limited to the Viśeṣa Dṛṣṭi or the special aspects. Rāśi Dṛṣṭi works based on the following formulaic structure: all movable signs aspect fixed signs except the one adjacent, and all dual and mutable signs aspect each other without exception.

4 Science

Main article: Astrology and science

Astrology has been rejected by the scientific community as having no explanatory power for describing the universe. **Scientific testing** of astrology has been conducted, and no evidence has been found to support any of the premises or purported effects outlined in astrological traditions.^{[26]:424} There is no proposed mechanism of action by which the positions and motions of stars and planets could affect people and events on Earth that does not contradict well understood, basic aspects of biology and physics.^{[27][28]:249}

Astrologers in Indian astrology make grand claims without taking adequate controls into consideration. Saturn was in Aries in 1909, 1939 and 1968, yet the astrologer **Bangalore Venkata Raman** claimed that “when Saturn was in Aries in 1939 England had to declare war against Germany”, ignoring the two other dates.^[29] Astrologers regularly fail in attempts to predict election results in India, and fail to predict major events such as the assassination of **Indira Gandhi**. Predictions by the head of the Indian Astrologers Federation about war between India and Pakistan in 1982 also failed.^[29]

4.1 Testing astrology

In one test, 27 Indian astrologers, with the appropriate horoscopes, failed to determine the intelligence difference between 100 mentally bright and 100 mentally handicapped children at a rate higher than that determined by chance alone in a **double blind test**. The astrologers had, on average, 14 years experience. A team of astrologers from one astrologers institute also performed at chance expectation. The president of the Maharashtra Astrological Society claimed to be able to predict sex and intelligence 60 per cent of the time each, but he performed no better than chance in double blind conditions.^[29]

5 See also

- Archaeoastronomy and Vedic chronology
- Hindu calendar
- Hindu chronology
- Hindu cosmology
- History of astrology
- Indian astronomy
- Jyotiṣa resources
- Nadi astrology
- Panchanga
- Superstition in India
- Synoptical astrology
- Hindu units of measurement

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- [7] Flood, p.382
- [8] Mc Evilly “The shape of ancient thought”, p385 (“The Yavanajātaka is the earliest surviving Sanskrit text in horoscopy, and constitute the basis of all later Indian developments in horoscopy”, himself quoting David Pingree “The Yavanajātaka of Sphujidhvaja” p5)
- [9] David Pingree, *Jyotiḥśāstra* (J. Gonda (Ed.) *A History of Indian Literature*, Vol VI Fasc 4), p.81
- [10] “In countries such as India, where only a small intellectual elite has been trained in Western physics, astrology manages to retain here and there its position among the sciences.” David Pingree and Robert Gilbert, “Astrology; Astrology In India; Astrology in modern times” *Encyclopædia Britannica* 2008
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8 External links

- [Hindu astrology at DMOZ](#)

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9.1 Text

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