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North/MC Planets culminate

West/horizon: Planets set

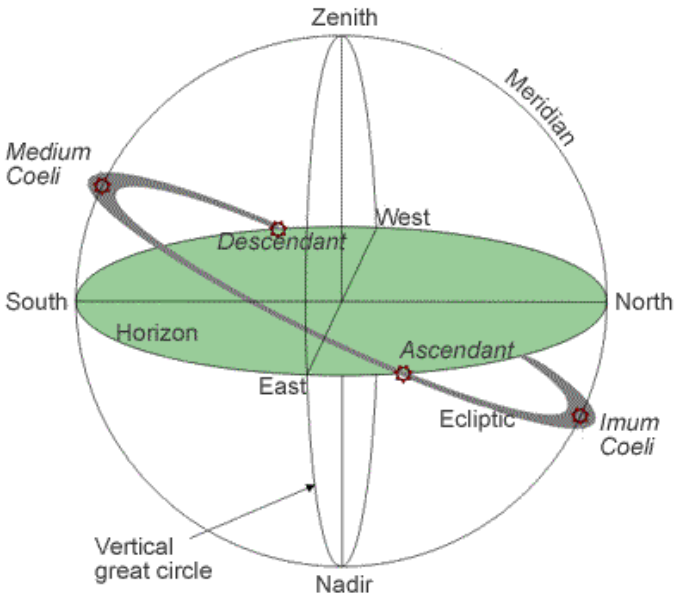
East/horizon: Planets rise

Astrological Graphic of Ascendant

ASCENDANT, also known as 1st House (H1) or Rising Sign. The "Sign" that falls in this position becomes entire 1st house. H1 can be any sign and requires a birth time to calculate. If a user doesn't enter a birth time into the web application, use the Sun's sign as the ascendant. The other "houses" are simply the signs in sign order, e.g., If Gemini is H1, then Cancer would be H2, Leo H3,

South/IC Planets: Nadir

Astronomical Graphic of Ascendant



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DEFINITIONS

Signs are 30-degree segments measuring longitude along the ecliptic. Because we are measuring a circle, we have to decide on a starting point. In Western astrology, this is the Spring Equinox. (Spring Equinox = 0 Aries and 0 Right Ascension). In *sign order*, the signs are:

Aries = 0 to 29.99 Ecliptic Longitude
Taurus = 30 to 59.99 Ecliptic Longitude
Gemini = 60 to 89.99 Ecliptic Longitude
Cancer = 90 to 119.99 Ecliptic Longitude
Leo = 120 to 149.99 Ecliptic Longitude
Virgo = 150 to 179.99 Ecliptic Longitude
Libra = 180 to 209.99 Ecliptic Longitude
Scorpio = 210 to 239.99 Ecliptic Longitude
Sagittarius = 240 to 269.99 Ecliptic Longitude
Capricorn = 270 to 299.99 Ecliptic Longitude
Aquarius = 300 to 329.99 Ecliptic Longitude
Pisces = 330 to 359.99 Ecliptic Longitude

Note: Astronomers typically identify celestial object (planets, stars, etc.) positions in RA and declination. Astrologers more often use ecliptic longitude and latitude. There is a simple conversion routine to convert between these two measurement systems. The astro.com Swiss Ephemeris routines, for example, provide routines for conversion between these two coordinate systems.

Houses are 12 divisions of the sky. Houses start with the Ascendant (the sign on the Eastern horizon at the time of birth). Any sign can fall in the place of the horizon/Ascendant. For our web application, whatever sign falls in the place of the ascendant is the 1st house (H1). The entire 30 degrees of the next sign (in sign order) would be the second house, the sign after that would be the third house and so on. To determine the sign on the horizon at the time of birth requires the user to enter a birth time. If no birth time is entered, use the sign in which the sun falls as H1. For a more detailed explanation: **https://www.astro.com/astrology/cw_astro_houses_e.htm**
For this project, we will use an ancient system called Whole Sign Houses.

Natal Chart is a map of the position of the planets, the houses and signs at the moment an individual is born. It requires the place of birth, exact time of birth, and location of birth to calculate. Think of it as a snapshot of the sky at the moment you were born in the exact place you were born.

Solar Chart is the position of the planets and signs that designates the Ascendant as the sign of the Sun. It is used when an individual doesn't have/doesn't know his/her birth time. For this project, we will need to calculate the moon's position (transits) in relationship to both natal charts and solar charts.

Ascendant/Rising Sign/1st House is the intersections of the ecliptic and the horizon constitute the Ascendant (Eastern intersection) and Descendant (Western intersection). Simple visual: If you were standing at that place you were born at the moment you were born and looked due East on the horizon, this spot would be the Ascendant. The "sign" on the horizon simply describes which 30-degree segment of the ecliptic is visible on the horizon in that moment.

Transits describe the position of the planets and luminaries in the sky from our perspective on earth as well as their interactions with other celestial bodies. These interactions can be with one another in the sky (ex: a new moon occurs when the moon and the sun are in the same spot in the sky—conjoin each other—from our vantage point on earth) or these interactions can be from a planet in the sky to a natal or solar chart (ex: the moon travels to the exact position of our sun on the day we were born). Note: Astronomers define transits differently.

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Moon Phases are the 8 distinct phases of the moon astrologers track each month, each having a different flavor. Astronomically, it's describing the distance between the moon's position and the sun's position, measured using the the sun as the starting point (0) and counting in sign order. (Usually best to convert into RA). Time and Date has a good astronomical description: **https://www.timeanddate.com/astronomy/moon/phases.html**

New Moon = 0 - 44.99 degrees ahead of the sun
Crescent Moon = 45 - 89.99 degrees ahead of the sun
First Quarter Moon = 90 - 134.99 degrees ahead of the sun
Gibbous Moon = 135 to 179.99 degrees ahead of the sun
Full Moon = 180 to 224.99 degrees ahead of the sun
Disseminating Moon = 225 - 269.99 degrees ahead of the sun
Third Quarter Moon = 270 to 314.99 degrees ahead of the sun
Balsamic Moon = 315 to 359.99 degrees ahead of the sun