

Ascendant Calculation

The Ascendant, from an astronomical point of view, is the value of the ecliptical geocentric longitude (aka Celestial Longitude λ) of the point of the ecliptic which is easterly on the horizon.

$$\text{Ascendant} = \arctan\left(\frac{y}{x}\right) = \arctan\left(\frac{-\cos A}{\sin A \cos E + \tan L \sin E}\right)^{[3]}$$

where A is the local sidereal time in degrees, E is the inclination of Earth's equatorial plane to the ecliptic or obliquity of the ecliptic. For values referred to the standard equinox J2000.0 use 23.4392911°, for J1950.0 use 23.4457889°. L is the local latitude (Southern latitudes are negative, Northern positive). The Ascendant is then found in the correct quadrant (0 to 360 degrees) by using the 2 rules:^[4]

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If (x < 0)
    then Ascendant = Ascendant + 180
else if
    then Ascendant = Ascendant + 360
  
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By definition of Ascendant, we have to take the point easterly (the rising one) by using a final rule:

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if (Ascendant < 180)
    then Ascendant = Ascendant + 180
else
    then Ascendant = Ascendant - 180
  
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Otherwise a direct result in the correct quadrant can be determined if calculator or programming software has the [atan2\(y,x\)](#) math function and then using the last rule.

[\[edit\]](#) Long and short ascension

Because the [Earth's axis](#) (see [axial tilt](#)) is tilted relative to the ecliptic, the twelve signs do not take the same amount of time to cross the eastern horizon. At the equator, there is very little difference (Pisces, Aries, Virgo and Libra take slightly less time than the other signs) but as one moves from the equator, larger and larger differences emerge.

In the northern hemisphere, the signs of Aquarius, Pisces, Aries, Taurus and Gemini take much less time than the theoretical two hours to cross the eastern horizon, whilst the signs of Cancer, Leo, Virgo, Libra, Scorpio and Sagittarius take much longer than two hours to do so. For example, at the latitude of [Paris, France](#):

- Pisces, Aries and Gemini take only about fifty-five minutes to cross the eastern horizon (this is referred to as the *length of ascension* or simply as the sign's *ascension*)

- Aquarius and Taurus have an ascension of only about seventy minutes
- Cancer and Sagittarius have an ascension of around two and a half hours
- Leo, Virgo, Libra and Scorpio have ascensions of around two hours and forty-five minutes

At higher latitudes, these differences become even more marked. At the latitude of [St. Petersburg, Russia](#):

- Pisces and Aries ascend in only *thirty minutes*
- Aquarius and Taurus ascend in only *forty-five minutes*
- Capricorn and Gemini ascend in an hour and a half
 - actually individual degrees near Sagittarius or Cancer ascend twice as slowly as those near Aquarius or Taurus
- Sagittarius and Cancer ascend in two hours and forty minutes
- Leo, Virgo, Libra and Scorpio take as much as three hours and fifteen minutes to ascend

Astrologers consider the differences between the rate at which the signs ascend to be of importance. In many house systems, houses can become very large when they cover Aquarius, Pisces, Aries and Taurus because these signs are seen to be much smaller from the perspective of a northern hemisphere observer.

Some astrologers, such as [Richard Nolle](#), consider the preponderance of Ascendants in signs from Cancer through Sagittarius (known as the *western signs*) to be symbolic of the highly relationship-oriented character inherent in a [complex or civilized society](#) as found today in the northern hemisphere but never developed in equatorial or south temperate latitudes where *eastern* (Capricorn through Gemini), individual-oriented Ascendants are equally or more common.^[5]

In the southern hemisphere, long and short ascension are reversed. For instance, at the latitude of [Concepción, Chile](#):

- Pisces and Aries ascend in two hours twenty minutes
- Aquarius and Taurus ascend in two and a half hours (see note about ascension in low latitudes above)
- Capricorn and Gemini ascend in two hours twenty minutes
- Sagittarius and Cancer ascend in almost exactly two hours
- Scorpio and Leo ascend in about ninety minutes
- Libra and Virgo ascend in about seventy-five minutes

[\[edit\]](#)Effects of Polar Astrology

At the Arctic and Antarctic circles, at roughly $66\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ North and South latitude respectively, a degree of the [ecliptic](#) becomes circumpolar. If the sun for example occupies that degree, it will neither rise nor set, but will lie upon the horizon for 24 hours. As we move into higher latitudes, more and more degrees of the ecliptic will neither rise nor set, until at the north pole half of the ecliptic degrees will not rise above the horizon and can never become the ascendant. There of the omission of extreme latitudes from most house tables due to the added complexity of calculating the ascendant, that there is no ascendant at these latitudes. This is of course untrue,

yet there is a limitation on the degrees that can ascend at extreme latitudes and a further restriction on degrees that can form [house](#) cusps in time-based house systems. The simpler and earlier ecliptic-based house systems can form house cusps at extreme latitudes based on the available ascendant and [midheaven](#) degrees.^[6]

[\[edit\]](#)Effects of the Ascendant

There are a couple of factors that influence how strong or weak a force in the chart the ascendant may be.^[7] Firstly, it is generally believed that the closer towards the beginning of the sign the ascendant falls, the stronger it will be. This is because most of the first house will fall into that sign. If the ascendant falls late in a sign, most of the first house will fall into the following sign, and thus weaken the effect of the ascendant's power. In addition the ascendant is thought to be stronger in influence when the sun is in a weak position in the chart. For example, it is traditionally believed that the sun is in a weaker position when it is placed at the bottom of the chart, near the *immum coeli* or IC. This is because the sun was literally on the other side of the earth when the subject was born, hidden from view. The sun may also be weaker in influence if it is unaspected, in other words if it forms no strong aspects or connections to the other planets.

Another factor concerning the effect of the ascendant is the theory that people become more like their sun sign after around 29 years old, as they grow older and more confident and thus have less of a need to present a public face to others. It is also theorised that when the progressed ascendant moves into the following sign, it weakens the influence of the natal ascendant.

[\[edit\]](#)Planets and the ascendant

Planets can assume added importance in the birth chart due to their relationship to the ascendant.^[8] The planet that rules the astrological sign of the ascendant is called the **chart ruler**, and is said to be of particular importance. So for example, if the ascendant sign is Libra, Venus will be the chart ruler, and so 'set the tone' for the chart in many ways. In addition, the planet nearest the ascendant in the first house is usually called the **rising planet** and has a particular importance in the chart. However, if a planet in the twelfth house is very close (within one or two degrees) to the ascendant, then it can be taken to be the rising planet instead. If a planet is actually in conjunction with the ascendant it then becomes vitally important in its effect on the personality, to the extent of being almost as important as the sun in some cases. Finally, any planets in the first house will always have an added emphasis to them.

[\[edit\]](#)Ascendants in the zodiac signs

The effect of the ascendant varies according to the zodiac sign in which it is placed.^[9]

[\[edit\]](#)Ascendant fire signs

The fire signs of Aries, Leo and Sagittarius are noted for their energy, enthusiasm and optimism. When a fire sign is on the ascendant the outer manner is friendly, uncritical and non-hostile, which makes such people good mixers and public

relations executives. They typically send out friendly, but professionally competent signals which draw out a friendly and rather respectful response from others. Aries rising gives out a well-organized, slightly military bearing which makes them fit for any kind of military or civil service organization. Leo rising subjects have a dignified and rather formal manner which inspires confidence; while Sagittarius risers have a cheerful, pleasant and rather witty outer manner which suits all kinds of teaching, training and public speaking situations.

[\[edit\]](#) **Ascendant earth signs**


The earth signs of Taurus, Virgo and Capricorn are noted for their practicality and security. When an earth sign is on the ascendant the outer manner is shy, serious and cautious. Taurus risers are the most sociable of the three and are often musical or artistic. Virgo risers look for mental stimulation in others, while Capricorn risers enjoy both work and social pursuits. People with these ascendants send out signals which are pleasant and tactful suggesting that they prefer to form part of a team - at least to begin with - than to push themselves immediately to the front.

[\[edit\]](#) **Ascendant air signs**

The air signs of Gemini, Libra and Aquarius are noted for their communication skills. When an air sign is on the ascendant the subject is friendly and sociable, but also independent and somewhat detached. The Gemini riser is constantly busy, fully engaged in a kind of juggling act, with at least a dozen activities on the go at any one time. The Libra riser occupies him or herself with business schemes which often need the aid of a more earthy partner to make them come into fruition. The Aquarius riser makes wonderful plans for himself and others and may even carry some of them out.

[\[edit\]](#) **Ascendant water signs**

The water signs of Cancer, Scorpio and Pisces are noted for their emotion, intuition and feeling. When a water sign is on the ascendant the subject will hide their true feelings and have a strong need to protect themselves from the world around them. What you see is often not what you get with water ascendants. In other words, the signals they send out are consciously or unconsciously chosen for effect. Cancerians appear chatty and helpful and they do well in any situation that requires tact. Scorpio risers can use many different forms of camouflage with people they do not know, one of their favourites being offensiveness and an off-putting manner. Pisces risers appear soft, gentle, self-sacrificing and sometimes even helpless, but this is misleading, as they will fight strongly for what they think is right.



The Vedic System of Calculating the Ascendant

Rajeev Jhanji

The most important point in the construction of a horoscope is the Ascendant. The ascendant is the point of cutting of the ecliptic by the eastern horizon of a place.

The earth spinning on its axis in a linear movement takes 24 hours to complete one rotation. But what exactly is the duration of a day? There are many types of days prevalent.

Sidereal day: The time taken by earth to spin one complete rotation of 360 degrees on its axis. Average duration of one sidereal day is 23 hrs, 56 min, 4.091 sec.

Savana day: The duration of time between one sunrise to another sunrise is a Savana day. For people living in northern hemisphere, from winter solstice day onwards, the sunshine hours (dinamana) increases and night hours (ratrimana) decreases. As the sunrise every day is earlier than the previous day, the duration of the savana day is less than 24 hours till the Sun reaches its maximum declination at summer solstice. After that the dinamana reduces and the ratrimana increases. Since the sunrise of every day is later than the previous day, the duration of the savana day is more than 24 hours till it reaches the winter solstice again.

Mean Solar Day: The average of all the days of a year. It's duration is equal to 24 hours.

The Vedic system recognises a day as the duration of time from one sunrise to the next sunrise. This span, known as a Savana day, is measured in units of ghatis. One Savana day is equal to 60 ghatis and each ghati is divisible into 60 palas or vighatis. The earth continuously spins on its axis in a west to east direction. For a person situated on the surface of the earth, different signs of the zodiac appear to rise in the eastern horizon and set in the western horizon. With the completion of one rotation of the earth, all the twelve signs of the zodiac rise and set during one sidereal day.

Rashimana (Oblique Ascension)

Rashimana is the rising periods of signs of the zodiac. As there are twelve equally divided signs of the zodiac and it takes approximately 24 hours for all the signs to rise, therefore, one sign should take about two hours to rise in the eastern horizon. But it's not so. As the plane of the ecliptic is inclined at an angle of 23.5 degrees to the plane of the celestial equator, the rising time of different signs is not uniform. The time taken by different groups of signs at the equator is given in Table 1.

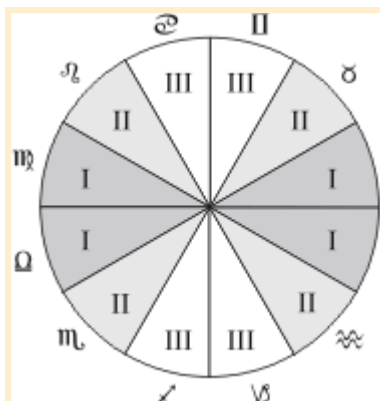


Table 1. Time taken by different group of signs to rise at the Equator

Group	Signs	Rashimanas	in Asus	Hours
I	Aries Virgo Libra Pisces	1674	1h51m36s	
II	Taurus Leo Scorpio Aquarius	1795	1h59m40s	
III	Gemin Cance Sagittariu Capricor i r s n	1931	2h08m44s	

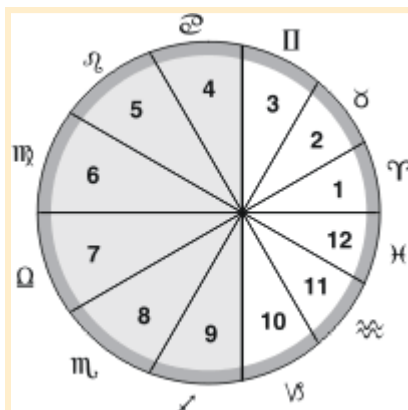
Rashimanas values are calculated for Sayana signs and are measured in units of Asus. One unit of Asu is equivalent to 4 seconds of sidereal time. Rashimanas values vary from one latitude to another. These values once calculated for any place do not change from year to year.

Charakhandas (Ascensional Differences)

Variations in the rising of different signs at different latitudes can be calculated with the help of Charakhandas or ascensional differences for those latitudes. To know the Charakhandas of a particular place with the help of 'Hindu Dial', measure the length of the mid-day shadow, on the day of the equinox, of a shanku of 12 units length (please refer to Astrology Primer # 5, Vol.1, No.5). Put this figure at three places and multiply the first figure with 10; second with 8 and; third with 10 divided by 3. This gives the Charakhandas for I, II, and III groups of signs respectively. These Charakhandas values are in palas or vighatias. To convert these values to asus, multiply the charakhandas by six.

Signs of Long Ascension and Short Ascension

For people living in the northern hemisphere of the earth, on the day of winter solstice, when the Sun is at zero degrees Sayana Capricorn, the sunshine hours are the shortest. With the rising of the Sun, sign Capricorn rises in the eastern horizon followed by other signs in sequence. At the time of sunset, the point rising at the eastern horizon would be 180° opposite the Sun's longitude (thus zero degrees Cancer). Therefore, during the daytime signs Capricorn to Gemini rise in the shortest duration of time, while at night the signs Cancer to Sagittarius take the longest duration of time.



Signs of Short Ascension* Signs of Long Ascension*

10	-	Capricorn	4	-	Cancer
11	-	Aquarius	5	-	Leo
12	-	Pisces	6	-	Virgo
1	-	Aries	7	-	Libra
2	-	Taurus	8	-	Scorpio
3 - Gemini			9 - Sagittarius		

* For northern hemisphere; for southern hemisphere short and long ascension rashis are reversed.

When the Sun is at summer solstice (zero degrees Sayana Cancer) during the daytime signs Cancer to Sagittarius spend the longest duration of time to rise and during night signs Capricorn to Gemini take the shortest duration of time.

Sign which takes longer time in rising than the time taken by same sign at the equator, is the sign of long ascension and the sign which takes shorter time in rising is the sign of short ascension. Signs Capricorn to Gemini are short ascension signs while Cancer to Sagittarius are long ascension signs for norther latitudes. Reverse is the case for people living in the southern latitudes.

As the latitude of the observer increases, the duration of signs of long ascension become much longer while the duration of signs of short ascension become much shorter.

Calculation of rising times of different signs (Rashimana) for a particular place

After knowing the Charakhandas of a particular place, we can calculate the rashimana of different signs. Add the Charakanda values, in asus, to the rashimana values at the equator in their respective groups for signs of long ascension and subtract the Charakhandas from their respective groups for signs of short ascension.

Correlation of the earth with the Zodiac

Calculation of ascendant for any given moment is an effort to establish a relationship between the horizon of the observer on the earth with the zodiac.

The earth is spinning continuously on its axis. To an observer, being located on the surface of the earth, it appears that the earth is stationary and the sky with all the stars and heavenly bodies is drifting towards the west after rising in the east.

To establish a relationship of the earth with the zodiac, we have to refer to some identifiable point on the zodiac. The rising, setting or the meridian passage of this point is to be observed to find out the actual position of this point at any given moment of time for the place of location of the observer. Once we know the position of one point of the zodiac, we can relate the other points of the zodiac with respect to this identifiable point.

This identifiable point could be a star or a planet or the vernal equinox (zero degrees Sayana Aries point) of the zodiac. When we observe the passing of the Vernal Equinox on the meridian of a place, it is zero hours Sidereal time for that place. Sidereal time at any given moment indicates the time elapsed since the vernal equinox crossed the meridian of that place.

The Indian system makes use of the position of the Sun in the zodiac to establish a link between the earth and the zodiac. At the time of sunrise, the centre of the Sun is touching the eastern horizon. Sunrise is considered to be the beginning to the day and that day remains in force till the next sunrise. The duration of this day is considered to be equal to sixty ghatis. One ghati is roughly equal to 24 minutes of time.

The longitude of the Sun is identical with the cusp of the sign rising at the time of sunrise. A track of the number of ghatis and palas passed since sunrise is kept and is called Ishtakaala.

Since the rashimana values are for Sayana signs, the longitude of the Sun is also considered in Sayana values.

Inputs to calculate the Ascendant

In order to calculate the cusp of the ascendant, we need the following:

1. The time of sunrise at the required place on the relevant day.
2. The Sayana position of the Sun at the time of sunrise at the place in question. In case the available ephemeris provides the nirayana position of the Sun, the Sayana position may be obtained by adding to it the appropriate ayanamsha.
3. The ishtakala or the duration of time elapsed from the time of sunrise.
4. Rashimana or the duration of the rising of different signs at the particular latitude of the place.

Steps to Calculate the Ascendant

The following steps describe the method of calculation of the ascendant for a given place at a given date and time. For example, let's calculate the ascendant rising at Gurdaspur, India (latitude 32°N02' longitude 75°E31') on April 1, 1997 at 12.00 hours IST.

Step 1. Calculate the Charakhandas

On the 'Hindu Dial', measure the length of the mid-day shadow, on the day of the equinox, of a shanku of 12 units length.

Length of the equinoctial shadow of a Shanku of 12 units at different latitudes

Lati- tude	Length (units)	Lati- tude	Length (units)	Lati- tude	Length (units)	Lati- tude	Length (units)	Lati- tude	Length (units)	Lati- tude	Length (units)
01°	0.21	11°	2.33	21°	4.60	31°	7.21	41°	10.43	51°	14.82
02°	0.42	12°	2.55	22°	4.85	32°	7.50	42°	10.80	52°	15.35
03°	0.63	13°	2.70	23°	5.09	33°	7.79	43°	11.19	53°	15.92
04°	0.84	14°	2.99	24°	5.34	34°	8.09	44°	11.58	54°	16.52
05°	1.05	15°	3.21	25°	5.59	35°	8.40	45°	12.00	55°	17.13
06°	1.26	16°	3.44	26°	5.85	36°	8.71	46°	12.42	56°	17.79
07°	1.47	17°	3.66	27°	6.11	37°	9.04	47°	12.87	57°	18.46
08°	1.69	18°	3.90	28°	6.38	38°	9.37	48°	13.33	58°	19.20
09°	1.90	19°	4.13	29°	6.65	39°	9.72	49°	13.80	59°	19.97
10°	2.11	20°	4.37	30°	6.93	40°	10.06	50°	14.30	60°	20.78

The length of the shadow at Gurdaspur (32 degrees latitude) from the above table is 7.5. Now multiply this figure with 10, 8, and 10/3 respectively to get the Charakhanda values in palas or vighatis.

$$I \quad 7.5 \times 10 = 75 \text{ palas}$$

$$II \quad 7.5 \times 8 = 60 \text{ palas}$$

$$III \quad 7.5 \times 10/3 = 25 \text{ palas}$$

Multiply each with 6 to convert the values in asus.

$$I \quad 75 \text{ palas} \times 6 = 450 \text{ asus}$$

$$II \quad 60 \text{ palas} \times 6 = 360 \text{ asus}$$

$$III \quad 25 \text{ palas} \times 6 = 150 \text{ asus}$$

The derived values of 450, 360 and 150 are the charakhandas for I, II and III groups of signs respectively.

Step 2. Calculate the Rashimana

The Rashimana for different groups of signs at the equator are:

Group	Signs	Rashimana
I	1, 6, 7, 12	1674 asus
II	2, 5, 8, 11	1795 asus
III	3, 4, 9, 10	1931 asus

To the above rashimanas we apply the Charakhanda corrections as worked out above to obtain the rashimana for different signs at the latitude in question. Add the Charakandas to their respective groups for signs of long ascension and subtract the Charakhandas from their respective groups for signs of short ascension.

Group	Signs	Rashimana in		
		Asus	hr-mn-sc	
Short Ascension				
I	1, 12	$1674 - 450$	$= 1224$	1:21:36
II	2, 11	$1795 - 360$	$= 1435$	1:35:40
III	3, 10	$1931 - 150$	$= 1781$	1:58:44
Long Ascension				
I	4, 9	$1931 + 150$	$= 2081$	2:18:44
II	5, 8	$1795 + 360$	$= 2155$	2:23:40
III	6, 7	$1674 + 450$	$= 2124$	2:21:36

Step 3. Find out the Sunrise time

From the ephemeris, calculate the sunrise time on the given date for the place of birth. For Gurdaspur the sunrise time is 6h:20m:40s (IST).

Step 4. Find out the Sayana Sun

Again from the ephemeris, calculate the position of Sayan Sun at the time of sunrise. If the available ephemeris provides the longitudes of planets in nirayana values, add the ayanamsha to the Sun's longitude to get the Sayana value. The nirayana longitude of the sun at the time of sunrise on April 1, 1997 is $11s17^{\circ}31'16''$. Adding to this the ayanamsha value on the given date, i.e., $23^{\circ}49'06''$, we get the Sayana longitude of the Sun at the time of sunrise as $0s11^{\circ}20'22''$. This also indicates the longitude of the ascendant at the time of sunrise.

Step 5. Find out the Ishtakala

Ishtakala is the time elapsed since the time of sunrise to the time of birth. Traditionally the time of birth is recorded in ishtakala only. Since in our example the time of birth is in hours-minutes, etc., it can be converted to ishtakala by subtracting the time of sunrise from the time of birth.

Time	of	birth	:	12h:00m:00s
Sunrise	time	:		06h:20m:40s
Ishtakala in hrs. :				05h:39m:20s

Step 6. Cusp of the Ascendant

From Step 4 above, we know the sign that the sun is in at sunrise and, therefore, the cusp of the sign rising at the time of sunrise. The duration of this sign being known (Step 2), it is possible to work out how much of this sign has yet to rise above horizon and how much time it will take to do so.

Long. of Sun (Cusp at sunrise): = 0s11°20'22"

Bal. of sign Aries yet to rise: (30°00'00" – 11°20'22") = 18°39'38"

Time taken by 30 degrees of Aries to rise: = 1h:21m:36s (Step 2)

Time taken by 18°39'38" of Aries to rise: = 0h:50m:45s
(1:21:36 / 30°) x 18°39'38"

After 50m:45s of sunrise (i.e. from 7h:11m:25s onwards), the sign Taurus will start and last for 1h:35m:40s (i.e., upto 8h:47m:05s). The next sign Gemini (with a duration of 1h:58m:44s) lasts until 10h:45m:49s. Cancer (duration of 2h:18m:44s) lasts until 13h:04m:33s which includes our time of birth (12 noon). Thus we have Cancer rising at 12 noon.

Time elapsed from the onset of Cancer lagna upto the time of birth (12:00:00 – 10:45:49) = 1h:14m:11s

Arc of Cancer rising in 2h:18m:44s = 30°

Arc of Cancer rising in 1h:14m:11s = 16°02'30"
(30° / 2:18:44) x 1:14:11

Thus we get the cusp of ascendant at 12 noon as Cancer 16°02'30". This is the Sayana value. Reduce the ayanamsha from this value to obtain the cusp of the ascendant in nirayana value. Thus the nirayana ascendant would be: 3s16°02'30" – 23°49'06" = **2s22°13'24" or Gemini rising at 22°13'24"**.

How to Calculate Topocentric House Cusps

The method of calculating house cusps for Topocentric house system remains unchanged. The only difference in the new “progressive” method is that a new value of the “pole” of the Ascendant is used. The formula for the proposed modification, as represented by the “Proposed” curve on the above graph, is simple and straightforward:

For $L > (90 - 2E)$,

$$L' = L - (L + 2E - 90)^2 / 4E$$

where L = latitude ($^{\circ}$)

L' = pole of the Ascendant ($^{\circ}$)

E = angle of inclination of the North-South Pole
(23.44222° in 2000)

The following table indicates values of L and L' from 0° to 90° , along with the corresponding Poles of the intermediate Topocentric houses. The pole is the latitude for calculating the Ascendant using a normal Table of Ascendants (such as Placidus). As usual, the Pole of the 11th and 3rd houses = $\arctan(1/3 \tan L')$, and the Pole of 12th and 2nd houses = $\arctan(2/3 \tan L')$.

Poles of Topocentric House Cusps with Proposed Pole of Ascendant				
Latitude L	Pole (latitude) of the Ascendant L' at Sidereal Time	Pole (latitude) of 12th/ 2nd Houses at S.T. - / + 2 hrs.	Pole (latitude) of 11th/ 3rd Houses at S.T. - / + 4 hrs.	Pole (latitude) of Midheaven at S.T.
0.0°	0.0°	0.0°	0.0°	0.0°
10.0	10.0	6.7044	3.3637	0.0
20.0	20.0	13.6390	6.9175	0.0
30.0	30.0	21.0517	10.8934	0.0
40.0	40.0	29.2226	15.6263	0.0
43.11556	43.11556	31.9722	17.3330	0.0
45.0	44.96213	33.6551	18.4122	0.0
50.0	49.49455	37.9690	21.3161	0.0
55.0	53.49374	42.0107	24.2454	0.0
60.0	56.95971	45.7073	27.1351	0.0
65.0	59.89245	48.9838	29.8927	0.0
66.50	60.66830	49.8741	30.6774	0.0
70.0	62.29197	51.7695	32.4029	0.0
75.0	64.15826	54.0025	34.5378	0.0
80.0	65.49133	55.6332	36.1720	0.0
90.0	66.55778	56.9592	37.5507	0.0

Intermediate cusps in the Topocentric House System are calculated from a normal Table of Houses by simply finding the Ascendant at the pole, at the time listed for the house. For example, for a birth at Sidereal Time 3.0h at latitude 50°N, calculate the Midheaven and Ascendant for 3h, 49.49455°N. Then the 11th house cusp is the Ascendant at 23h, 21.316°N, the 12th cusp is the Ascendant at 1h, 37.969°N, the 2nd cusp is the Ascendant at 5h, 37.969°N, and the 3rd cusp is the Ascendant at 7h, 21.316°N. These calculations yield:

Topocentric House Cusps with Proposed Pole of Ascendant for 3h, 50° N					
M = 10 th	11 th	12 th	1 st	2 nd	3 rd
17 ♀ 28'	25 ♀ 8'	29 ♀ 34'	27 ♀ 36'	17 ♀ 48'	13 ♀ 57'

Placidus House Cusps for 3h, 50° N					
M = 10 th	11 th	12 th	1 st	2 nd	3 rd
17 ♀ 28'	25 ♀ 43'	0 ♀ 5'	27 ♀ 48'	17 ♀ 51'	13 ♀ 55'

For an event at polar latitudes, simply follow the same procedure using the above table (or formulas). For a birth at 3h S.T. at latitude 70°N, the following values are obtained:

Topocentric House Cusps with Proposed Pole of Ascendant for 3h, 70° N					
M = 10 th	11 th	12 th	1 st	2 nd	3 rd
17 ♀ 28'	0 ♀ 54'	7 ♀ 33'	3 ♀ 18'	19 ♀ 31'	12 ♀ 49'

<i>One cannot calculate house cusps at all for 70°N in the Placidus system so it is not possible to show a comparison.</i>					
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Data Requested: Now that there is a house system that can actually construct charts for polar latitudes, data is needed for research purposes. Anyone who might be able to help gather birth data is graciously invited to contact the author by e-mail listed below. Fluency in Russian would be especially valuable since Murmansk, Russia, should be a good source. Data for people who are alive and willing to answer questions is preferred. Data for birth twins, born anywhere, is also requested.

Theoretical Note

Constructing a house system for all latitudes that uses the traditional Ascendant and Midheaven, which have been found empirically to be significant, is not a simple matter.(6) The Topocentric House System is empirical, its geometrical theory somewhat unusual, so the present empirical proposal does not represent a serious theoretical divergence and may in fact strengthen the fundamental topocentric approach if it proves useful. Experiment is the ultimate test. The Topocentric House System works well, is one of the few for which polar horoscopes are possible, and its empirical success at lower latitudes inspired—nay, necessitated—the present work.

Notice that the formula proposed for the Topocentric Pole of the Ascendant would also work if the Earth were inclined at other angles. If the Earth's inclination were 10°, the Pole of the Ascendant between 70° and 90° would go smoothly from 70° to 80°, and if the Earth's

inclination were 40° , the Pole of the Ascendant between 10° and 90° would go smoothly from 10° to 50° .

Day-for-a-year predictive techniques in any house system, including the common Solar progression, seem to be useful in some non-polar cases, but fail completely in other cases. Transits, on the other hand, are found by both Western and traditional Indian astrologers to be always involved in the timing of events, even though they are not in themselves sufficient for prediction. In fact, if any purely astrological or mathematical system were sufficient for prediction, then all events would be pre-determined, and such is certainly not the case. When a House System is found that work for all latitudes, ***then and only then*** can we test predictive techniques involving its house cusps