

## **PLANETARY STRENGTHS**

### **INTRODUCTION**

A perennial question asked by sceptics of astrology is “how did you manage when you only knew about seven planets”? The question is typically asked with a sneer. My usual response- “how did physicists manage when they thought there were only three elementary particles?”- is perfectly fair, and has the same answer; new planets, like new particles, are associated with new phenomena.

By 1935, physicists thought they knew all the subatomic particles of nature, and these were the proton, the neutron, and the electron. Then in 1936 the muon was discovered. When informed of the discovery, Nobel prizewinner I.I. Rabi grumbled, "who ordered that?" And the muon opened the floodgates, as positrons and pions, kaons, gluons, bosons, preons, baryons, and all the members of the particle zoo spilled from the atom smashers of the world.

And now, to be fair, it's our turn. It seems that every few months a dwarf body is discovered out beyond Neptune. “Who ordered that?” we grumble, and then we get down to research. We wait for ephemerides to appear, we examine the “new” planet's position in old charts, we read the mythology of its namesake, and we try, with varying degrees of success, to integrate it with what we already know.

The question, then, is not “how did we manage when we knew only seven Planets”, but “what do we do with upwards of twenty, and still climbing”? There are already more “new” bodies than old. Yet Eastern school astrologers achieve valid results using only the seven Planets known to Ptolemy (and the Moon's Nodes). Why is this?

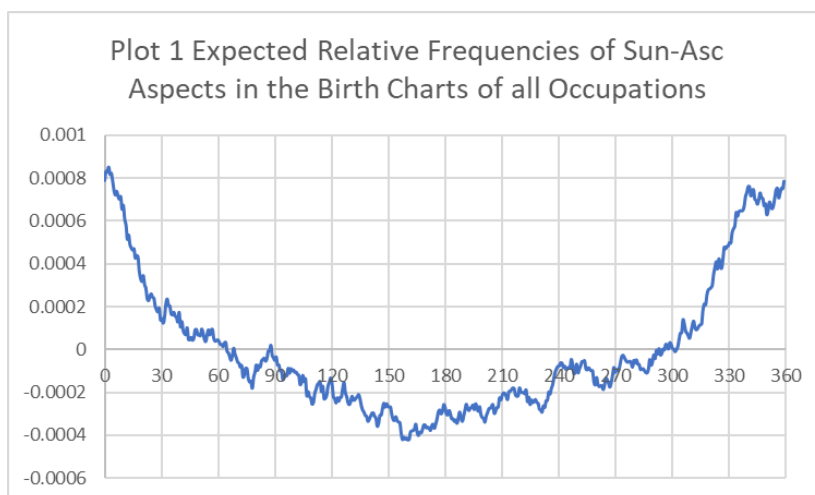
One possible reason is that the Transneptunians (the Planets on the other side of Neptune) just aren't as significant- as powerful- as the Cisneptunians (those on the Earth's side of Neptune). So for instance, if Mars and Orcus are on the Ascendant, Mars gives us the bulk of the information about the character of the Native; Orcus might add an interesting twist in most charts, and only be of great significance if we're looking for a particular effect. The idea of this project is to examine and compare all the datasets I've posted, and use them to get some idea of the relative strengths of the Planets- and if possible, to get some indication of those “twists”. In particular, it is important to know how much weight we should give to the “new” Planets in any chart.

The technique I've used is, I think, internally consistent and statistically quite respectable. The reader will find three measures of strength, and is free to use any or all of them.

The datasets I've used are derived from those posted, but I've excluded any charts that aren't likely to involve personal choice. So for instance “conscripts” have been excluded from the MILITARY dataset.

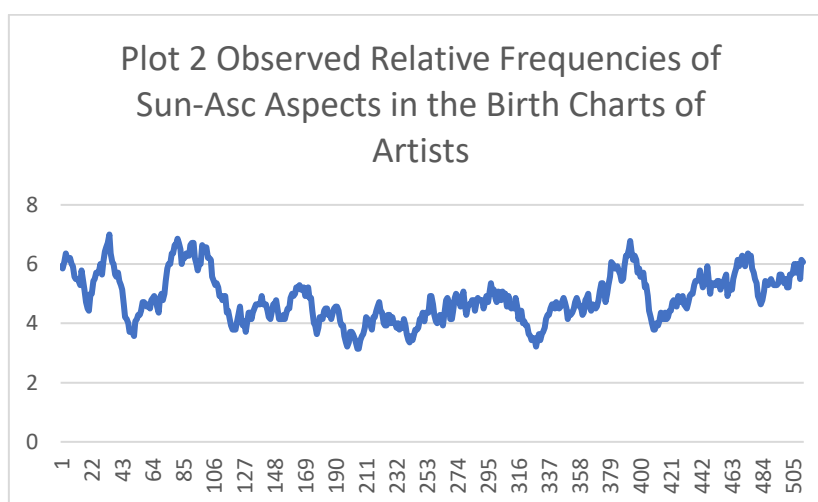
### **THE METHOD**

When all the aspects  $0^{\circ}$  to  $360^{\circ}$  between the Sun and the Ascendant are plotted, we get this graph:



There are negative values because the plot gives the frequency of the aspect minus the mean frequency. So for instance, it just so happens that fewer people than average are born with the Sun 180° from the Asc, and many more are born with Sun 0° from the Asc.

This is the standard against which the Sun/Ascendant aspects for any given occupation should be judged. For instance, here is the plot of all the aspects 0° to 360° between the Sun and the Ascendant for the Artist occupation set only:



This is very different, so clearly the Sun has the power to pull the distribution of artist's births away from the expected distribution. But exactly *how* different is Plot 2 from Plot 1? If we could find a number that tells us how different- how *strongly* the Sun pulls the distribution away from the expected- we would have a measure of the Sun's strength, plain and simple.

The measure I decided on is  $1-R^2$ , where  $R^2$  is the "coefficient of determination".  $R^2$  gives a measure of how *close* Plot 2 is to Plot 1. So,  $1-R^2$  gives a measure of how *far away* Plot 2 is from Plot 1. In other words, for any given occupation, it measures the ability the Planet has to pull the numbers away from the expected.

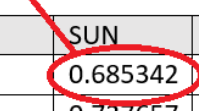
- The closer  $1-R^2$  gets to 1, the stronger is the effect.
- The closer  $1-R^2$  gets to 0, the weaker is the effect.

When every Planet, for every occupation, is plotted in this way, Tables 1-3 are found.

*How to read Tables 1-3:* every cell gives a number against a Planet (top row) and an occupation (left-hand column).

For instance, the cell in the SUN column and the ARTIST row has the figure 0.685342. This means that the Sun is quite strong with respect to artists' horoscopes; the Aspects the Sun makes with the Ascendant in the majority of artist's horoscopes are not very close to what we would expect by chance.

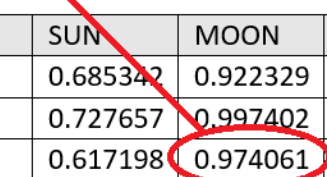
This figure is  $1-R^2$  for the Sun as it works on the horoscopes of artists.



OCCUPATION	SUN	MOON	ME
ARTIST	0.685342	0.922329	0.
BEAUTY	0.727657	0.997402	0.
BUILDER	0.617198	0.974061	0.
BUSINESSMAN	0.132333	0.80379	0.

Or again, the cell in the MOON column and the BUILDER row has the figure 0.974061. This means that the Moon is *very* strong with respect to builder's horoscopes; the Aspects the moon makes with the Ascendant in builders' charts are not even *nearly* what we would expect by chance.

This figure is  $1-R^2$ , and it tells us how strongly the Moon pulls the set of Builders' horoscopes away from the random distribution.



OCCUPATION	SUN	MOON	ME
ARTIST	0.685342	0.922329	0.
BEAUTY	0.727657	0.997402	0.
BUILDER	0.617198	0.974061	0.
BUSINESSMAN	0.132333	0.80379	0.

In the rows on the very bottom are summary measures over all the occupations. In the MEAN row we find the averages of the Planet's  $1-R^2$  values in all the rows above it. We can see at once that the traditional Planets (Sun, Moon, Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn) are on the whole very strong; Eastern-school Astrologers aren't wrong to concentrate on these. But Neptune and Uranus are no lightweights, either. The Transneptunians are weaker.

In the STANDARD DEVIATION row we get a measure of spread. On the whole, the bigger the spread, the more "inconsistent" is the strength of the Planet- the more unevenly it's distributed over the different occupations. So for instance the Moon's tiny spread of 0.061708 means it's much more generally important than, say, Orcus at 0.265712647- about 4 times as much. So the Moon is important in all the professions, but Orcus is important in only a few (MILITARY and SCIENTIST would bear scrutiny, though).

But the measure I'd like to suggest is in the very last row, the SHARPE INDEX. To get the Sharpe, take the mean and divide it by the standard deviation. The result is a measure that

grows as the mean grows, but falls as the standard deviation rises. In other words, *the Sharpe ratio gets bigger the more powerful and the more general the Planet is.*

In Table 4 I put the Sharpe ratios in order of decreasing strength. Jupiter and Saturn come top- not surprising since we're talking about occupations here, the ways people choose to or are forced to make a living. I think the major contribution of this posting is that it tells us how very much weaker the Transeptunians ("those the other side of Neptune") are than the Cisneptunians ("those this side of Neptune"). The Sun to Neptune's Sharpe ratios add up to 80.41; the rest add up to just 15.88. So more than 90% of the horoscope's strength is in the Sun, the Moon, Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune (I hope to examine the Moon's Nodes in at least a few cases soon).

This doesn't mean we can safely discount the Transneptunians. Neptune and Mercury aren't much stronger than Quaoar. We've all seen charts where Pluto is very strong indeed, and look how it figures for e.g. the POLITICIANS set. But we should (I think) limit our attention to these in very close Aspects only.

The Sun's low strength is surprising (although Martin Seymore-Smith, in his *The New Astrologer*, always argued that the Sun is drained of Astrological energy). But the Sun forms part of a complex with Mercury and Venus, which are always close together in the sky. It may well be that if interference effects are taken into account (and I know of no way to do that, even with a dataset this size) the three together are much stronger than when considered apart.

**AN IMPORTANT WARNING:** the Tables show how strongly the Planets involved take the horoscopes away from the mean, but they don't tell us whether they do so as a positive or a negative influence. So for instance, Mars showing strongly in the charts of Artists is likely to indicate that there are many fewer than expected. The postings (elsewhere in this Topic) on MC and ASC Aspects should be a help here, but the datasets aren't a perfect match. At no time should any of this over-rule the intuition of the Astrologer.

OCCUPATION	SUN	MOON	MERCURY	VENUS	MARS	JUPITER
ARTIST	0.685342	0.922329	0.708115	0.495624	0.895349	0.863301
BEAUTY	0.727657	0.997402	0.762735	0.803334	0.906315	0.985695
BUILDER	0.617198	0.974061	0.695225	0.762255	0.883666	0.9714
BUSINESSMAN	0.132333	0.80379	0.167249	0.252615	0.524312	0.857115
ENTERTAINER	0.627868	0.890905	0.5454	0.654424	0.713687	0.908693
FLYER	0.634324	0.945605	0.668606	0.725099	0.931381	0.999711
HEALER	0.619043	0.980511	0.661043	0.814967	0.684758	0.919592
LAWYER	0.630625	0.920872	0.713102	0.774333	0.943246	0.976107
MILITARY	0.779366	0.91311	0.753571	0.738528	0.798599	0.976672
MUSICIAN	0.569814	0.843106	0.537669	0.696401	0.913502	0.920651
OCCULTIST	0.626657	0.945692	0.482947	0.55958	0.752448	0.911167
POLITICIAN	0.444183	0.984741	0.305599	0.503521	0.781234	0.910684
PRIEST	0.814175	0.996524	0.783904	0.782719	0.86316	0.959662
SCIENTIST	0.848254	0.999475	0.824092	0.832636	0.783252	0.99965
SPORTSPERSON	0.543619	0.937704	0.542179	0.526523	0.593361	0.980201
TEACHER	0.701427	0.925512	0.593667	0.450702	0.764156	0.9845
WRITER	0.57977	0.915828	0.601261	0.678728	0.736538	0.918931
OCCUPATION	SUN	MOON	MERCURY	VENUS	MARS	JUPITER
MEAN	0.63161	0.926836	0.615487	0.667011	0.773077	0.946055
STANDARD DEVIATION	0.185344	0.061708	0.191759	0.191577	0.140788	0.050644
SHARPE RATIO	3.407773	15.01977	3.209686	3.481686	5.49108	18.68041

Table 1 Planets Sun-Jupiter

OCCUPATION	SATURN	URANUS	NEPTUNE	PLUTO
ARTIST	0.977853	0.662072	0.714977	0.411481
BEAUTY	0.995478	0.994797	0.810408	0.675433
BUILDER	0.999491	0.928166	0.854056	0.529411
BUSINESSMAN	0.884853	0.724843	0.233569	0.130538
ENTERTAINER	0.928741	0.875136	0.372936	0.31871
FLYER	0.920402	0.999878	0.832311	0.514903
HEALER	0.983515	0.72991	0.806877	0.552509
LAWYER	0.956706	0.926009	0.851017	0.513311
MILITARY	0.951198	0.961288	0.928923	0.741301
MUSICIAN	0.972455	0.82264	0.586369	0.603136
OCCULTIST	0.996116	0.899109	0.621354	0.310716
POLITICIAN	0.892707	0.625386	0.343711	0.999083
PRIEST	0.944293	0.92485	0.578169	0.466292
SCIENTIST	0.973081	0.951089	0.813071	0.6988
SPORTSPERSON	0.899238	0.991139	0.562372	0.52327
TEACHER	0.980337	0.770117	0.752142	0.404398
WRITER	0.935964	0.878801	0.664678	0.474889
OCCUPATION	SATURN	URANUS	NEPTUNE	PLUTO
MEAN	0.949031	0.880284	0.660602	0.539603
STANDARD DEVIATION	0.047352	0.107175	0.23044	0.21267
SHARPE RATIO	20.04205	8.213551	2.866695	2.53728

Table 2 Planets Saturn-Pluto

OCCUPATION	ERIS	HAUMEA	MAKEMAKE	SEDNA	ORCUS	QUAOAR
ARTIST	0.181548	0.44517	0.498072	0.146358	0.712723	0.397994
BEAUTY	0.530714	0.552211	0.6131	0.526696	0.677158	0.652685
BUILDER	0.351309	0.69422	0.729014	0.288487	0.898986	0.545502
BUSINESSMAN	0.126881	0.176479	0.176571	0.114716	0.204619	0.155046
ENTERTAINER	0.179979	0.256377	0.347958	0.153713	0.299904	0.292294
FLYER	0.393394	0.497958	0.564158	0.358833	0.75561	0.51188
HEALER	0.378578	0.660994	0.660873	0.39527	0.780319	0.58156
LAWYER	0.377869	0.603725	0.647039	0.387185	0.751295	0.530449
MILITARY	0.427692	0.818217	0.879508	0.417927	0.926185	0.658208
MUSICIAN	0.180013	0.237047	0.300034	0.167044	0.390262	0.311069
OCCULTIST	0.18266	0.378461	0.408674	0.175275	0.542998	0.354427
POLITICIAN	0.165629	0.2773	0.279428	0.148913	0.362594	0.299778
PRIEST	0.281197	0.487551	0.451593	0.295024	0.609626	0.440676
SCIENTIST	0.3568	0.645647	0.727036	0.343893	0.939997	0.680917
SPORTSPERSON	0.28844	0.452238	0.397672	0.257298	0.40473	0.406581
TEACHER	0.157087	0.422357	0.529724	0.150129	0.724429	0.464543
WRITER	0.233388	0.422407	0.467807	0.209784	0.676805	0.460377
OCCUPATION	ERIS	HAUMEA	MAKEMAKE	SEDNA	ORCUS	QUAOAR
MEAN	0.280401	0.470078	0.508652	0.264234	0.609666	0.45819
STANDARD DEVIATION	0.138909	0.216695	0.219581	0.135799	0.265713	0.176467
SHARPE RATIO	2.018588	2.169305	2.31647	1.945771	2.294456	2.596458

Table 3 Planets Eris-Quaoar

PLANET	MEAN	STANDARD DEVIATION	SHARPE RATIO
SATURN	0.949031	0.047351992	20.04204874
JUPITER	0.946055	0.050644239	18.68041299
MOON	0.926836	0.061707702	15.01977289
URANUS	0.880284	0.107174652	8.213550911
MARS	0.773077	0.140787816	5.491079663
VENUS	0.667011	0.191577059	3.48168587
SUN	0.63161	0.18534388	3.407772845
MERCURY	0.615487	0.191759396	3.209685999
NEPTUNE	0.660602	0.230440169	2.866695054
QUAOAR	0.45819	0.176467403	2.596458043
PLUTO	0.539603	0.212670002	2.537279501
MAKEMAKE	0.508652	0.21958073	2.316470343
ORCUS	0.609666	0.265712647	2.294456223
HAUMEA	0.470078	0.216695401	2.169305257
ERIS	0.280401	0.138909455	2.018588325
SEDNA	0.264234	0.135798875	1.945770972

Table 4 Summary of Planet Strengths