





# Describing contents of astronomical manuscripts: the case of astronomical tables

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CSMC Hamburg Cataloguing... conference May, 2018



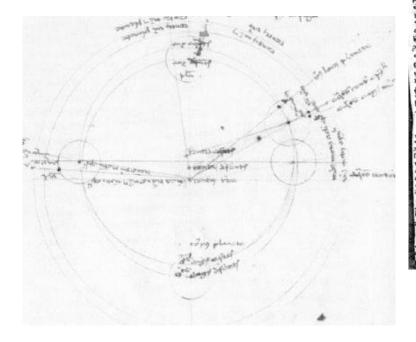
#### Texts



Erfurt, UFB, Amplon. F. 376

#### Texts

#### Technical diagrams





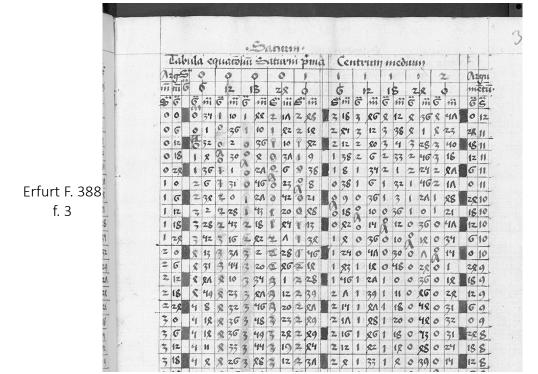
Erfurt, UFB, Amplon. F. 376

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Erfurt, UFB, Amplon. F. 376

#### Technical diagrams

#### Astronomical tables

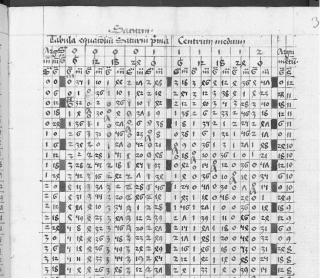


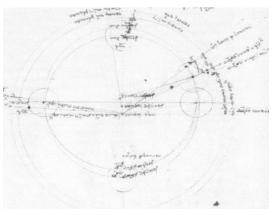
BnF lat. 7197 f. 53v, source Gallica

#### Managing content in astral sciences manuscripts

#### Texts

#### Astronomical tables





Technical diagrams

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BnF lat. 7197 f. 53v, source *Gallica* 

Erfurt F. 388 f. 3

#### Managing content in astral sciences manuscripts

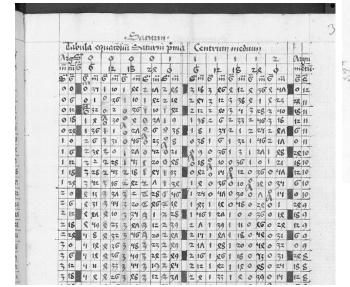


## Ptolemaeus Arabus et Latinus

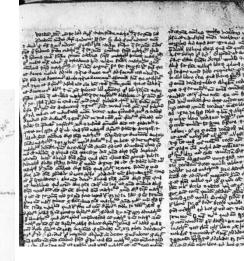




#### Astronomical tables



#### Texts



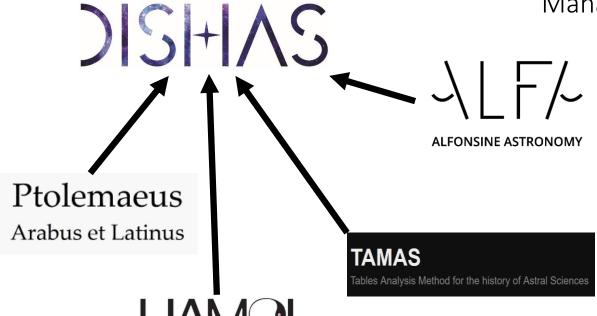
Erfurt, UFB, Amplon. F. 376

Erfurt F. 388 f. 3

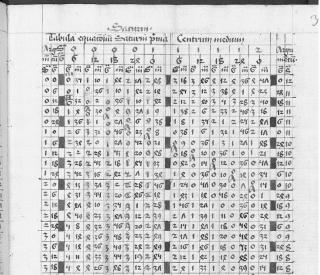
BnF lat. 7197 f. 53v, source *Gallica* 

Technical diagrams

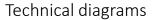
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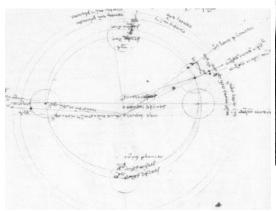


Astronomical tables



Texts





Erfurt, UFB, Amplon. F. 376

BnF lat. 7197 f. 53v, source *Gallica* 

Erfurt F. 388 f. 3 "... Cataloguing astronomical tables poses specifics problems that are not easy to resolve. When there are sets of tables, their content can shift from manuscript to another; When there are isolated tables, the titles ordinarily do not suffice for their definition or identification. Catalogs produced by non-specialists of astronomy refer happily and carelessly to an 'astronomical table', which is deceptive and useless even when it is not inexact because in fact it conceals astrological or computist goods"

-Emmanuel Poulle, 1985 review of Rosinska 1984

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#### What can we say today?

- What are past and current cataloguing practices for astronomical tables?
- What type of content are astronomical tables?
- Can we agree on good practices, develop tools for the future?

#### A. The case of general catalogues

In Cursice ales spaieren 14. In. 1 sp. onne Offeniassung eines Ranaes gesont.

#### 376. Pgt. 2º Mitte des 14. Jh. 102 Bl.

Einb.: Holzdeckel mit grünem Lederrücken; v. i.: 40., wohl = Cat. Ampl. Mathem. 40., wonach:

 Bl. 1—13'. Item egregia scripta super spera materiali (lohannis de Sacrobosco).

Anf.: Sicut dicit Aristoteles in principio de anima: omnium rerum. Ende: sive grata missa cantatur et in hoc terminatur exposicio spere.

2) Bl. 14-20'. Questiones circa eandem valde bone.

Anf.: Quia dictum est, quod iste liber supponitur astrologic. Ende: ibi sunt solsticia et equinoctium per totum annum.

In kleiner spitzer Carsive 2 sp. auf rollst. Schema geschr.; Schmuck mit bunten Initialen u. §§ beabsichtigt; Textanfänge in etwas grüßerer Schrift. Quater. mit arabischen Zahlen auf dem 1. Bl. links unten. Bl. 20' einige Nachträge von underer Hand.

3) Bl. 21—27. Tractatus de spera Petzam (i. e. lohannis Peacham) optimus. Der obere Theil der 1. Sp. Bl. 21 mit schwarzer Farbe bedeckt, durunter halb ausradirt: Expl. . . . . super librum de morte et vita; am unteren Rande in feiner Cursive: Iste tractatus est ad usum fratris Bernardi (?) . . . . ordinis Minorum . . . . . Anf.: Corporum principalium mundanorum numerum, figuras. Ende: sol illi regno non derogetur. Hec simplicioribus scripsi coactus. Vor dem letzten Satze in Cursive von 2 verschiedenen Händen eingeschoben: Expl. spera fratris Iohannis Pischam.

In Minuskel, die eher in den Anfang des 14. Jh. gehört, mit sehr blasser Tinte auf vollst. Schema geschr.; einfacher rother Schmuck.

4) Bl. 27'-29'. Notae variae.

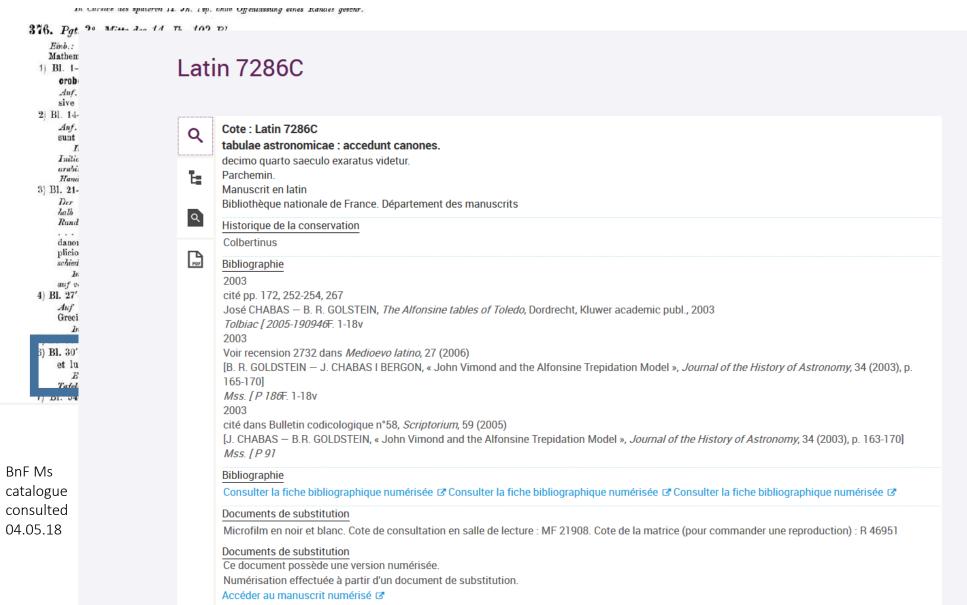
Auf letzterer Seite nur: continentis X quaternos; principium exposicionis Grecismi. Nature nostre nimis etc.

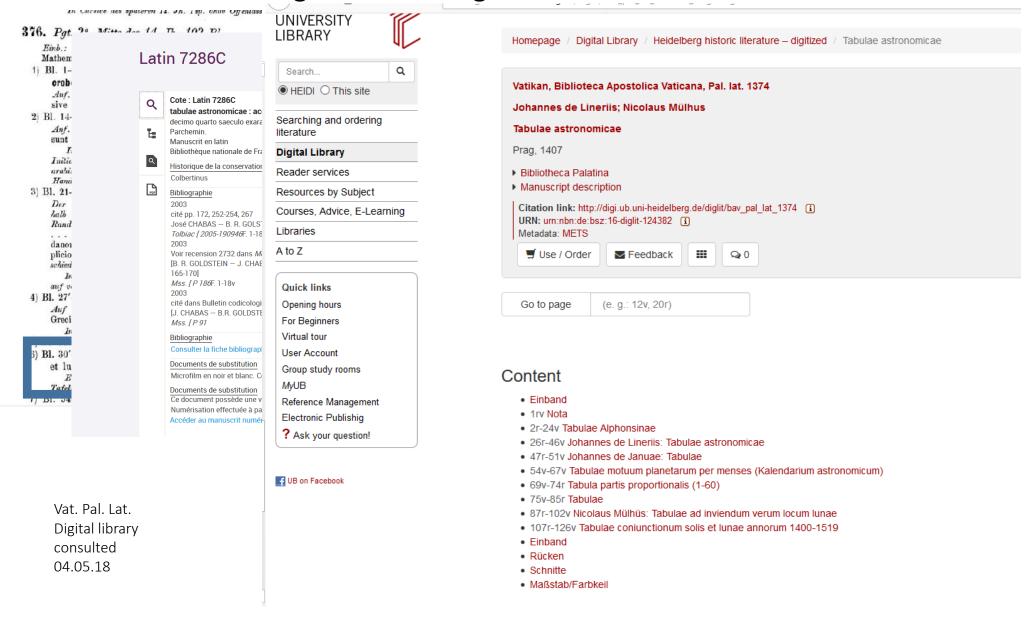
In äußerst kleiner u. feiner Cursive.

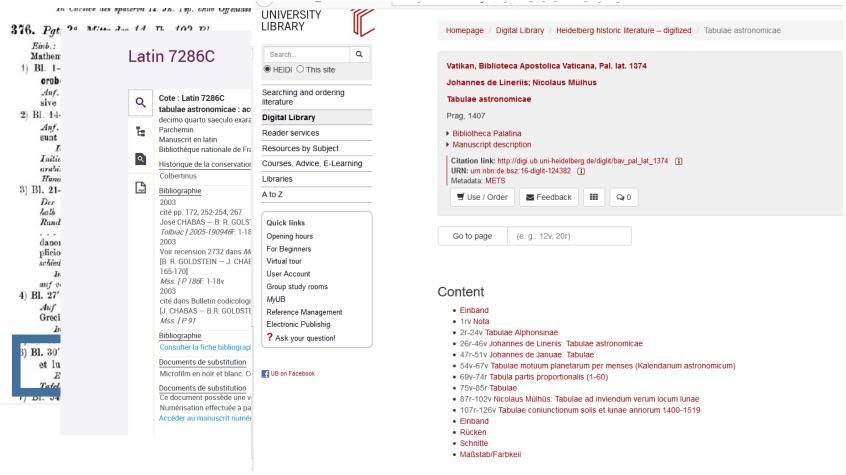
6) Bl. 30'—53'. Deinde sequentur tabule septem planetarum, maxime solis et lune. Tabule Iohannis de Lineriis.

Einrichtung wie üblich; rothe u. schwarze arabische Zahlen; Anordnung der Tafeln etwas abweichend von F. 384 u. 388.

1) DI. 34-31. Tractatus de mensuracionipus (ionamiis in monte Auguei,







- We know there are tables
- Sometimes a title is provided or the name of an astronomer
- Really not enough to have a minimal identification of the content and understand its relation to the (physical) structure of the manuscript

B. The case of specialized catalogues or survey

#### B. The case of specialized catalogues or survey

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8 SANSKRIT ASTRONOMICAL TABLES IN ENGLAND
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Ff. 10v-11r. Table 32 of the Grahasāranī.

Ff. 11r-11v. Table 33 of the Grahasāraņī.

Ff. 11v-12r. Table 34 of the Grahasarani.

Ff. 12r-12v. Table 35 of the Grahasāraņī.

Ff. 12v-13r. Table 36 of the Grahasāranī.

F. 13r. Table 37 of the Grahasāraņī.

Ff. 13r-14r. Table 38 of the Grahasāranī.

F. 14r. Tables 39 and 40 of the Grahasāranī.

Ff. 14r-14v. Table 41 of the Grahasāraņī.

F. 14v. Tables 42 and 43 of the Grahasaravi.

F. 15r. Tables 44 and 45 of the Grahasāraņī.

F. 15v. iti śrīgrahasāranī samāptah.

Add. 14,363b (Bendall 453). No. 22 in Jervis' collection. 46ff. Ff. 1-46. Grahalāghava composed by Gaņeśa in Saka 1442—A.D. 1520 with the commentary composed by Mallari in ca. A.D. 1600.

Add. 14,363c (Bendall 454). No. \*22 in Jervis' collection 36ff. On f. 36v is written: śake 1675 vijayanāmasaṃvatsare aśvinavadi 3 ravau goladhekarapanāmakavithaladaivajñātmaja – anantadai vajñena likhito' yam granthaḥ. The copying, then, was finished on Sunday 3 October 1753 Julian by Ananta, the son of Vitthala Goladhekara,

Ff. 1-36. Grahalāghavatīkā composed by Mallāri in ca. A.D. 1600.

Add. 14,363d (Bendall 470). 1f.

Ff. 1r.  $Grah\bar{a}gama$  written by the son of Govinda in Saka 1695 =A.D. 1773 in 20 verses.

F. 1v. Blank

Add. 14,363e (Bendall 455). No. 24 in Jervis' collection. 6ff. Ff. 1-6. Grahalāghava composed by Ganeśa in Śaka 1442—A.D. 1520. Add, 14.363f (Bendall 461) No. 23 in Jervis' collection, 1f,

Ff. 1<br/>r-1v.  $Brhattithicint\bar{a}mani$  composed by Ganeśa in Śaka 1474 — A.D. 1552; verses 1 to 18 only.

British Museum Add. 14,365. Seventeen manuscripts bound together. Purchased from Major Thomas Best Jervis in July 1843.

#### CATALOGUE OF MANUSCRIPTS

Add, 14,465a (Bendall 464), 74ff,

Ff 1r-74r. Grahanayanadhikara, the first adhikara, in the Aśayavivarana, a commentary composed by Muniśvara (born 1603) on his own Siddhantasarvabhauma; on f. 74r is also the beginning of the second adhikāra, but it breaks off abruptly.

Add. 14,365b. Ap. 1.

P. 1. Grahagama composed by Govindasunu in Saka 1695 = A.D. 1773.

Add, 14,365c. A pp. 1-2.

Pp. 1-2. Grahaprabodha composed by Nageśa in Saka 1541 =

P. 2. Table of mean motions of the planets (calanas) for 7 days; 14 days; and 1 day. The mean daily motions are:

Saturn 0;2,0,23,8...° Jupiter 0:4.59.8.34.... Mars 0:31.26.31 Sun 0;59,8,10,17,... Venus' anomaly 0;36,59,40,8,... Mercury's anomaly 3;6,24,8,8,... Moon 13:10.34.52 Lunar apogee 0:6,40,51,25,... Lunar node -0;3,10,49,51,...

Add, 14,365b, B pp. 1-2.

P. 1. Tables 1 to 9 of the Grahagama of Govindasunu,

P. 2. Tables 10 to 19 of the Grahagama.

Add, 14,365c, B pp. 1-11.

P. 1. Table 2 of the Grahaprabodhasāriņī of Yādava.

Pp. 1-2. Table 3 of the Grahaprabodhasārinī,

P. 2. Table 4 of the Grahaprabodhasārinī.

Pp. 2-3. Table 5 of the Grahaprabodhasāriņī,

P. 3. Table 6 of the Grahaprabodhasārinī.

Pp. 3-4. Table 7 of the Grahaprabodhasāriņī

P. 4. Table 8 of the Grahaprabodhasāriņī.

Pp. 4-5. Table 9 of the Grahaprabodhasārinī.

P. 5. Table 10 of the Grahaprabodhasārinī.

Pp. 5-6. Table 11 of the Grahaprabodhasāriņī,

#### B. The case of specialized catalogues or survey

CATALOGUE OF MANUSCRIPTS

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Ff. 12v-13r. Table 36 of t

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Add. 14,363e (Bendall 4 Ff. 1-6. Grahalāghava compo Add. 14.363f (Bendall 4

Ff. 1r-1v. Brhattithicintāma: A.D. 1552; verses 1 to 18 or British Museum Add. 14,36 gether. Purchased from Ma 72 SANSKRIT ASTRONOMICAL TABLES IN ENGLAND

8. Table of the longitudes of the lunar node at the Sun's entry into each of the 27 naksatras, in four columns. Column 1 gives the initial of the naksatra, column 2 the longitude of the node, column 3 the node's daily motion (always 0;3,11°), and column 4 the numbers of the naksatras (1 to 27).

Nakṣatra	Longitude	Differen	ce Nakṣatra	Longitude	Difference
Aśvinī Bharaņī Kṛttikā	-0;0,0° -0;43,31 -1;27,24	0;43,31 0;43,53	Svätī Viśākhā Anurādhā	-10;15,45 -10;58,1	0;42,37 0;42,16
Rohiņī Mṛgaśiras	-2;11,36 -2;56,3	0;44,12 0;44,27		-11;39,59 -12;21,43 -13;3,18	0;41,58 0;41,44
Ardrā Punarvasu	-3;40,41 -4;25,23	0;44,38 0;44,42	Pürväsädhä Uttaräsädhä	-13;44,45 -14;26,12	0;41,35 0;41,27 0;41,27
Puṣya Āśleṣā Maghã	-5;10,4 -5;54,38	0;44,41 0;44,34	Śravaņa Dhanisthā	-15;7,42 -15;49,19	0;41,30 0;41,37
Pürvaphälgunī Uttaraphälgunī	-6;38,59 -7;23,3	0;44,21 0;44,4	Šatabhisak Pūrvabhādrapadā	-16;31,9 -17;13,15	0;41,50 0;42,6
Hasta Citra	-8;6,47 -8;50,9 -9;33,8	0;43,44 0;43,22 0;42,59	Uttarabhādrapadā Revatī <aśvinī< td=""><td>-17;55,39 -18;38,24 -19:21 24</td><td>0;42,24 0;42,45</td></aśvinī<>	-17;55,39 -18;38,24 -19:21 24	0;42,24 0;42,45

Manuscripts: IO 2464c. f. 6v.

9. Table of the true longitudes of Mars. There exists a table for each increment of 13;20° (a nakṣatra) in Mars' mean longitude, and each table begins at the beginning of a moon sidereal year with the Sun at Aries 0°. There are, then, 27 (N = 1 to 27) tables. Each of these contains 4 columns; the first gives as the argument 1 to 27 avadhis of 14 days each, the second the true longitudes of the planet, the third the daily progress of the planet at the beginning of each avadhi, and the fourth a function relating to the planet's latitude (it is sometimes identified as da<kṣiṇa>, "southern," or u<ttara>, "northern"). This last function reaches its maximum near opposition. For Mars that maximum is 338;24 at N = 24, k = 24; the longitude of Mars' node according to the Brāhmapakṣa'is 338°. The longitudes of the planet's heliacal risings and settings are given to the right of the table.

Manuscripts: RAS Tod 36c. ff. 1r-7v.

10. Table of the true longitudes of Mercury set up as is table 9. Manuscripts: RAS Tod 36c, ff. 7v-14r,

Table of the true longitudes of Jupiter set up as is table 9
 Manuscripts: RAS Tod 36c, ff. 14v-17v.

ANALYSIS OF TABLES

73

The Laghukhecarasiddhi of Śrīdhara.

I. The Life of Śrīdhara.

Verses 1 and 2 of the Laghukhecarasiddhi tell us the author's name, correctly inform us of the fact that he follows the Brāhmapakṣa, and state that the epoch of his treatise is \$aka 1149 = A.D. 1227.

nārāyaṇam śrīdhṛtapādapadmam
pārāyaṇam puṇyavatām praṇamya /
śrībrahmasiddhāntasamām karomi
śrīśrīdharaḥ khecarasiddhim alpām //1//
nandābdhirudronaśako'rkaṇighnaś
caitrādimāsair yug adho'ṣṭayuktaḥ /
svabhūrasāṃśena viyug radāpto
yuto'dhimāsaiḥ ghaguṇaghna āḍhyāḥ //2//

The last verse, numbered 20, and the colophon add little to this information:

pāṭīkuṭṭakabījagolasahitān (gaṇitān) paitāmahādīn vayaṃ siddhāntād api manmahe pratidinaṃ kheṭān nanu

ity ākarnya vidām vacāmsi kṛpayā śrīśrīdharaḥ prasphuṭām cakre khecarasiddhim indudhavalām satkīrtivallīm iva

iti śrīgaņakacakracūḍāmaṇiśrīśrīdharācāryaviracitā laghukhecarasiddhiḥ samāptā //

#### II. Manuscripts.

\*IO 2408b. 9ff. Copied in Sam. 1611, Saka 1477 = A.D. 1555. Baroda 3094. 2ff. Copied in Sam. 1971 = A.D. 1914. AS Bengal 6842 (G 10081). 3ff.

Oudh XX (1888) VIII 69. 114pp. Property of Paṇḍita Pratāpa Nārāyaṇa of Allahabad Zila,

Oudh XX (1888) VIII 71. 16pp. Property of Paṇḍita Pratāpa Nārāyana of Allahabad Zila.

Oudh XXI (1889) VIII 6. 12pp. Property of Paṇḍita Vindhyeśvarī Praṣāda of Gonda Zila,

Pingree, 1968

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Nakṣatra	Longitude	Differen	ce Naksatra	Youghteda	Difference
Aśvinī Bharanī Kṛttikā Rohinī Mṛgaśiras Ardrā Punarvasu Puṣya Aśicṣā Mácṣā Maraphālgunī Uttaraphālgunī Hasta Citra	-0;0,0° -0;43,31 -1;27,24 -2;11,36 -2;56,3 -3;40,41 -4;25,23 -5;10,4 -5;54,38 -6;38,59 -7;23,3 -8;6,47 -8;50,9 -9;33,8	0;43,31 0;43,53 0;44,12 0;44,27 0;44,38 0;44,42 0;44,41 0;44,34 0;44,21 0;44,4 0;43,42 0;43,22	e Natsatra Svētī Višākhā Anurādhā Jyesthā Mūla Pūrvēsādhā Uttarēsādhā Śravaņa Dhanisthā šatabhişak Pūrvabhūdrapadā Uttarabhūdrapadā Revatī <asvinī< td=""><td>Longitude -10;15,45 -10;58,1 -11;39,59 -12;21,43 -13;3,18 -13;44,45 -14;26,12 -15;7,42 -15;49,19 -16;31,9 -17;13,15 -17;55,39 -18;38,24 -19;21,34</td><td>0;42,37 0;42,16 0;41,58 0;41,44 0;41,35 0;41,27 0;41,27 0;41,30 0;41,37 0;41,37 0;41,30 0;42,6 0;42,24 0;42,45</td></asvinī<>	Longitude -10;15,45 -10;58,1 -11;39,59 -12;21,43 -13;3,18 -13;44,45 -14;26,12 -15;7,42 -15;49,19 -16;31,9 -17;13,15 -17;55,39 -18;38,24 -19;21,34	0;42,37 0;42,16 0;41,58 0;41,44 0;41,35 0;41,27 0;41,27 0;41,30 0;41,37 0;41,37 0;41,30 0;42,6 0;42,24 0;42,45
					0;43,10>

Manuscripts: IO 2464c. f. 6v.

9. Table of the true longitudes of Mars. There exists a table for each increment of 13:20° (a nakṣatra) in Mars' mean longitude, and each table begins at the beginning of a moon sidereal year with the Sun at Aries 0°. There are, then, 27 (N = 1 to 27) tables. Each of these contains 4 columns; the first gives as the argument 1 to 27 avadhis of 14 days each, the second the true longitudes of the planet, the third the daily progress of the planet at the beginning of each avadhi, and the fourth a function relating to the planet's latitude (it is sometimes identified as da<ksina>, "southern," or u<ttara>, "northern"). This last function reaches its maximum near opposition. For Mars that maximum is 338:24 at N = 24, k = 24; the longitude of Mars' node according to the Brahmapakṣa is 338°. The longitudes of the planet's heliacal risings and settings are given to the right of the table.

10. Table of the true longitudes of Mercury set up as is table 9. Manuscripts: RAS Tod 36c. ff. 7v-14r.

Table of the true longitudes of Jupiter set up as is table 9
 Manuscripts: RAS Tod 36c. ff. 14v-17v.

ANALYSIS OF TABLES

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The Laghukhecarasiddhi of Śrīdhara.

I. The Life of Sridhara.

Verses 1 and 2 of the *Laghukhecarasiddhi* tell us the author's name, correctly inform us of the fact that he follows the Brāhmapakṣa, and state that the epoch of his treatise is Saka 1149 = A.D. 1227.

nārāyaṇam śrīdhṛtapādapadmam pārāyaṇam puṇyavatām praṇamya / śrībahmasiddhāntasamām karomi śrīśrīdhavaḥ khecarasiddhim alpām //1// nandābdhirudronaśakoʻrkaṇighnaś caitrādimāsair yug adhoʻṣtayuktaḥ / svabhūrasāmśena viyug radāpto yutoʻdhimāsaih ghaguṇaghna ādhyāh //2//

The last verse, numbered 20, and the colophon add little to this information:

pāṭīkuṭṭakabījagolasahitān (gaṇitān) paitāmahādīn vayaṃ siddhāntād api manmahe pratidinaṃ kheṭān nanu prasphutā

ity ākarņya vidām vacāmsi kṛpayā śrīśrīdharah prasphuṭām cakre khecarasiddhim indudhavalām satkīrtivallīm iva //20//

iti śrīgaņakacakracūḍāmaṇiśrīśrīdharācāryaviracitā laghukhecarasiddhih samāptā //

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Oudh XX (1888) VIII 69. 114pp. Property of Paṇḍita Pratāpa Nārāyaṇa of Allahabad Zila.

Oudh XX (1888) VIII 71. 16pp. Property of Paṇḍita Pratāpa Nārāyaṇa of Allahabad Zila,

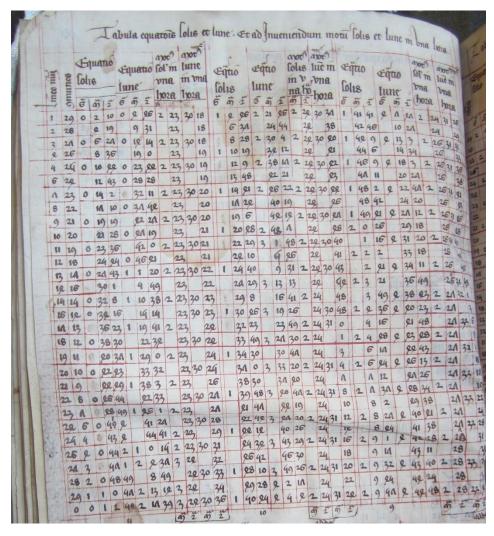
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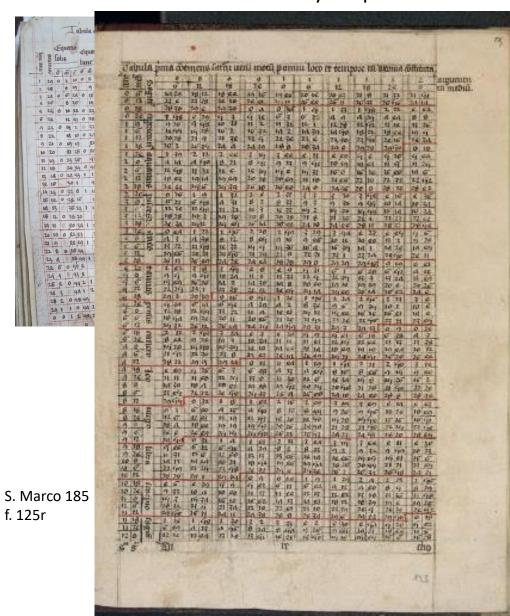
 In some cases only the second part of the catalogue is provided

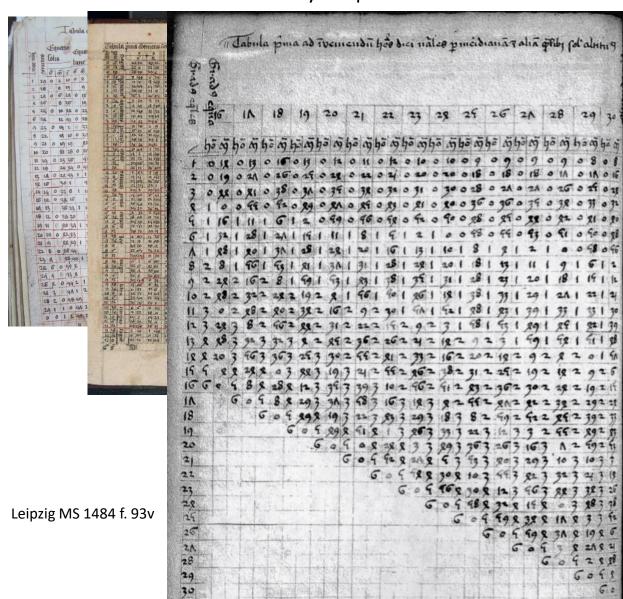
 Detailed technical information about the tables; constitution of standards sets

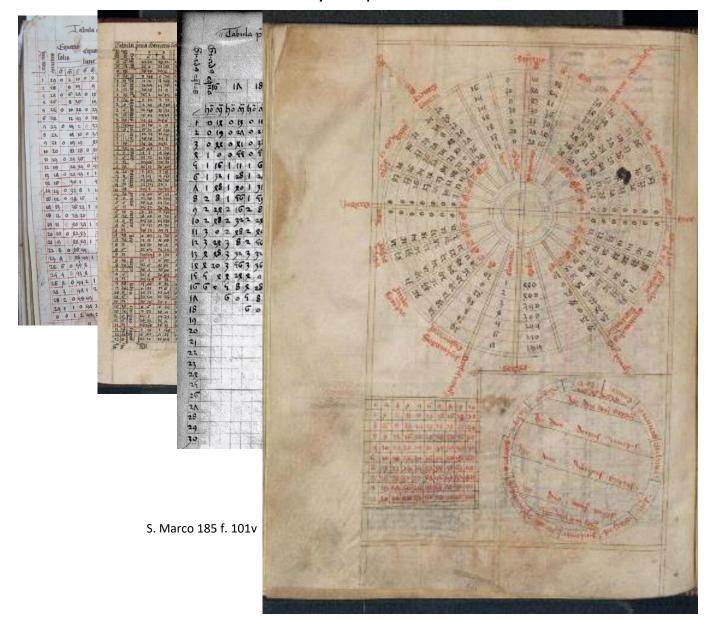
 No codicological information, very little about the layout: tables are "abstracted" from the manuscripts

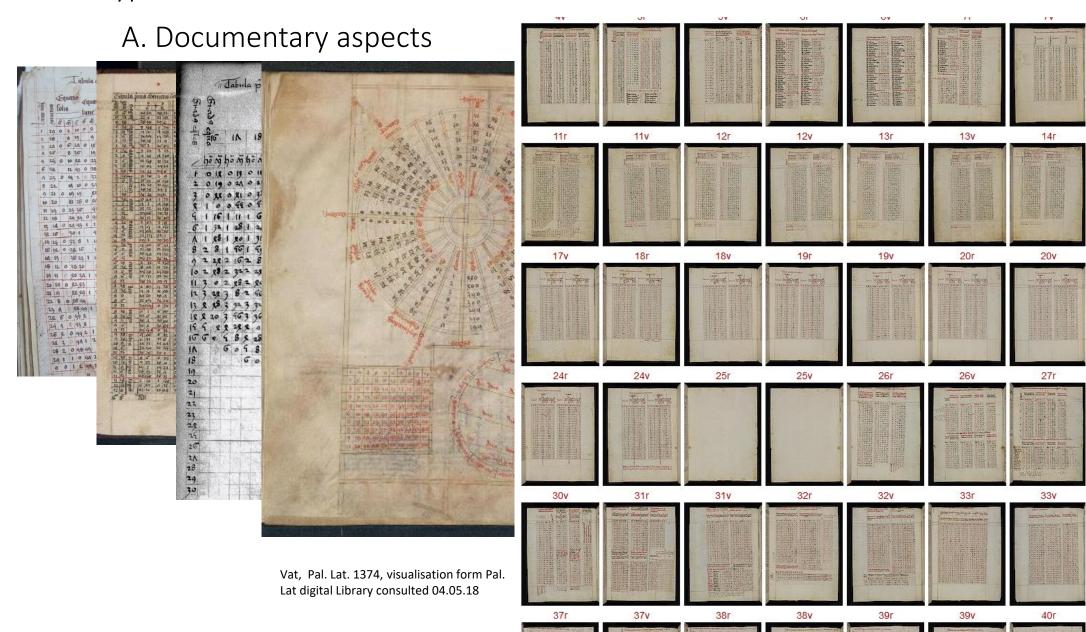


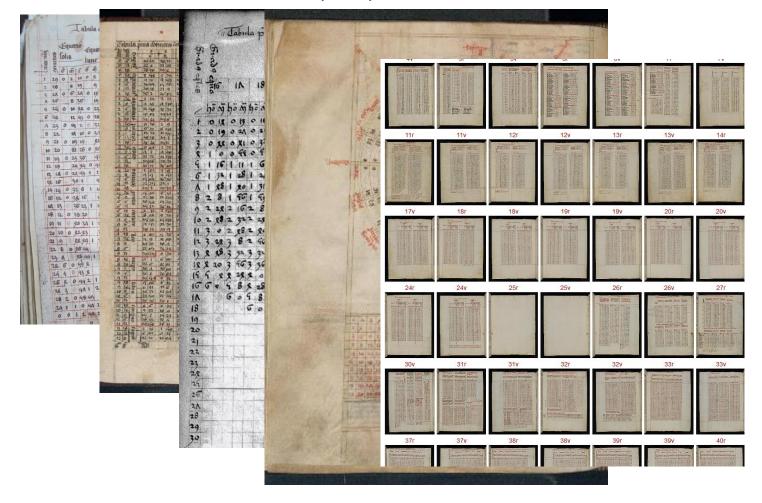
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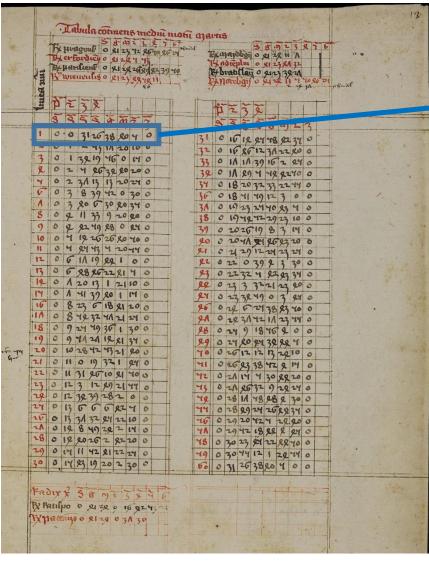


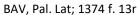


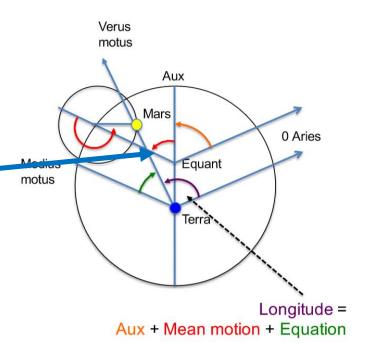
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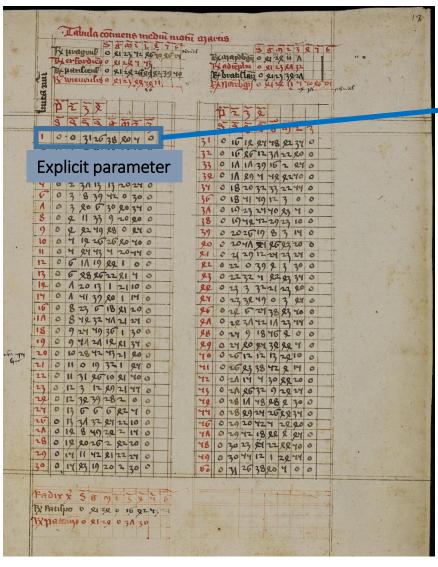
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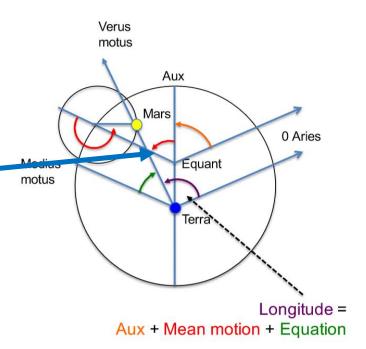




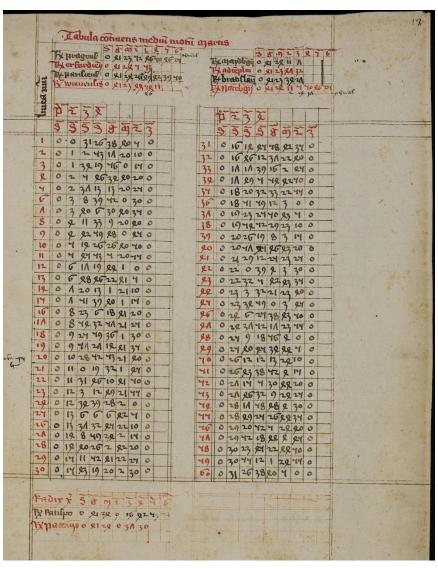




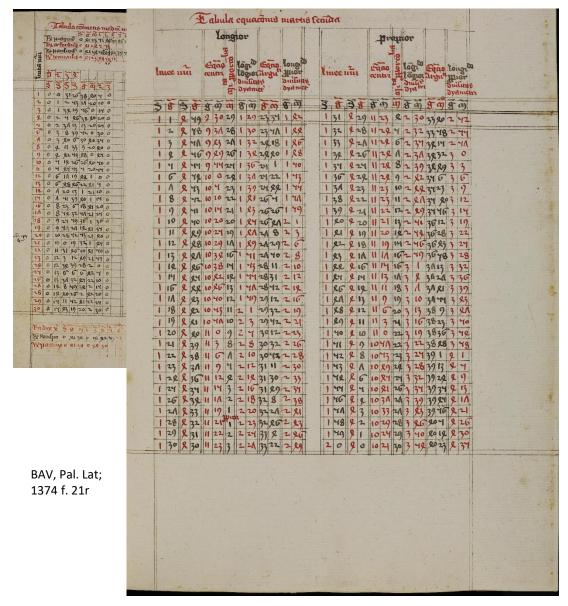


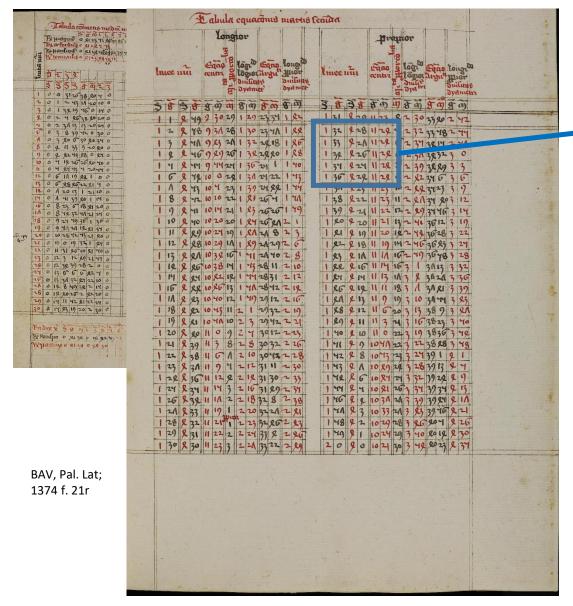


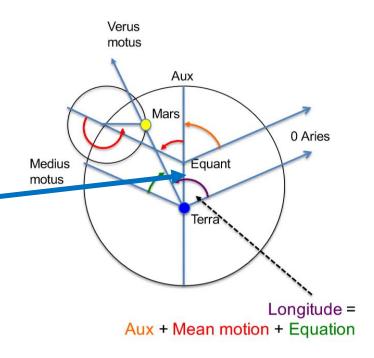
B. Mathematical and astronomical aspects: Mars

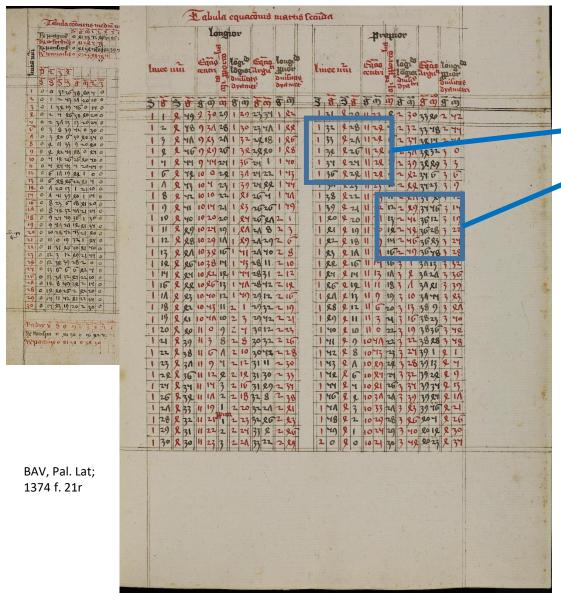


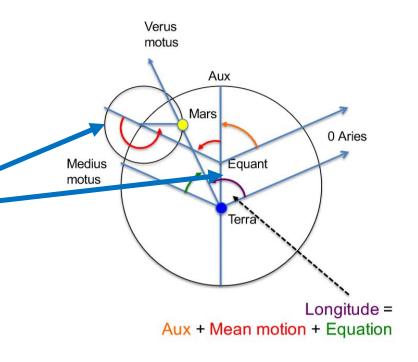
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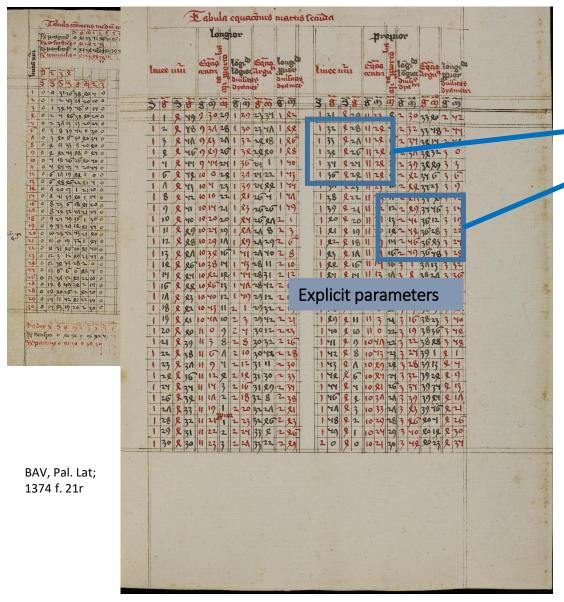


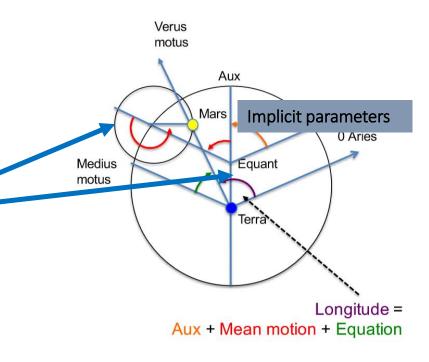


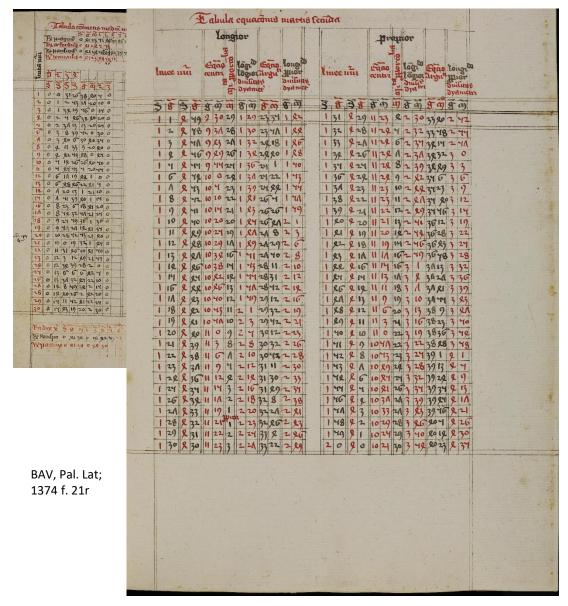


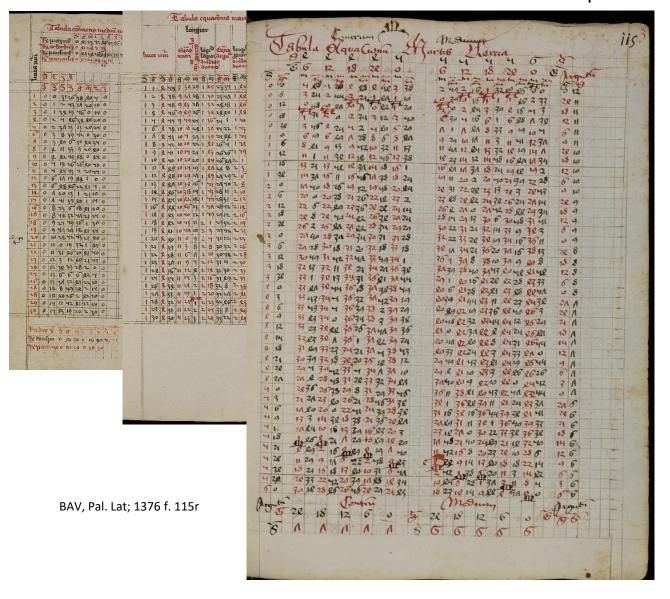


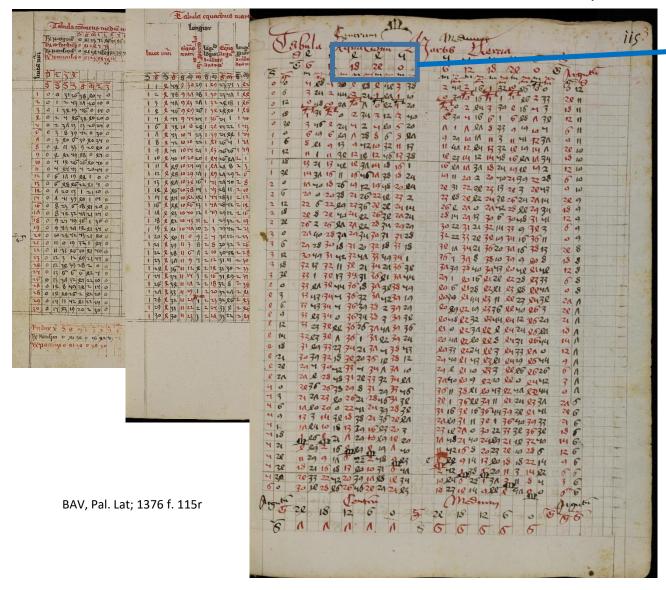


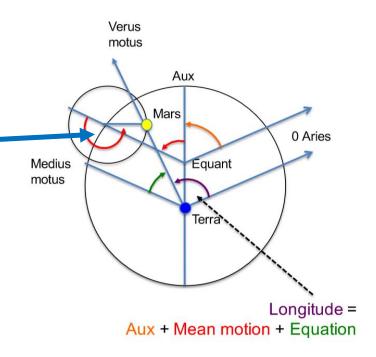


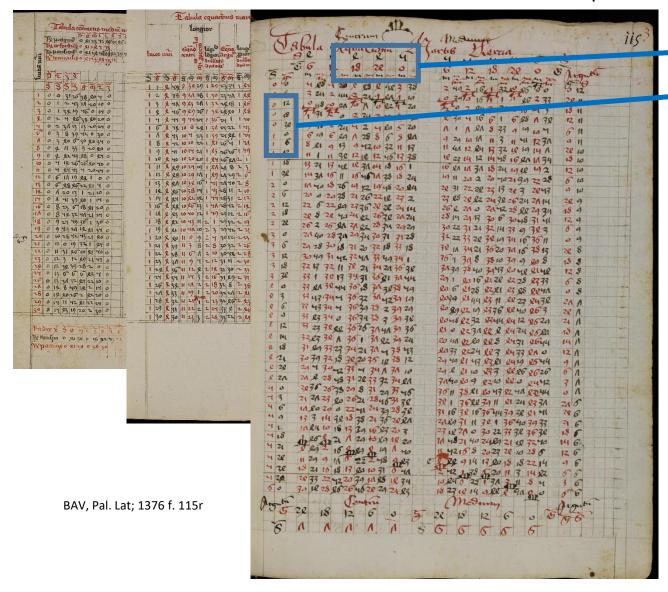


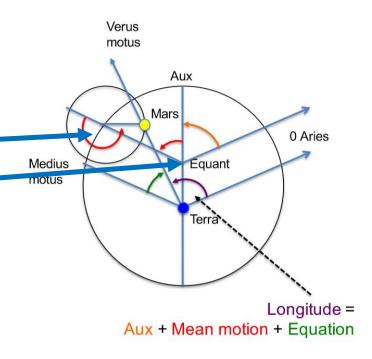


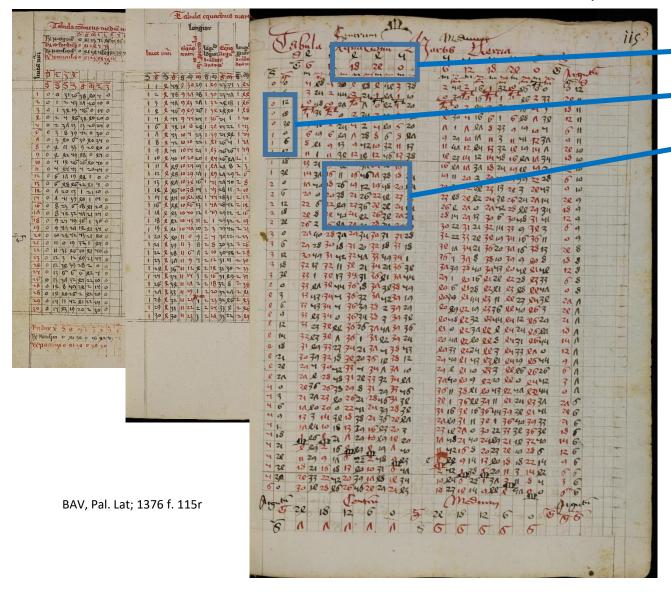


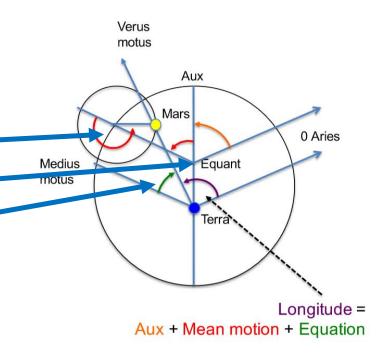


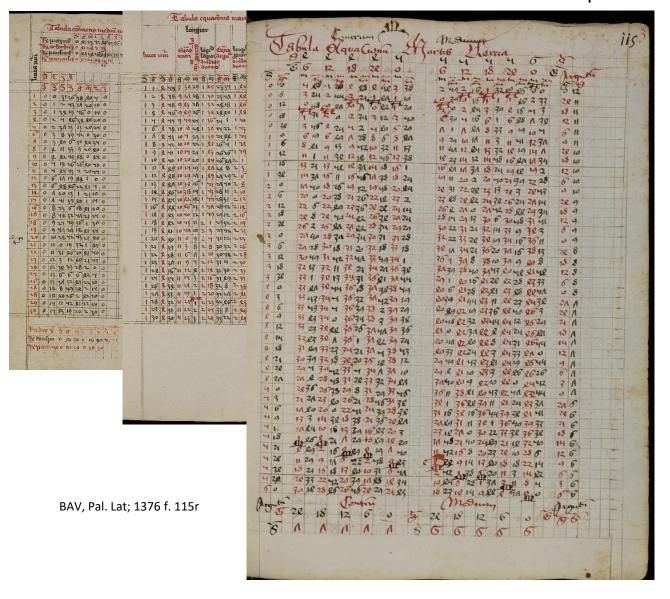


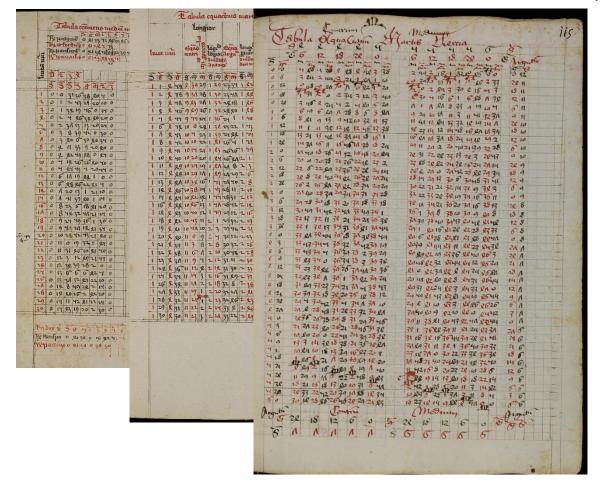












- Record the title of the tables; their headings, the units.
- The step and range of the arguments
- The precisions of the entries
- Record key values: first/last lines, extremum
- Records places, dates and radices

A. Suggestions and propositions

# A. Suggestions and propositions

- Identify the content its mathematical and astronomical meaning
- Understand its relation to the (physical) structure of the manuscript
  - The importance and the variety of tables layout
  - Ways to "fill" the table
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# What can we do for cataloguers

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B. Thinking about future tools?

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# Interfacing different tools

Editing and analysing historical astronomical tables

Tools and techniques used by historians of the exact sciences for handling tabular data

Scientific editors

Matthieu Husson (CNRS-SYRTE, Observatoire de Paris, France)

Clemency Montelle (University of Canterbury, New Zealand)

Benno van Dalen (Bavarian Academy of Sciences and Humanities, Germany)

### Rationale

Astronomical tables constitute a major and challenging genre for historians of the astral sciences. Despite being a significant portion of surviving historical scientific sources, they remain seriously understudied. For

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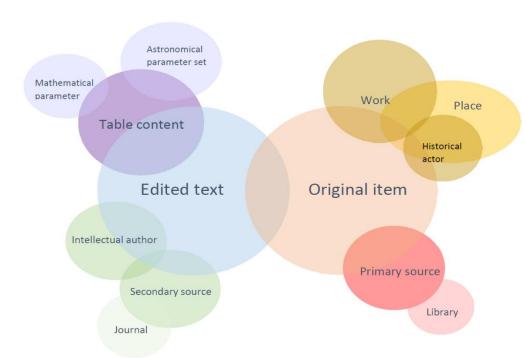
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# Smart design of data structure



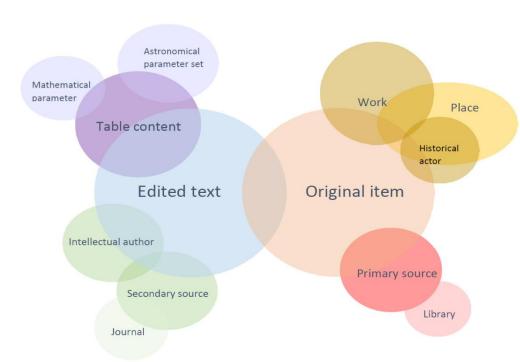
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# Interfacing different tools





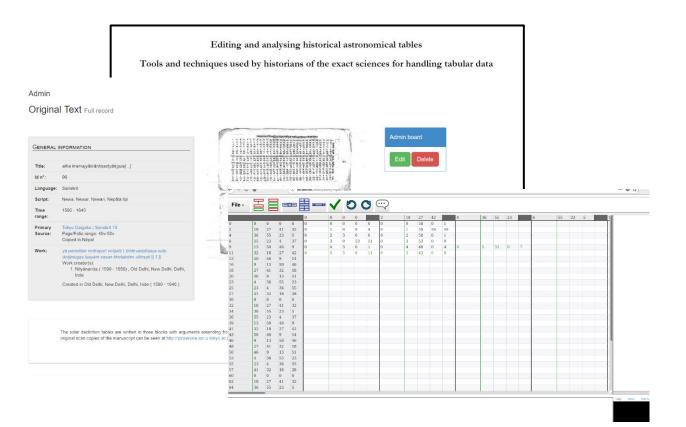
# Smart design of data structure



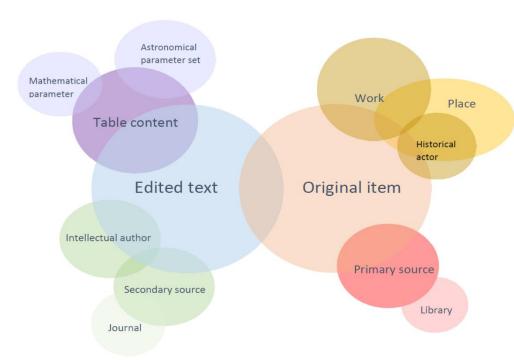
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# Interfacing different tools



# Smart design of data structure



# Thank you!