

SAW Seminar: Mathematical practices in the context of the astral sciences

April 11, 2014

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Which Cycles?: Early Chinese Representations of Cycles in the Astral sciences

Abstract: This paper examines the balance of qualitative and quantitative considerations in the conceptualization of several kinds of “cycle” theorized in Warring States and Han Chinese astral sciences, with particular attention to the following questions: (1) what was the interplay of quality and quantity in the evolution of the understanding of yin-yang cycles? (2) What were the interactions of the measurement of time and space in the understanding of astral cycles? (3) what were the interactions of theories of yin-yang, *wuxing* and *qi* in the understanding of Chinese astral cycles?