

## SAW Conference

### Mathematical Practices in relation to the Astral Sciences

March 26-27-28 and 30-31, 2015

#### Mathematical Practices: Contrasts

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*Mathematical Practices in Late Babylonian Mathematical Astronomy*

**Abstract** - The Late Babylonian corpora of mathematical astronomy and mathematics (450-50 BCE) share a number of common innovations, for instance regarding their terminology and their love for computations involving many-digit numbers. However, both corpora also exhibit significant differences, in particular an apparent mismatch between the mathematical tables that are extant and the ones that are actually needed for computing the astronomical tables.

In this presentation I discuss agreements and differences between the mathematical practices that underlie Babylonian mathematical astronomy on the one hand and the mathematical texts on the other hand.