

## SAW Three Month Workshop

### Mathematical Practices in relation to the Astral Sciences

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**Matthieu Husson** (CNRS, SYRTE, Observatoire de Paris & SAW Project)

*John of Lignières' instruments of the 1322 tables and their comments by John of Saxony*

**Abstract** – Mathematical practices found in sources on astral sciences often refer to instruments, from the “simple” gnomon to highly elaborate instruments, like the armillary sphere. We explored the mathematical practices which surround them and are embedded in them. We thought of them as models that actors may actualize in different sorts of complete or partial instantiations (mental, material, etc...) according to their local means and purposes (for display or observations...). Instruments appear also as devices around which it is possible for actors to organize, remember and progressively add knowledge and know-how. We observed a specific set of textual practices in relation to them: descriptions of constructions, orientation, manipulation and movement, quotations and paraphrases of such descriptions, specific diagrams, and so on.