

QUOTIENT STRUCTURES AND MIDPOINTS

This chapter and the next are little more than short but important footnotes. Namely, that both midpoints and composite charts are examples of quotient structures. In the case of midpoints, every pair of points in the zodiac is identified with the point that is midway between the two in terms of angular distance from 0° Aries. However, every pair of points actually has two midpoints with one midpoint usually being closer to the two points and the other midpoint being 180° away. In that case, we pick the midpoint that is closest to our two points. In another circumstance, though, our two points will be exactly 180° apart in which case they are exactly 90° away from each midpoint. In this case, we'll pick the point with the smaller angle θ as measured on a scale such that $0^\circ \leq \theta < 360^\circ$. This procedure creates a quotient structure in which each pair of points in the zodiac is identified with a particular midpoint, but now we might say that we go one step further and follow this with a 2nd harmonic. In other words, after identifying our initial midpoint, we next create a second quotient structure in which each point is identified with its opposite 180° away. And that is how we create the space of midpoints from a typical zodiac. Below is a copy of my natal chart with all the planetary midpoints highlighted, and in this wheel it is the angular distance between planets that is divided out and replaced by the "average" position of the two heavenly bodies. Yet another way in which quotient structures appear within astrological theory.

