THE PTOLEMAIC CONCEPT OF THE RULER (*AL-MUSTAWLĪ*) PLANET IN IBN 'AZZŪZ'S ASTROLOGICAL WRITING

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1. Introduction

This paper studies a set of tables from the fourteenth century that has two peculiarities : (1) in contrast to usual practice, it does not list a degree sequence for planetary positions, and (2) it is not found in a *zīj*, the most common place for numerical tables.

Our set of tables is an astrological test to evaluate the aptitude of the planets and to choose the Ruler Planet, which is an indicator in horoscopes. The tables appear in the *Book of the chapters on the collection of the principles [of astrology]* (*Kitāb al-fuṣūl fī jam' al-uṣūl*) (hereafter, *Book of the chapters*) by the Maghribi astrologer Ibn 'Azzūz (d. Constantine, 1354)[1]. His tables show a change in astrological opinions, since they follow a Ptolemaic notion and are an example of the astronomer's aim to reduce astrology to its simplest expression.

Below, I present a translation, edition and commentary of Ibn 'Azzūz's tables and canons (instructions) and a comparison of the meaning of the Ruler Planet in the astrological treatises[2] of Ptolemy (fl. Alexandria, *ca.* 100-*ca.* 175), al-Qabīṣī (Mosul, fl. second half of the tenth century), Kūshyār ibn Labbān (Gīlān, *ca.* 971-*ca.* 1029) and Ibn 'Azzūz. For that purpose, I will deal with the following topics : the definition of the Ruler Planet, the kind of horoscope in which it was used, the horoscope's indicators and the method for the Planet's determination.

2. Ptolemy

The Ruler (*Tetrabiblos*, III, 2[3]) is the planet that has the strongest relationship with the degree of conjunction or opposition of the Sun and Moon preceding

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1. On Ibn 'Azzūz, see Djebbar 1988 ; Samsó 1997 ; Samsó 1999; Casulleras 2007 ; Samsó 2007.

2. Those of Abū Ma'shar (fl. Baghdad, *ca.* 787-*ca.* 886) and al-Bīrūnī (Khwārizm, 976-1052) do not mention this subject. Ramsay-Wright 1934; Burnett, Yamamoto and Yano 1994; Lemay 1995.

3. Robbins 1940, reprinted 1980, 231-233.

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birth. The sign corresponding to the Ruler Planet at the time of birth was considered the ascendant in horoscopes in which the hour of birth was uncertain.

The Ruler Planet was used in natal horoscopes with another indicator : the degree of conjunction or opposition of the Sun and the Moon preceding birth. Ptolemy takes the degree of both luminaries if the Sun is in conjunction with the Moon, and the degree of the luminary placed above the horizon if there is opposition.

To establish the connection between the planet and the degree of syzygy, Ptolemy considers five astrological elements (the triplicity[4], the domicile, the exaltation, the term and the aspect)[5]. The planet related to one, several or all of these elements will be the Ruler.

3. Al-Qabīṣī

As stated in the first chapter of his introduction to astrology[6], the Ruler is the planet with the most shares (i.e. the most belongings) in the ecliptical degree in which the house concerning the requested matter begins. The other indicators to be used with the Ruler Planet are the lot of the requested matter, the lot Part of Fortune[7] and the planet that is related by its nature to the requested matter. Al-Qabīṣī applied the Ruler Planet in interrogational horoscopes. This is a different branch of astrology from the genethlialogy of Ptolemy. The Ruler Planet became an independent topic that was not necessarily associated with natal horoscopes.

The scale of strength from 1 to 5 in accordance with an arithmetic progression (1, 2, 3, 4, 5) is another noteworthy distinction. Al-Qabīṣī classifies the astrological elements as follows[8] : 5 strengths (quwā) for the lord of the domicile ; 4 for the lord of the exaltation ; 3 for the lord of the triplicity ; 2 for the lord of the term ; and 1 for the lord of the decan[9].

Al-Qabīṣī proposes a horoscope where the question is about property, a matter associated with the second house which began in Aries 5°. The Sun had the great-

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4. The English translation is trine instead of triplicity, but the trine is just an aspect (see the next footnote), and Ptolemy mentions the aspect as the fifth astrological element.

5. I give a short definition of these elements. For further explanation see al-Bīrūnī, al-Tafhīm, Ramsay-Wright 1934, 230, 259 (triplicities), 256 (domiciles), 258 (exaltations), 265 (terms), 225 (aspects). The triplicities are groups of three signs whose qualities are identical. The domicile is the sign which belongs to a planet. The exaltation is the sign regarded as the planet's place of joy. There are different opinions on this subject. For instance, some consider the exaltation the whole sign and others a certain degree of the sign. The term is an unequal division of the sign. The aspects are sextile (two signs 60° distant from each other), quartile (90° distant), trine (120°) and opposition (180°).

6. Burnett, Yamamoto and Yano 2004, 58-61 [77].

7. A lot is a certain degree of the zodiac circle, for the method of its calculation see al-Bīrūnī, al-Tafhīm, Ramsay-Wright 1934, 279-295.

8. Burnett, Yamamoto and Yano 2004, 32-33 [22].

9. Decans are thirds of a sign, according to the method of the Persians and Greeks (al-Bīrūnī, al-Tafhīm, Ramsay-Wright 1934, 262). Al-Qabīṣī differs from Ptolemy in using the decan instead of the aspect.

est number of shares (7) in Aries 5° and became the Ruler Planet according to the following qualification : Aries is the domicile of Mars = 5 strengths (Mars is the lord of Scorpio and Aries), the exaltation of the Sun = 4 strengths (the place of exaltation of the Sun is Aries 19°), the triplicity of the Sun = 3 strengths (Aries, Leo and Sagittarius form the first triplicity or fiery triplicity. The Sun is its lord by day), the term of Jupiter = 2 strengths (the term of Aries from 1° to 6° belongs to Jupiter) and the decan of Mars = 1 strength (the lord of the first ten degrees of Aries is Mars).

4. Kūshyār ibn Labbān

Kūshyār explains a slightly different tradition in the first part of his introduction (Chapter Twenty-Two)[10]. The definition of the Ruler Planet is the same as al-Qabīṣī's (the planet with the most shares in a house), but Kūshyār's scale of strength follows the gradation 1, 1, 2, 3, 4. He also modifies the five elements under consideration in this manner : 4 witnesses (*shahādāt*) for the lord of the domicile ; 3 for the lord of the exaltation ; 2 for the first lord (the lord by day) of the triplicity ; 1 for the second lord (the lord by night) of the triplicity and 1 for the lord of the term. Neither the kind of horoscope nor the indicators are mentioned.

5. Ibn 'Azzūz

5.1. Text

I worked with manuscript number 1110 of the al-Ḥasaniyya Library in Rabat[11] that keeps the second treatise of Ibn 'Azzūz's *Book of the chapters*. The second chapter, 'Knowledge of the settlement of the universal and individual indicators', contains the numerical tables and their canons in folios 67 verso-70 recto. The following sections present the translation (5.1.1) and edition (5.1.2) of the canons, as well as the commentary (throughout Section 5.2) and the edition (5.2.1 and Appendix) of the tables.

5.1.1 Translation

[1] You operate analogously to find out the indicator of the changes to come, according to the yearly horoscopes, regarding cheapness, a rise in prices, illness, health, weather and so on, with the degree of the conjunction of the Sun and the Moon preceding the yearly anniversaries, according to the latitude of the place for which you want to know this.

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10. Yano 1997, 66-69.
11. Khaṭṭābī 1983, vol. III, 367-368.

[2] If you have obtained the degree of the conjunction or the opposition of the Sun and the Moon previous to the entry of the Sun in the first second of Aries, at the mentioned times, pay attention to the following :

[3] If a conjunction of the Sun and the Moon occurs before the entry of the Sun in Aries, you take the degree of the conjunction. However, if an opposition of the Sun and the Moon occurs, you take the degree of the luminary that is placed above the horizon

[4] and [take] the Ruler of this degree, which has the most shares.

[5] Knowledge of the Ruler.

[6] If you want to obtain the number of shares of the powers of a planet,

[7] first, you enter this set of tables in the Domain of the Dignities table and take the strengths placed in front of the domicile, the exaltation, the triplicity, the term, the decan, the twelfth and the Hindu decan, and the other shares that these planets have in that sign. You also keep the amounts of weakness, and those corresponding to the detriment and the fall.

[8] If the planet is in one of its shares, take them from the Domain of the Shares table and keep the amounts of strengths and weaknesses.

[9] Next, see if the planet is placed to the east of the Sun. Take the distance between the Sun and the planet by subtracting the position of the Sun from the position of the planet. The result of this is the eastern distance to the Sun. Enter the eastern distance column of the Solar Domain table with this result, and take the amounts of strengths and weaknesses you find in front of it [the argument], keep it.

[10] If the planet is placed to the west of the Sun, take the distance between the Sun and the planet by subtracting the position of the planet from the position of the Sun. The result is the western distance to the Sun. Enter the western distance column of the Solar Domain table with this result and take the amounts of strengths and weaknesses you find in front of it [the argument].

[11] Next, enter the Natural Domain table and the Temporal Domain table and take the amounts of strengths and weaknesses you find in front of it [the argument].

[12] Add what each planet has.

[13] If the planets have an equal number of shares, this planet will not have any power.

[14] If the shares are different, subtract the smaller from the bigger and keep the remainder, whichever number was in the domain of strength or in the domain of weakness.

[15] The Ruler of the situation will be [the planet] that has most power. Put it ahead of the other planets. We will rely on it to establish the astrological judgments. God gives success.

[16] This is the table of the quantities of the balance between strength and weakness for the planets in the transfer of the year.

[17] This is the table of the quantities of the balance between strength and weakness for the planets.

[18] Celestial Positional Domain. Solar Domain of the Moon.

[19] This procedure is universal for the extraction of the Ruler of each one of the degrees of the sphere, in every position in which knowledge of the Ruler is needed.

5.1.2 Edition

[1] [ظ 67] وكذلك تعمل في معرفة الدليل على ما يحدث من التغايير في تحاويل السنين من الرخص والغلاء والأمراض والصحّة والأهوية وغيرها بجزء الاجتماع الذي يكون قبل تحاويل السنين على عرض البلد الذي تريد معرفة ذلك فيه

[2] فإذا استخرجت جزء الاجتماع [أ]و الاستقبال الذي يكون قبل حلول الشمس بأوّل ثانية من الحمل في الأوقات المذكورة فانظر

[3] فإن كان قبل الحلول اجتماع أخذت جزء الاجتماع وإن كان استقبال¹ أخذت جزء النيّر الذي فوق الأفق

[4] [و]المستولي على ذلك الجزء بكثرة الحظوظ

[5] ومعرفة ذلك

[6] إذا أردت استخراج عدد حصص قوى كوكب من الكواكب

[7] فتدخل في هذا الجدول الكلّي في جدول الحيّز المزاعمي² منه أوّلا وتأخذ ما بحيال البيت والشرف والمثلّثة والحدّ والوجه والاثني عشرية والدرنجان من القوى وما كان لذلك الكواكب من الحظوظ في ذلك البرج وتحفظ ما له من أقدار الضعف أيضا وما بحيال الوبال والسقوط

[8] فإن كان الكوكب في أحد حظوظه تأخذ ذلك من جدول الحيّز الحظّوي وتحفظ أقدار القوى والضعف

[9] ثمّ تنظر إن كان الكوكب مشرقا من الشمس تأخذ البعد بين الشمس وبينه بأن تنقص موضع الشمس من موضع الكوكب فما بقي [و 68] فهو البعد الشرقي من الشمس فتدخل به في جدول الحيّز الشمسي في البعد الشرقي منه وتأخذ ما بحياله من عدد أقدار القوى والضعف وتحفظها

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¹ في المخطوط: استقبالا
² في المخطوط: المراهمي

[10] وإن كان الكوكب مغربا من الشمس فتأخذ البعد الذي بين الشمس والكوكب بأن تنقص موضع الكوكب من موضع الشمس فما كان الباقي فهو البعد الغربي من الشمس فتدخل به أيضا في جدول الحيّز الشمسي في البعد الغربي منه وتأخذ ما بحياله من عدد أقدار القوى والضعف

[11] ثمّ تدخل في الحيّز الطبيعي وفي الحيّز الزماني وتأخذ ما بحيالها من أقدار القوّة والضعف

[12] وتجمع ما لكلّ كوكب

[13] فإن تساوت في عدد الحصص فليس لذلك الكوكب شيئا من القوّة

[14] وإن اختلفت فانقص الأقلّ من الأكثر واحفظ الباقي هذا العدد من أيّ من حيّز القوّة أو من حيّز الضعف

[15] فإن اجتمعت له أكثر قوى فهو المستولي على الموضع فقدّمه على سائر الكواكب فإنّه المعتمد عليه في تدبير الأحكام النجومية والله الموفّق

[16] وهذا جدول أقدار الموازنة للكواكب في القوّة والضعف بمحوّله

[17] [68 ظ] هذا جدول أقدار الموازنة للكواكب في القوّة والضعف [69 و]

[18] الحيّز الوضعي الفلكي الحيّز الشمسي للقمر [69 ظ][3]

[19] [70 و] وهذا العمل شامل في استخراج المستولي على كلّ جزء من الفلك في كلّ موضع يحتاج إليه إلى المستولي عليه

[3] هذه الورقة غير مكتوبة.

5.2. Commentary

Paragraphs [4], [6] and [15] define the Ruler as the planet which possesses most power, that is to say, it has the most shares in the degree of the conjunction or opposition of the Sun and the Moon preceding the entry of the Sun in Aries. It is called *al-Kawkab al-Mustawlī*.

Judging by paragraphs [1] and [2], the horoscope is cast yearly on the occasion of the *taḥwīl al-sana* (transfer of the year). The Arabic expression refers to the entry of the Sun in the vernal equinox or the beginning of the astronomical year. The yearly horoscopes concern most people. The sort of events mentioned in the text, such as cheapness, a rise in prices, illness, health and weather, involve two main divisions of astrology : natural and judicial astrology. The former concerns natural elements and the second, human destiny.

Ibn 'Azzūz keeps the relationship of the Ruler Planet to the syzygies, as Ptolemy did. According to paragraphs [1]-[4], he uses as indicators the degree of the last syzygy of the Sun and the Moon preceding the entry of the Sun in the vernal equinox, and the Ruler Planet of this degree.

5.2.1 Tables

The instrument intended to determine the power of a planet is the set of tables called 'Table of the quantities of the balance between strength and weakness for the planets'.

In the manuscript, this set of tables is found in folios 68 verso and 69 recto. The latter contains the Celestial Positional Domain and the Solar Domain of the Moon tables. Folio 68 verso contains the rest of the tables.

For convenience, the edition of the tables appears in the Appendix and the commentary in the following sections. I have identified each table with the letter T and a number between brackets.

Ibn al-Kammād (fl. Cordova, 1116) also used tables of the strength and weakness of the planets in his non-extant *zīj al-Kawr 'alā-l-dawr*, according to the anonymous compiler[12] (fl. Tunis, 1266-1281) of Ibn Ishāq's *zīj*. Thus, these tables were known in al-Andalus at the beginning of the twelfth century and continued to be used in the Maghrib up to the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, even though the Andalusian astronomer was not the source of Ibn 'Azzūz's work.

Ibn 'Azzūz's set of tables is a sort of visual introduction to astrology that is focused on three topics :

a) The shares of the planets in the divisions of the zodiac, i.e. in its essential conditions[13]. This is illustrated in the Domain of the Dignities (T2), Domain of the Shares (T3) and Natural Domain (T5) tables.

b) The indications of the planets in the divisions of the zodiac related to the position of the horizon, i.e. in the accidental conditions of the zodiac. These are represented in the Celestial Positional Domain (T1) and Natural Domain (T5) tables. The Temporal Domain (T6) table displays one of the accidental shares of the planets.

c) The indications of the planets in relation to the Sun. This is described in the group of Solar Domain tables (T4, T7, T8 and T9).

Paragraphs [12]-[15] state that, after the addition of all the strengths and weaknesses of the planet, the smaller amount (of strength or weakness) is subtracted from the larger one. Obviously, the planet has no power if the amounts of strengths and weaknesses are equal. The Ruler is the planet with the most shares in either strengths or weaknesses[14]. This differs from the previous kind of influ-

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12. Mestres 1999, Chapter 38, Tables 207, 209 and 210.

13. This terminology is used by al-Qabīṣī, see Burnett, Yamamoto and Yano 2004, 46-47 [55].

14. The distinction between strength and weakness is not always consistent. For instance, both are considered strength in the Solar Domain of Venus and Solar Domain of the Planets tables, although it is deduced that the values of the second column have to be regarded as weaknesses according to the disposition of the other tables.

ence we saw in Ptolemy, al-Qabīṣī and Kūshyār, as Ibn 'Azzūz takes into consideration weakness as well as strength. The former power has a negative meaning because of its relation to the astrological conditions regarded as malefic or weak.

5.2.1.1 Tables with astrological considerations

5.2.1.1.1 Celestial Positional Domain (T1)

The argument is the position of the planet in the twelve celestial houses that are divided into five-degree intervals.

The balance of powers is the difference between strength and weakness. The planet receives 16 points, the maximum grade, when it is placed in the last sections of the houses VI (in 25° and 30°) and XII (in 30°). In both houses, the planet is powerful in weakness[15].

The planet has also high marks when it is placed in the first degrees of two cusps : 14 points in house I (placed on the Eastern horizon) and 16 points in house X (placed above the horizon on the meridian). In these two houses, the planet is powerful in strength[16].

The canon does not mention this table, which may indicate that Ibn 'Azzūz copied an unrelated table (see Section 5.2.1.1.2).

5.2.1.1.2. Domain of the Dignities (T2) and Domain of the Shares (T3)

The Domain of the Dignities is dedicated to the luminaries, and the Domain of the Shares to the planets. These Domains test a planet's association with the signs (the domicile, the exaltation and the triplicity) and with the divisions of the signs (the term, the twelfth, the Hindu decan[17] and the decan). In the manuscript, these tables were named with two different Arabic adjectives of attribution, *muzā'imī* (of the dignities) and *ḥaẓẓawī* (of the shares). Nevertheless, the fact that exactly the same elements are listed in both tables implies that these terms are synonymous in an astrological context and they refer to the astrological elements of the zodiac circle.

The canon (Paragraph [7]) related to the Domain of the Dignities table instructs the reader to write the amounts of the detriment and the fall[18], whereas the canon of the Domain of the Shares table (Paragraph [8]), indicates that the amounts of weakness have to be considered, in spite of the fact that both tables only include

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15. House VI is related to sickness and loss of property and house XII to adversity and tumults according to al-Bīrūnī, *al-Tafhīm*, Ramsay-Wright 1934, 275.

16. House I is related to soul and life and house X to the government and success in business. Al-Bīrūnī, *al-Tafhīm*, Ramsay-Wright 1934, 275.

17. The twelfths of a sign are twelve parts, each of two degrees and a half, which are the result of the division of the sign by twelve. The Hindu decans are the thirds of a sign according to the method of the Hindus. Al-Bīrūnī, *al-Tafhīm*, Ramsay-Wright 1934, 267-268 (twelfths), 263 (Hindu decans).

18. The detriment is the opposite sign to the domicile of the planet and the fall the opposite sign to the exaltation. The detriment and the fall are malefic conditions. Al-Bīrūnī, *al-Tafhīm*, Ramsay-Wright 1934, 257 (detriments), 258 (falls).

amounts of strength. Such indications suggest that Ibn 'Azzūz took a set of tables with similar characteristics to the one described in the canon, but not the original set (see Sections 5.2.1.1.1 and 5.2.1.1.3). Although Ibn 'Azzūz's explanatory text may seem inadequate to us, it was perhaps sufficient at a time in which the astrologers were used to handling this kind of tables and they did not depend on the canon (see the prolonged use of these tables for centuries in Section 5.2.1).

5.2.1.1.3 Natural Domain (T5) and Temporal Domain (T6)

Astrologers considered that a planet is powerful when it is placed in a sign of the same sex[19] as the planet itself. This belief is shown in the small table of Natural Domain, in addition to the sex of the four quadrants[20], which is determined by the circle of the horizon and the circle of the meridian. The female quadrants are positioned from house I to house IV and the opposite quadrant from house VII to house X. The male quadrants are from house IV to house VII and the opposite quadrant from house X to house I.

The Temporal Domain table gathers the conditions necessary so that a planet is in its *ḥalb* when a diurnal planet is above the horizon during the day and below the horizon at night and when a nocturnal planet is above the horizon at night and below the horizon in the daytime[21].

The canon of these tables (Paragraph [11]) states that the amounts of strength and weakness have to be taken into account. The term weakness seems inappropriate, according to the tables (see Sections 5.2.1.1.1 and 5.2.1.1.2).

5.2.1.2 Tables with astronomical considerations

5.2.1.2.1 Solar Domain

Paragraphs [9] and [10] contain the canon of the group of tables named Solar Domain. There are four tables under this designation (see below) that display the motion of the inferior planets, the superior planets, and the Moon in relation to the Sun.

The argument is the distance or longitude difference between the planet and the Sun.

When the planet is placed to the east of the Sun (the longitude of the planet is greater than the Sun's longitude), the longitude of the Sun (λ_s) is subtracted from the longitude of the planet (λ_p). The result is the eastern distance = $\lambda_p - \lambda_s$.

When the planet is placed to the west of the Sun (the longitude of the planet is smaller than the Sun's longitude), the longitude of the planet is subtracted from the longitude of the Sun. The result is the western distance = $\lambda_s - \lambda_p$.

19. Al-Bīrūnī, *al-Tafhīm*, Ramsay-Wright 1934, 234 (male and female planets), 211 (male and female signs).

20. Al-Qabīṣī, *al-Madkhal*, Burnett, Yamamoto and Yano 2004, 48-49 [56].

21. Al-Bīrūnī, *al-Tafhīm*, Ramsay-Wright 1934, 308 (*ḥalb*), 234 (diurnal and nocturnal planets).

5.2.1.2.1.1 Solar Domain of Mercury (T4) and Solar Domain of Venus (T7)

According to the Solar Domain of Venus table, it may be inferred that Ibn 'Azzūz divides the motion of Venus[22] into four stages (see Figure 1).

First : between 0° and 5° in the east, and between 360° and 355° in the west. Venus is powerful in weakness. This condition is related to the conjunction with the Sun.

Second : between 10° and 25° in the east, and between 350° and 335° in the west. Venus is powerful in strength. This state is possibly associated with the planet's separation from the Sun when its visibility increases.

Third : Venus is placed in 30° in the east or in 330° in the west. In these positions, Venus has no power.

Fourth : between 35° and 45° in the east, and between 325° and 315° in the west. Venus is powerful in weakness again. This condition is related to the maximum elongation[23] of Venus from the Sun.

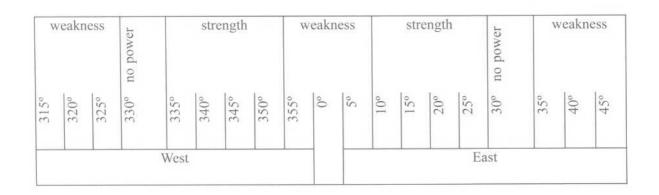| weakness			no power	strength				weakness			strength				no power	weakness		
315°	320°	325°	330°	335°	340°	345°	350°	355°	0°	5°	10°	15°	20°	25°	30°	35°	40°	45°
West									East									

Figure 1.

There are several oversights and copy errors in the Solar Domain of Mercury table.

This table has almost the same distribution of western distance as the table of Venus : Mercury is powerful in weakness in conjunction with the Sun (between 12 signs and 11 signs 5°) ; next, it is powerful in strength (between 11 signs 25° and 11 signs 10°) ; and finally, Mercury is again powerful in weakness in its western maximum elongation (between 11 signs 5° and 11 signs 3°).

Nevertheless, Mercury has no power in the zone of its eastern maximum elongation (between 25° and 27°)[24], which may be due to transmission slips.

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22. For the motion of the inferior planets, see al-Bīrūnī, *al-Tafhīm*, Ramsay-Wright 1934, 62.

23. In the table, Venus reaches its largest elongation at 45°. This longitude does not agree with the value of Ptolemy in the *Almagest* : 47 ;15°. Pedersen 1974, 425-426 ; Neugebauer 1975, 230-234 ; Toomer 1984, 456, 471 ; Samsó 2001, 218-223.

24. According to Ptolemy in the *Almagest*, the largest elongation of Mercury takes place at 23 ;53°. Pedersen 1974, 425-426 ; Neugebauer 1975, 230-234 ; Toomer 1984, 456, 471 ; Samsó 2001, 218-223.

5.2.1.2.1.2 Solar Domain of the planets (T8)

In this table, the power depends on the direction of the superior planets[25] towards the east of the Sun (where the power distribution is similar to that of the inferior planets) or towards the west of the Sun (where weakness clearly predominates).

The four columns on the left display the eastern distance to the Sun. This motion is divided into three stages.

During the first stage, between 0 signs and 10°, the superior planets reach their maximum power in weakness in conjunction with the Sun. This condition then decreases progressively until they reach zero power.

The second stage lasts between 20° and 3 signs 10°. During this stage, the superior planets increase their power in strength to reach their maximum strength in their orientality (2 signs). Afterward, the strength decreases until they reach zero power.

In the third stage, between 4 signs and 6 signs, there is power in weakness as the planets are approaching opposition with the Sun (6 signs), where their weakness is highest (16).

The four columns on the right show the western distance to the Sun. Their characteristic is the weakness of the superior planets during all of their western motion, except when they are placed in 10 signs where they have no power.

5.2.1.2.1.3 Solar Domain of the Moon (T9)

This table is symmetrical. The highest balance of powers (16) happens near to or in the place of the conjunction (0 signs) and the opposition (6 signs) with the Sun. The Moon is powerful in weakness in the conjunction, but it is powerful in strength in the opposition.

5.2.1.3 Structure of the Celestial Positional Domain (T1), Solar Domain of Mercury (T4), Solar Domain of Venus (T7) and Solar Domain of the Planets (T8) tables

In these four tables[26], each planetary degree has a value of strength and another of weakness on a scale from 0 to 16. The correspondence between the amounts of strength and weakness is as follows :

$8 \leftrightarrow 8$; $9 \leftrightarrow 7$; $10 \leftrightarrow 6$; $11 \leftrightarrow 5$; $12 \leftrightarrow 4$; $13 \leftrightarrow 3$; $14 \leftrightarrow 2$; $15 \leftrightarrow 1$; $16 \leftrightarrow 0$.

There are two regular patterns in the aforementioned correspondence :

a) The increase or the distance at power 8, the starting point, which follows an arithmetical progression of ratio one : 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8.

b) The difference between strength and weakness, which follows an arithmetical progression of ratio two : 0, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16.

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25. For the motion of the superior planets, see al-Bīrūnī, al-Tafhīm, Ramsay-Wright 1934, 62.
26. In the table of the Moon, there is no constant formation between the numbers.

In the starting point (the mean value of the scale), the strength and weakness are equal. From here, while the power increases progressively in 1, the difference between strength and weakness doubles. The increase is directly proportional to the difference between strength and weakness : the greater the increase, the bigger the difference.

In order to know the weakness of a strength, double its distance to the starting point is subtracted from the value of the strength. For instance, since strength 10 is 2 points away from the starting point (= 10 − 8) and double 2 is 4, then strength 10 has a weakness of 6 (= 10 − 4).

Thus, Ibn 'Azzūz made use of the mathematical relationship among several quantities as a practical procedure in his craft. This kind of technique was applied in the field of astrology to ease the task of examining the celestial elements. This was the aim of other medieval scholars like Ramón Llull[27] (*ca.* 1233-*ca.* 1315), who gave simple rules in his *De Nova Astronomia* to find the predominant planet in an astrological situation. In addition, one should remember that there are certain similarities between Ibn 'Azzūz's technique to establish the Ruler Planet and al-Kindī's[28] (Kūfa, *ca.* 801, Baghdad, *ca.* 870) method to determine the intensity (*quwā*) of a drug in his pharmacological work. According to al-Kindī, the efficacy of a drug compound by a pair of qualities (hot-cold, and dry-moist) increases in an arithmetical progression (1, 2, 3, 4) if its main quality is increased in geometrical progression (2, 4, 8, 16). Thus, a drug is hot in the 1st degree when its composition is 2 hot parts to 1 cold ; hot in the 2nd degree when its composition is 4 hot parts to 1 cold ; hot in the 3rd degree when its composition is 8 hot parts to 1 cold, and finally, hot in the 4th degree when its composition is 16 hot parts to 1 cold.

6. Concluding remarks

The Ruler Planet is an alternative astrological indicator. This generic definition is the only characteristic of its Ptolemaic origin that remains in Islamic astrology. Yet the consecutive modifications that led to Ibn 'Azzūz's ensemble of tables is unknown. Perhaps this is why the traits of the Ruler Planet seem inconsistent among the astrologers.

In the Islamic West, the sets of tables of strength and weakness were already known in the first quarter of the twelfth century. Their main feature is the use of mathematical proportions to solve astrological issues, which reflects the popularization of astrological material for a general kind of astrologers.

27. Samsó 1981-1983 (reprinted 2008), 214-216.

28. McVaugh 1975 ; Samsó 1992, 118-120, 275-277, (reprinted 2011) ; Atiyeh 2008, vol. 1, 138-140 ; Forcada 1999, 68-70 ; Jolivet and Rashed 1978, 265 ; Stéphan 2002.

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[T1]							
al-ḥayyiz al-waḍʿī al-falakī							
		1°	5°	10°	15°	20°	25°	30°
I	Strengths	15	14ᵃ	13	12	11	10	9
	Weakness	1	2	3	4	5	6	7ᵇ
II	Strengths	8	7	6	5	4	3	2
	Weakness	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
III	Strengths	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
	Weakness	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
IV	Strengths	11	10	9	8	7	6	5
	Weakness	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
V	Strengths	10	9	8	7	6	5	4
	Weakness	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
VI	Strengths	5	4	3	2	1	0	0
	Weakness	11	12	13	14	15	16	16
VII	Strengths	13	12	11	10	9	8	7
	Weakness	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
VIII	Strengths	9	8	7	6	5	4	3
	Weakness	7	8	9	10	11ᶜ	12	13
IX	Strengths	12	11	10	9	8	7	6
	Weakness	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
X	Strengths	16	15	14	13	12	11	10
	Weakness	0	1	2	3	4	5	6
XI	Strengths	14	13	12	11	10	9	8
	Weakness	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
XII	Strengths	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
	Weakness	10	11	12	13	14	15	16

a. 16 in the ms.
b. 5 in the ms.
c. 10 in the ms.

[T2]		[T3]	
al-ḥayyiz al-muzāʿimī	Strengths	*al-ḥayyiz al-ḥazzawī*	Strengths
the luminaries are in :		the planet is in :	
the first triplicity	36	its domicile	36
the second triplicity	30	its exaltation	30
the third triplicity	20	the first triplicity	20
their domiciles	12	the second triplicity	12
their exaltations	10	the third triplicity	10
their terms	6ᵃ	its term	6
their twelfth	4	its twelfth	4
their Hindu decans	3	its Hindu decan	3
their decans	2	its decan	2

a. In the ms, the term and its mark of strength are in the last row.

[T4]						
al-ḥayyiz al-shamsī li-ʿUṭārid						
Eastern distance		Amounts of strengths	Amounts of weakness	Western distance		Amounts of strengths	Amounts of weakness
signs	degrees						
00	00	0	16	12^d	[00]	0	16
00	03	4	12	11	[27]	5	11
00	05	6	10	11	[25]	10	6
00	10	10	6	11	[20]	12	4
00	15	16	0^b	11	[15]	14	2
00	20	12^a	4^c	11	[10]	10	6^f
00	25	8	8	11	05^e	5	11^g
00	27	8	8	11	[03]	0	16

[T5]		[T6]	
al-ḥayyiz al-ṭabīʿī		al-ḥayyiz al-zamānī	
	Strengths		Strengths
Male planet :		Diurnal planet :	
in a male quadrant	8	above the horizon in the day	8
in a male sign	8	below the horizon at night	6
Female planet :		Nocturnal planet	
in a female quadrant	6	Above the horizon at night	8
in a female sign	6	Below the horizon in the day	6

a. 27 in the ms.

b. 16 in the ms.

c. 14 in the ms.

d. 11 in the ms.

e. 3 in the ms.

f. 5 in the ms.

g. 10 in the ms.

[T7]							
al-ḥayyiz al-shamsī li-l-Zuhra							
Signs	Degrees	Strengths [Force]	Strengths [Weakness]	Signs	Degrees	Strengths [Force]	Strengths [Weakness]
0	00	1	15	11	29	1	15
0	03	3	13	11	27	2	14
0	05	6	10	11	25	6	10
0	10	12	4	11	20	10	6
0	15	16	0	11	15	15	1
0	20	12	4	11	10	12	4
0	25	10	6	11	05	10	6
1	00	8	8	10	00	8	8
1	05	6	10	10	25	6	10
1	10	4	12	10	20	4	12
1	15	1	15	10	15	1	15
Eastern distance		Strengths	Strengths	Western distance		Strengths	Strengths

				[T8]			

				al-ḥayyiz al-shamsī li-l-kawākib			
Signs	Degrees	Strengths [Force]	Strengths [Weakness]	Signs	Degrees	Strengths [Force]	Strengths [Weakness]
0	00	1	15	11	29	1	15
0	03	2	14	11	27	1	15[a]
0	05	4	12	11	25	2	14[b]
0	10	7	9	11	20	3	13
0	15	8	8	11	15	3	13
0	20	9	7	11	10	4	12
0	25	10	6	11	05	4	12
1	00	11	5	11	00	5	11
1	05	12	4	10	25	5	11
1	10	13	3	10	20	6	10
1	15	14	2	10	15	6	10
1	20	14	2	10	10	7	9
1	25	15	1	10	05	7	9
2	00	16	0	10	00	8	8
2	10	15	1	9	20	7	9
2	20	14	2	9	10	6	10
3	00	12	4	9	00	5	11
3	10	10	6	8	20	4	12[c]
3	20	8	8	8	10	4	12
4	00	7	9	8	00	3	13
4	10	6	10	7	20	3	13
4	20	[4]	12	7	10	2	14
5	00	3	13	7	00	2	14
5	10	2	14	6	20	2	14
5	20	1	15	6	10	1	15
6	00	0	16	6	00	0	16

a. 16 in the ms.

b. 17 in the ms.

c. 11 in the ms.

[T9]					
al-ḥayyiz al-shamsī li-l-Qamar					
Eastern distance		Western distance		Amounts of strengh	Amounts of weakness
signs	degrees	signs	degrees		
0	00	12[a]	00	0	16
0	10	12	20	0	15
0	20	12	10	1	13
1	00	11	00	2	12
1	10	11	20	3	11
1	20	11	10	4	11
2	00	10	00	5	10
2	10	10	20	6	10
2	20	10	10	7	7
3	00	09	00	10	6
3	10	09	20	10	5
3	20	09	10	10	4
4	00	08	00	11	3
4	10	08	20	12	1
4	20	08	10	13	1
5	00	07	00	14	0
5	10	07	20	16	0
5	20	07	10	16	0
6	00	06	00	16	0

a. 11 in the ms.