

Prime Number Harmonics 17 and Higher

by David Cochrane

ABSTRACT

The charts of people who are strongest in harmonics 1 to 32 were analyzed to see if there were consistent themes in these charts. To select people who are strongest in a harmonic, 2,885 charts with a Rodden accuracy rating of A or AA were analyzed to see how many four-planet combinations of a harmonic occurred. The charts with the most four planet combinations in a harmonic and at least a few paragraphs of information about the person could be found at www.wikipedia.com and other websites, were selected as strongest in the harmonic. By using this procedure, selection bias or “cherry picking” was almost completely removed. Meanings for each of the harmonics from 1 to 32 are proposed. Subjectivity and bias in interpretation is still a major concern, but less than in typical astrological studies which do not control for selection bias of the birth charts that are included in the study.

RESEARCH RESULTS

The assumed meanings of the first 16 harmonics were generally confirmed, with two new insights that make the interpretation of two of the harmonics more specific:

(1) the fifth harmonic was not found to be consistently inclined to creative expression but was consistently found to be consistently associated with a fascination and a playful enjoyment of curved, non-linear, or lively forms and expressions.

(2) The ninth harmonic was not consistently healing, supportive, and nurturing, but was found to be consistently associated with a need to feel included in a larger group, family, social group, or system. Tentative meanings of harmonics 17 and 19 were confirmed.

The five prime number harmonics between 17 and 32 were identified as being the “re-configuration harmonics”. Just as we can draw many different patterns out of a large number of points placed on a piece of paper, these harmonics are inclined to restructure or re-configure situations. These harmonics share an inclination to have an interest in re-scripting and re-organizing the elements or components of a situation into a new story line or configuration.

- The **17th harmonic** inclines to experience different life scripts and thus is inclined to theatre and literature.
- The **19th harmonic** is similar but somewhat more cerebral and more inclined to literature.
- The **23rd harmonic** likes to try out unusual or novel configurations.
- The **29th harmonic** seeks out an understanding of alternative paradigms and often inclines towards a constructive and positive view of believing that there are options that can improve a situation.
- The **31st harmonic** inclines towards a kind of longing for a more comprehensive and unifying paradigm and a keen awareness of the limitations, weaknesses, and alluring but inadequate simplicity of systems that others are content with.

All of the above harmonics are somewhat impersonal in the sense that they have little to do with personal and immediate needs but rather are concerned with stories of our lives and how these stories can be re-configured or lived out in various ways.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In harmonic astrology an aspect is viewed as a fraction of a circle. For example, a square aspect is viewed as a $1/4$ aspect. Aspects with the same denominator are assigned a similar, but not identical, astrological significance. For example, the $1/8$ (semisquare) and $3/8$ (sesquiquadrate) aspect are regarded as having a similar significance (motivating, challenging). The denominator is often referred to as the “harmonic”. The meaning of the harmonic is often

determined to be primarily a combination of the factors of the harmonic number. For example, the meaning of the 21st harmonic is a combination of 7 (various interpretations have been given to 7th harmonic aspects by different astrologers) and 3 (smoothness, facility, ease). Thus, prime number harmonics are of fundamental importance as the “building blocks” of other harmonics.

There are five prime numbers between 16 and 32: 17, 19, 23, 29, and 31. There is very little literature regarding the possible astrological significance of these harmonics and many astrologers believe that harmonics other than 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 (conjunction, opposition, trine, square, and sextile) are minor aspects and can be ignored in most astrological interpretations. Nevertheless, using a theoretical framework of harmonics, an investigation into the possible meaning of these five harmonics was conducted.

One goal of the study was to determine whether the meanings of the first 16 harmonics which I have used for about 30 years would be confirmed. As noted in the Abstract above, two points of clarification were discovered through this research. Also, I had tentative interpretations for the 17th and 19th harmonics and no hypotheses regarding astrological significance of harmonics 23, 29, and 31. As described in the section “Meanings of Harmonics 1 to 32” above, clear and consistent themes appeared to emerge regarding the meaning of these harmonics and a brief summary of these meanings is given above.

STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES OF THIS STUDY

This study is a qualitative study; the charts were not assigned numerical values to measure traits and the results were not analyzed with statistical tests. The great strength of this study is that the observations are based on birth charts which were selected based on computer-generated criteria for strong harmonics which fits well with an intuitive sense of what a strong harmonic in a birth chart is. The vast majority of evidence to support an astrological theory is gathered from clients, friends and family, and celebrities, and is heavily prone to selection bias by the astrologer. For example, in an analysis I conducted recently, it was found that many of the people with the strongest emphasis of each zodiac sign did not obviously conform to the usual descriptions of the zodiac signs. The strongest Aquarian is a country singer, the strongest Scorpion is a comedian, the strongest Libran is a volatile and half-mad poet, etc. A study like this reveals that zodiac signs work in a more subtle or psychological way and/or our interpretation of zodiac signs is incorrect. If the astrological language does not consist of arbitrary rules and the significance attached to astrological variables is presumed to actually exist, then removing “cherry picking” is an extremely powerful step in assisting astrologers in improving the understanding.

A weakness of this study in terms of the observations and conclusions being accurate is the small sample size and the subjectivity of the analysis. A total of 92 charts were analyzed for the 32 harmonics, or a little less than an average of 3 charts per harmonic. However, these 92 charts represent extreme cases where the astrological variable being evaluated is extraordinarily strong for each of these people. Also, this is a qualitative research study that depends on the ability of the researcher to be sensitive and perceptive as well as sufficiently detached and objective to detect unintentional tendencies to filter perception in such a way that it distorts information to fit a preconceived theory or expectation. This is a problem in most astrological analysis.

Lastly, the theoretical framework of harmonics is not the preferred theoretical framework of most astrologers. For example, this is one of the few lectures at this conference that uses this theoretical framework, and some astrologers are highly skeptical of this framework as one that can provide information of lasting and important value.

- **FREE E-BOOK: *The First 32 Harmonics*: <http://www.astrosoftware.com/harmonicfirst32.pdf>**

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