

The Developmental Age Method

Tracking the Sands of Time

By Glenn Perry

Abstract: The Developmental Age Method is a lifespan developmental model mapping houses to specific life stages. Whereas planets in houses signal when that planetary process will be most acute, aspects show diachronistic connections between planetary age points.

Evidence suggests that the zodiac not only symbolizes the structure and dynamics of the psyche but also the evolutionary unfoldment of consciousness. The sequence of zodiacal signs exactly parallels the stages of the human life cycle with each sign signifying a developmental phase of specific quality and duration. And because houses are based on the same angular dynamics as the signs to which they correspond, they also represent the same 12-stage process.

Client work over the past forty years has led me to conclude that planetary house positions specify types of experiences that occur within the period symbolized by the tenanted house. The Developmental Age Method (DAM) provides a means for precisely determining these planetary age points.

The DAM is a lifespan developmental model that allows one to determine the significance of planetary positions at specific life-stages. Whereas the zodiac shows the generic unfolding of consciousness, planets in houses reveal the native's actual experience during specific periods.

In effect, planets signify both where (house) and when (age) that planetary process will be most acute. A planet's sign and aspects further clarify the meaning of events that occur during the period it signifies. And finally, there is likely to be a meaningful coincidence between events from different developmental stages that are expressions of the same planetary aspect, a fascinating phenomenon called *diachronicity*.

The DAM Hypothesis

Unlike conventional predictive methods, the DAM is not derived from actual or symbolic planetary movements. Rather, it is based on evidence that signs and their associated houses correspond to developmental stages in the human life cycle. The basis of the theory is observational and grounded in actual

studies by pioneers in the field of developmental psychology. My essential hypothesis is that the meanings of sign archetypes are consistent with predominant concerns that emerge at their corollary phases of life. It follows that the native's actual experience during a house-stage is symbolized by the position of planets within that house.

In this introduction, I refer to both sign-stages and house-stages, which overlap in meaning. A sign-stage is generic and refers to the meaning and duration of developmental stages signified by zodiacal signs. In contrast, a house-stage is personal; it refers to the same 12-stage model but does so in the context of an individual birth chart wherein planets reside in specific houses, which gives a personalized meaning to those developmental stages. Whenever the term sign-stage is used, it should be understood as inclusive of its corresponding house-stage.

Each sign-stage comprises a period one year longer in duration than the stage that precedes it. Since Aries signifies the first two years of life, Taurus would be the next three years, Gemini the following four years, and continuing through to the Pisces period of 13 years (see Figure 1, next page). Note each stage is one year longer in real time than the number that sign represents; thus, Leo as the 5th sign is six years of duration, Virgo as the 6th sign is 7 years duration, and so on.

Again, this is not based on any actual or symbolic movement of planets. Rather it is derived from the simple observation that signs and their associated houses correspond to the predominant concerns and developmental tasks of specific periods of life. The sign Scorpio, for example, is consistent with the psychology of the midlife crisis (35-44), and Capricorn is synonymous with the period of maximum achievement and authority (54-65).

The Question of House System

This method has been tested and confirmed with the Placidus house system. Since it was designed for Placidus, it is unlikely to work with other house systems – or, at least not as well. The reason is that each house system differs slightly with regard to the number of degrees a house entails and thus where a planet would be located within that house. In saying this, I’m not arguing that Placidus is more accurate than other house systems. It is simply the house system on which the method is based.

Ages corresponding to a period should be read as ‘from’ and ‘to’; thus, Leo is from age 14 to age 20; Virgo is from age 20 to age 27; Libra 27-35, Scorpio 35-44, and so on. Signs and houses are associated with the following developmental stages.

Sign/House	Age	Duration
Aries/1st	0-2	2 years
Taurus/2nd	2-5	3 years
Gemini/3rd	5-9	4 years
Cancer/4th	9-14	5 years
Leo/5th	14-20	6 years
Virgo/6th	20-27	7 years
Libra/7th	27-35	8 years
Scorpio/8th	35-44	9 years
Sagittarius/9th	44-54	10 years
Capricorn/10th	54-65	11 years
Aquarius/11th	65-77	12 years
Pisces/12th	77-90	13 years

Figure 1: Sign/House Periods

Again, the meaning and duration of signs/houses are consistent with maturational stages based on empirical research in the field of developmental psychology, including but not limited to the work of Piaget, Erikson, and Kohlberg.

Time Accelerates, Consciousness Expands

The fact that each stage is one year longer in real time than the stage before is significant. While it is not entirely clear why sign-stages increase in real time as human beings move forward in life, it appears to be related to the observation that time accelerates as we age. That is, our subjective experience of time is that each year seems to go by quicker than the one before. There are reasons for this, which will be discussed separately in a subsequent article.

Virtually all developmental stage models hold that each new stage signifies an increase in awareness over previous stages. This is due to each sign-stage transcending but including the developmental achievements of its antecedent stages. “Transcend but include” is the fundamental principle. In this way, consciousness incrementally expands and deepens throughout the life cycle.

Coincident with growth is the subjective sense that time is accelerating. Again, this appears to be a well-established, universal experience. With each new stage, there is a widening and deepening of awareness accompanied by a quickening of time. The older we are, the more we see, and the faster time passes.

While each sign has its own unique perspective in time and space, the zodiac can be divided into three general strata: **Personal**—Aries through Cancer, **Social**—Leo through Scorpio, and **Universal**—Sagittarius through Pisces. These three segments of the zodiac are called “perspective” (or “orientation”). Perspective implies a viewpoint in time and space. Earlier signs experience space as comparatively contracted and time as relatively slow; later signs view space as increasingly expanded, and time as progressively accelerating.

It follows that our subjective experience of sign-stage lengths may be equal despite the dilation of sign-stages in objective time as we progress through life. So, for example, if the Sagittarius stage (44-54) comprises a ten-year period, and Cancer (9-14) a five-year period, then a year seems to go by twice as fast at 50 as it did at 10 (See Figure 2, next page).

Testing the Hypothesis

The validity of a zodiacal stage-model can be tested based on whether the meaning of a sign is consistent with the predominant concerns and activities of the life-stage it allegedly signifies. For example, if developing a job skill, making oneself useful, and entering the work force is the predominant concern from 20 to 27, is this concern consistent with the meaning of Virgo? Is focus on social skills, networking, marriage, and partnership consistent with the Libra period of 27 to 35? If evidence consistently supports the hypothesis that sign meanings conform to the predominant concerns of corollary developmental stages, then a persuasive argument can be made in favor of a zodiacal developmental stage model.

<i>Stage</i>	<i>Basic Need/Maturational Capacity</i>	<i>Age</i>	<i>Duration</i>
<i>Pisces/12th</i>	Transcendence, unity/Capacity for compassion, surrender	77–90	13 yrs. +
<i>Aquarius/11th</i>	Awakening, liberation/Capacity for altruism, change, progress	65–77	12 yrs.
<i>Capricorn/10th</i>	Success, structure, mastery/Capacity for authority, expertise	54–65	11 yrs.
<i>Sagittarius/9th</i>	Truth, meaning, justice/Capacity for faith, expansion	44–54	10 yrs.
<i>Scorpio/8th</i>	Transformation, renewal/Capacity to integrate, regenerate	35–44	9 yrs.
<i>Libra/7th</i>	Partnership, harmony/Capacity to relate, cooperate, balance	27–35	8 yrs.
<i>Virgo/6th</i>	Efficiency, competence/Capacity to work, serve	20–27	7 yrs.
<i>Leo/5th</i>	Identity, self-esteem/Capacity to play, create, express	14–20	6 yrs.
<i>Cancer/4th</i>	Nurturing, belonging, closeness/Capacity to feel, reflect, care	9–14	5 yrs.
<i>Gemini/3rd</i>	Information, knowledge/Capacity to learn, communicate	5–9	4 yrs.
<i>Taurus/2nd</i>	Constancy, safety, stability/Capacity to have, pleasure	2–5	3 yrs.
<i>Aries/1st</i>	Survival, freedom/Capacity to move, do, assert	0–2	2 yrs.

©Glenn Perry

Figure 2: A Zodiacal Developmental Stage Model

Every sign and its corollary house represents a developmental stage with the task of awakening a specific maturational capacity. As new emotional, cognitive, and behavioral abilities emerge at each phase, there is a logical progression from relatively simple functions to more complex. This is reflected in each stage being one year longer than the prior stage and progressively wider in its perspective. Yet, because there is a natural acceleration of subjective time as we age, each stage is experienced as constituting equal time. Just as a zodiac sign corresponds to a specific 30-day time-space phase of Earth's orbit about the Sun, so each sign-stage experiences time and space differently, which, in turn, is reflected in its point of view, or *perspective*. At earlier stages, vision is relatively narrow, and time moves slowly; at later stages, time seems to accelerate and, concomitantly, vision broadens. As consciousness expands, our subjective perception of time and space changes with it. That is, we see more broadly and can process greater informational complexity over time.

There is plethora of evidence that the zodiac itself is a developmental stage model. So consistent are the correlations that one could almost say that the truth of the model is self-evident. The sign Virgo, for instance, is clearly associated with the need to be of service, to be competent, efficient, useful, and so on, all of which come to the fore when an individual is preparing to enter the work force in a fully committed way from 20 through 26. During this period, he or she is apt to be attending college or vocational school in preparation for a specific job/career, or receiving on-the-job training (apprenticeship) to develop the requisite skills for a vocation. This is precisely what occurs during the Virgo period of 20-27, after which the importance of marriage and partnership (Libra) assumes a predominating significance.

If signs conform to developmental stages, then it follows that their associated houses do, too. Deriving from this is the hypothesis that planets in specific house positions may correspond to critical events that occur during the ages those planets signify in those houses. Like a slow-moving transit, a planetary period seems to encompass approximately one to two years. That is, for any planet in a house, its time of significance is a one to two-year window during which the planetary effect increases as the native moves closer to the exact date and decreases as s/he moves away.

In assessing whether experience conforms to a planetary position, it is important to look at the overall quality of the period rather than trying to find a singular event, though such an event may, in fact, encapsulate the quality of the time. For example, if the 3rd house corresponds to ages 5 to 9 when children begin school to learn reading and writing, then what might be the significance of Saturn in the middle of this house? If the native reports they had learning experiences (3rd house) of a Saturnian nature at age 6-7, this would constitute evidence in support of the hypothesis.

Perhaps, for example, the person was deprived of an education, or it was delayed, or overly strict, or stressful due to circumstances beyond their control, or maybe they demonstrated superior academic focus and skill. We might surmise such Saturnian experiences had an enduring psychological impact vis-a-vis the individual's capacity to learn and communicate. If the person's actual experience confirms this, then it supports the hypothesis. I have consistently seen this type of confirmation over the twenty or so years that I have been testing the model.

Of course, it could be argued that a planet's energy will be continuously active in the affairs of the house it tenants regardless of the native's age. Thus, for example, Saturn in the 3rd would correspond to Saturn-like experiences vis-à-vis learning and communication not only at age 6-7 but throughout the life. However, it has been my experience that during the actual house-stage that corresponds to a planetary position, the planet will assume a **predominating significance** for a 1-2-year period within that stage. Pivotal events are likely to occur that are strikingly consistent with the meaning of the planetary position.

The Huber Age Point Method

While in some ways the Developmental Age Method parallels the Age Point Method developed by Bruno and Louise Huber in Switzerland, it is very different, too, especially regarding the length and meaning of stages as symbolized by houses. For example, the Hubers assigned a duration of 6 years to each of 12 house-stages. Conversely in the DAM, each house constitutes a duration one year longer than the previous house, starting with a two-year period for the 1st house, three years for the 2nd house, and so on.

Work on the DAM evolved on a completely independent track from the Hubers and is supported by actual research from developmental psychology. So far as I can discern, the Huber Method was created without any support or connection to developmental stage theories, such as those associated with Piaget, Erikson, Kohlberg, and others (see Figure 3, next page). The same can be said for other house-stage theories in astrology, such as the A.T Mann method.¹ In contrast, the DAM is entirely consistent with major developmental theories while also offering a means for discerning individual life experiences during distinct stages.

Some Rules for Interpretation

Planetary age markers seem to be **pivotal turning points** in which a planet assumes a predominating significance that encapsulates its general meaning in the life. Again, the planet's sign, house, and aspects are felt acutely over an approximately one to two-year period. A planetary age represents a momentous time wherein events occur that catapult the life forward as a consequence of what the native experiences and learns vis-à-vis that planet at that time. It may be experienced as:

90					
77	Pisces	Formal Operations (12 - indefinite)	Ego Integrity vs. Despair (65-Death)	Level III: Postconventional Stage 6 Universal Principles (65 – 90)	
65	Aquarius		Generativity vs. Stagnation (40-65)	Level III: Postconventional Stage 5 Social Contract and Individual Rights (44 – 65)	
54	Capricorn				
44	Sagittarius		Intimacy vs. Isolation (19-40)	Level II: Conventional Stage 4 Maintaining Social Order (27 – 44)	
35	Scorpio				
27	Libra			Level II: Conventional Stage 3 Interpersonal Relationships (14 – 27)	
20	Virgo				
14	Leo		Identity vs. Role Confusion (12-19)	Level I: Preconventional Stage 2 Individualism and Exchange (5 – 14)	
9	Cancer		Concrete Operations (6-12)		Industry vs. Inferiority (6-12)
5	Gemini		Preoperational (2-6)		
2	Taurus			Autonomy vs. Shame/Doubt (18 months – 3)	Level I: Preconventional Stage 1 Obedience and Punishment (0 – 5)
0	Aries		Sensorimotor	Trust vs. Mistrust (Birth -18 months)	
Age	Zodiac Model	Piaget	Erikson	Kohlberg	

Figure 3: Zodiac Ages in Comparison to Piaget, Erikson, and Kohlberg Models

- A developmental crisis
- A turning point; pivotal life experience
- Life changing events; memorable times

People in the native's life symbolized by a planetary configuration may serve as **catalysts** during the period that the planet signifies. Whether old or new

relations, these people are apt to change the native's life in a way consistent with the configuration. Generally, such people constitute a blending of the characters associated with the house-planet combination.

For example, if the 2nd house signifies figures of attachment, and Neptune is associated with victims and perpetrators, then Neptune in the middle of the

2nd house (age 3-4) may correlate to an amalgamation of Neptunian and 2nd house figures. For example, during the period of 3-4, an object of attachment—parent, sibling, or beloved grandparent—may become ill, go away, or in some other manner be associated with loss, grief, or tragedy. It may feel as if the ground of one's life has dissolved, the bottom falls out, familiar surroundings and sources of comfort must be relinquished, and so on. Of course, there are other possibilities, too, depending on Neptune's sign and aspects, and these will be equally consistent with the range of potentials symbolized by Neptune in the 2nd.

A planet's sign, house, and aspects should be evaluated to assess its meaning at that developmental period. For example, if Mars Scorpio in the 4th at age 11 is under stress from hard aspects, we can hypothesize that there was a significant incident or experiential pattern involving violence, aggression, or an accident that was relevant to the native's relationship with his family at that time. This may be something the native did, or that happened *to* the native, or both. Perhaps there was a significant event involving a 4th house character, such as the mother. Mars Scorpio in the 4th opposing Pluto in the 10th could indicate a divorce resulting from abuse of the mother (4th house) by a Plutonic father (10th house). This, in turn, might have been traumatic to the native.

Saturn Taurus in the 1st might correlate to experiences of severe restraint during the first year of life, as it did for a client of mine who was born with club feet (*talipes*) and had to wear heavy leg braces that impeded his movement (see Figure 3, this page). Shortly

after his first birthday, doctors decided to put his legs in restraints to straighten them out and force them to grow properly. As a result, he was unable to crawl or move the way a year-old baby normally would. Saturnian limits, restraints, and controls imposed by medical authorities were literally preventing him from *moving* and *exploring*, which would otherwise be normal and proper activities of the Aries /1st house stage. The metal braces on his legs remained for six months, precisely at the heart of his Saturn period. As a one-year-old, he had no understanding of the reason for the restraints, only that they were forced upon him against his will. Note below that Saturn (authority) opposes his Sun (will) and also opposes his Jupiter, Venus, and Mercury.

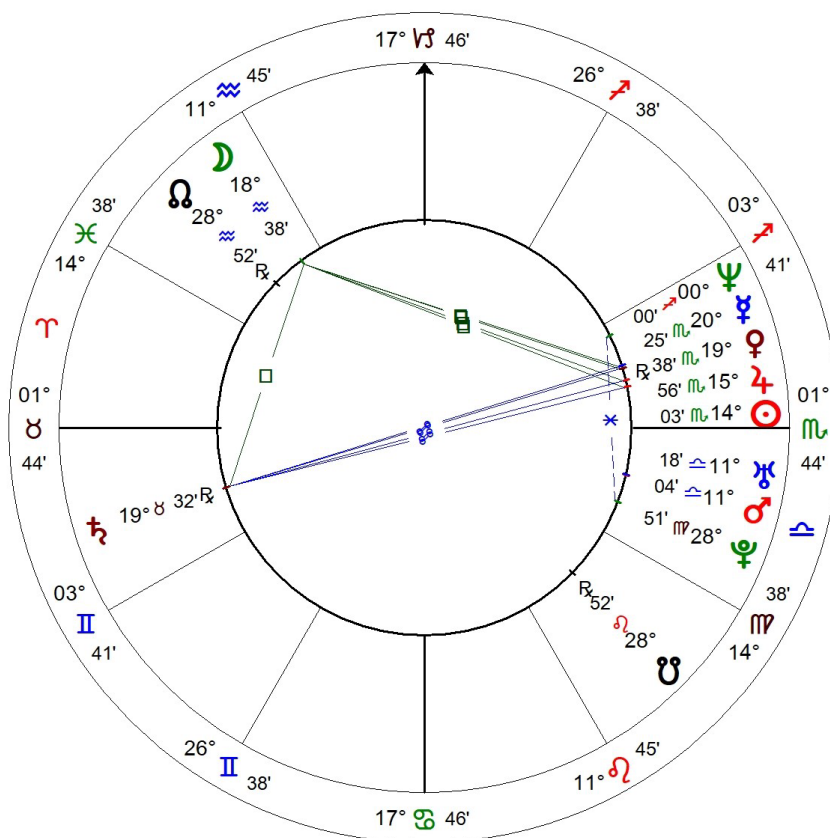


Figure 4: Bonds Trader at International Investment Bank

Saturn continued to be an issue for him during his adult life—fear of being controlled, dominated, thwarted, overpowered, and the like. This fear compelled him to compensate in the opposite direction, resulting in a life of extraordinary achievement. Saturn Taurus in the 1st opposes a tight Scorpio stellium of Sun, Jupiter, Venus and Mercury in the 7th, which correlates to ages 30-32. This was a period during which he became an “equal partner” as a bonds broker at a giant investment bank and ultimately emerged as team leader spearheading contentious

negotiations with management who were hoarding compensation and withholding payment for services rendered. Taurus-Scorpio is the financial realm—*my* money (Taurus) and *our* money (Scorpio).

Starting with his Sun at age 30, a two-year legal struggle ensued that recapitulated the struggle he experienced at age 1 (Saturn period) when his freedom to assert himself was restrained by an intrusive, overbearing authority (Saturn). Now, at age 30, an overbearing authority was again imposing controls and preventing the *movement* of funds that had been legitimately earned. By owning his capacity for Saturn/authority and successfully taking control of the situation, he was able to make substantive progress in healing his Saturn wounds from infancy. He enjoyed a personal triumph that enriched his self-esteem (Sun), deepened his faith in justice (Jupiter), and matured his capacity for partnership and negotiation (Venus). Overall, he felt empowered personally and financially to move his life forward.

Note that the signs Taurus-Scorpio initially corresponded to his body (Taurus) being in Saturnian restraints due to a medical (Scorpio) condition that impeded his movement (1st). Later, these same signs corresponded to the financial world in which he worked. Sun in the 7th is consistent with his equal partnership with fellow brokers, and the opposition correlates to negotiations in which he demonstrated extraordinary skill. Sun conjunct Jupiter-Venus seems to conform to the legal (Jupiter) battle that he and his partners (Venus) waged against management (Saturn). Having won the lawsuit by the end of age-32, he became extraordinarily wealthy.

That this turning point occurred precisely at the age signified by his Scorpio stellium (30-32), and that it was analogous to what he experienced during his Saturn Taurus period of 6-18 months, is testament to how the DAM can provide a developmental context for interpreting natal configurations of key significance. Connections like these, which link different life stages, illustrate how later periods provide an opportunity to redo and resolve earlier traumas that belong to the same aspect.

Planetary Signs and House Significators

The sign positions of planets should be interpreted in the same way one would interpret them natally; that is, as qualifiers of planetary energy. The only difference is that the significance of the planet-sign combination is most salient during the age the planet represents in that house.

As a case in point, I have Saturn in Virgo in the 5th. While this constitutes a life-long pattern, its purpose and meaning were especially acute during the period surrounding age 17. At that time, it manifested as a serious, ambitious (Saturn) striving to perfect a technique (Virgo) in playing sports (5th house), which pertained to my aspirations as an athlete during this period of my life. In high school, I threw the javelin in track and field, an event that required precision timing and perfect technique for superior results. During this period, I set state and national records, yet also sustained a broken bone (Saturn) in my hand that ultimately frustrated my ambitions, as might be consistent with Saturn.

While signs are generically related to developmental stages, it is unclear whether they have significance developmentally in the locations they reside in the natal chart. While the general traits of any sign are consistent with the life-stage they signify, this is not the same as correlating to actual events that occur during that stage. If Aries is on the cusp of the 10th house, for example, it does not mean that from birth to two years the individual is going to be preoccupied with 10th house concerns. However, it does mean that the impulsivity, spontaneity, and natural aggression of infancy—along with other Aries traits and values—will be implicit in one's approach to 10th house matters over the course of the life. This will be especially apparent during the period Aries occupies within the 10th house. If the 15th degree of Aries is on the cusp of the 10th, then approximately the 2nd half of the 9th house and first half of the 10th will be colored by Aries, or approximately age 49 to 60. Perhaps the person gives birth (Aries) to a theory (9th) or starts a new career (10th) during this time.

Preliminary research suggests that if there are no planets in a house, then the house significator should be examined by sign, house, and aspect. In one typical case, a young man had Aries on the 5th house cusp but with no planets in the 5th. Yet, at age 16 (5th house stage), he experienced a life changing sports injury that impacted his aspirations to be a professional baseball player. His Mars, which signified the 5th, was in Libra in the 10th and corresponded to age 58. Significantly, it was the focal point of a T-Square involving Uranus-Neptune in the 2nd opposing Moon in the 8th. This configuration seemed to reflect the nature of the key, life-changing event (a sports injury) that occurred during the period that Aries symbolized in his 5th house. The injury did not impact his current profession, for he had none (he was only 16),

but it impacted his *future* career in that he was forced to relinquish his dream of becoming a professional baseball player. We might expect the impact of that event to be echoed in some way when he reaches his actual Mars age of 58 during his 10th house stage.

Aspects and Diachronicity

Diachronicity entails a meaningful coincidence between events from different developmental stages that are expressions of the same planetary aspect.² If a planet in one stage forms a significant aspect to a planet at a different stage, then those two stages are apt to be connected in a diachronic way. That is, an event in the earlier stage may form the basis for an analogous experience in the latter stage, since the same aspect unites the two periods of time. For example, if Pluto in Libra in the 2nd squares Venus Capricorn in the 5th, then traumatic events that might have occurred during the 2nd house period could be re-activated during adolescence (5th house stage).

Recall the chart of the bonds broker (Figure 4) who had restraints placed on his legs by medical authorities at age 1, which correlated to Saturn Taurus in the 1st opposing a Scorpio stellium in the 7th. Leg restraints meant that movement was retarded; he was being slowed, held back, restrained. Precisely when he reached the age of his Scorpio stellium (30-32), he underwent a profound transformation that empowered him to confront and negotiate a multimillion-dollar settlement with authorities (Saturn) who had been hoarding and withholding (Taurus) compensation for services rendered. Even the word “settlement” has Taurean connotations. This illustrates how repetition of the aspect at the later stage provides an opportunity for resolution of issues that had their inception in the earlier period. The earlier event is not only analogous to the later event but may be preparatory for what will ultimately be required when the individual reaches the later stage—in this case, patience, forbearance, and perseverance. The earlier period, in effect, is a window through which the native’s future can be glimpsed.

Diachronic patterns show meaningful relationships between events from different life-stages. Similar to synchronicity, analogous events that derive from the aspect have the same or similar meaning. However, unlike synchronicity, these events are not occurring simultaneously between inner and outer; rather, there is a historical and archetypal connection across time. For example, traumatic experiences from

an earlier developmental period are recreated at a later stage to be solved by virtue of the higher-level, later-stage perspective.

Determining Planetary Ages

At my request, the DAM formula for determining planetary ages has been programmed into Cosmic Patterns Software.³ In lieu of this software, planetary ages can also be ascertained with a simple hand-held calculator via the following five-step procedure using the Placidus House System:

1. Determine the total number of degrees of a house (= house size)
2. Divide house size by number of years it signifies (= degrees per/year)
3. Count the number of degrees of a planet from its house cusp (= planetary location)
4. Divide the planetary location number by degrees per/year (= house year)
5. Add the house year number to the age that starts the house (= planetary age-point, or actual age of native at that juncture).

For example, consider the following:

- A woman’s 7th house goes from 6° Scorpio to 8° Sagittarius, or 32° total. This is the house size.
- Since the 7th house signifies an 8-year period, dividing 32 by 8 equals 4° per/year.
- If the 7th house cusp is 6° Scorpio, and the Sun is at 18° Scorpio, then the Sun’s location is 12° inside the 7th (planetary location).
- Dividing the Sun’s location of 12 by 4° per/year gives us 3 years (house year).
- Since the 7th house cusp always signifies age 27, then 27 + 3 = 30 years of age. This is the Sun’s age-point, or the actual age of the native at that juncture.

We can expect, therefore, that from 29-31 the native will have experienced her solar configuration (sign, house, and aspects) in a manner that had a **predominating significance**. Perhaps she married a notable heart surgeon (Sun Scorpio 7th) at that time and became an ardent champion of his work. More information can be discerned from the Sun’s primary aspects.

If you do not have a handheld calculator or cannot do the calculations in your head, simply look at a planet's house placement and approximate the age of the person at that time. If Jupiter is just inside the 8th house, for example, then Jupiter's significance is likely to be predominant at approximately age 35-36.⁴

Do Your Own Research

To record key events that correlate to planetary house positions, list the age of each planet and check this against actual biographical data. While you won't have data for planets that are in house locations beyond the native's current age, you can gather data for interpretations of planetary age points that have already been experienced. Try to discern key events that occurred during the age that a planet signifies. If the person has no clear memories of a particular age, it could suggest repression of traumatic events—or, in the case of the 1st house (birth to age 2), the native was simply too young to have memories. In such instances, encourage the native to talk to family members who might have information about these periods.

Be sure to consider aspects, too. If a planet in an earlier house makes an aspect to a planet in a later house, check to see if something occurred in the later house-stage that recapitulated the event(s) of the earlier period. Vice versa, how did events from the earlier period prefigure events of the later stage? When I arrived at my 10th house Jupiter position (age 56) I experienced certain key events that harkened back to my adolescence because Jupiter quincunxes Saturn in the 5th (age 17). These events even involved the same person!

You can write your own planetary biography by setting up a page with the following sections.

Planetary-House Sign Age Grade Month-Year Aspects

List the planetary sign position, the month and year, your age, grade in school if you were in school (this can help with memory), the planetary house location, and important aspects that pertain to that planet. Do this for all ten planets, the lunar nodes, the Ascendant (birth), Nadir (age 9), Descendant (age 27) and Midheaven (age 54). Next, write any pertinent biographical information below the headings for that year. For example, below is Barack Obama's Developmental Timeline (Figure 5).

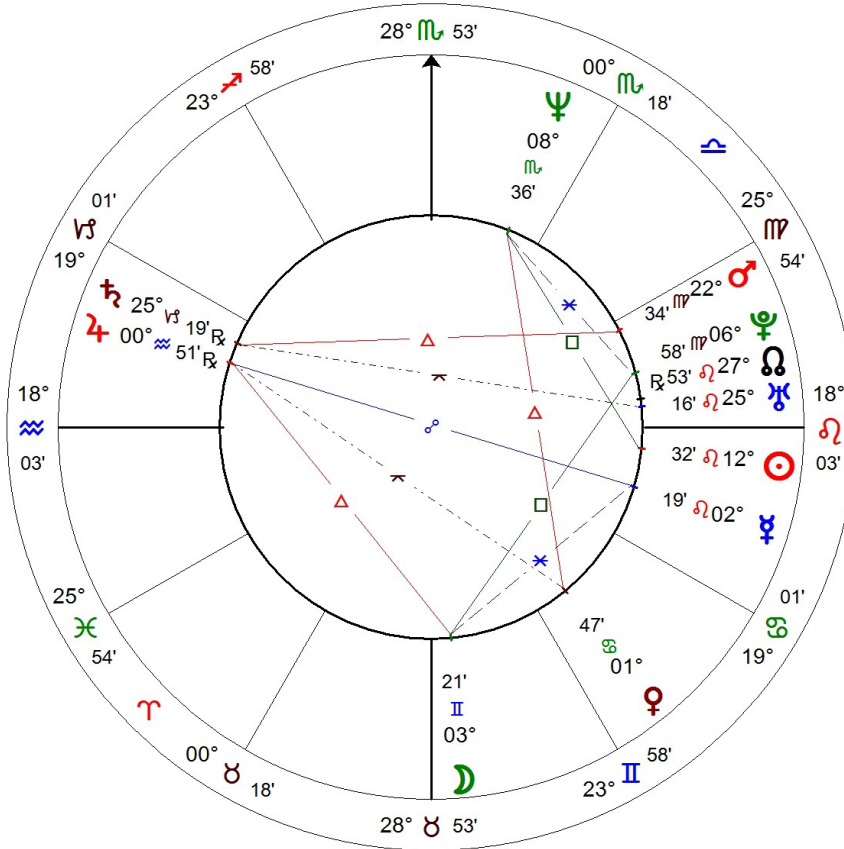
Planet	House	Sign	Age	Month/Year
Moon	4	Gemini	9.9	Jun-1971
Venus	5	Cancer	15.9	Jun-1977
Mercury	6	Leo	23.2	Oct-1984
Sun	6	Leo	25.7	Mar-1987
Uranus	7	Leo	28.5	Feb-1990
Pluto	7	Virgo	31.0	Jul-1992
Mars	7	Virgo	34.3	Nov-1995
Neptune	9	Scorpio	46.9	Jun-2008
Saturn	12	Capricorn	79.8	May-2041
Jupiter	12	Aquarius	82.3	Oct-2043
N. Node	7	Leo	29.1	Aug-1990
S. Node	1	Aquarius	0.5	Feb-1962

Figure 5: Barack Obama's Developmental Timeline

If we were going to choose a single year of great significance in Obama's life, we might choose the year he campaigned for and was elected President of the United States. That year was 2008. Note in the graph above that Neptune in Scorpio in the 9th house corresponds to June 2008, age 46.9.

On the internet, there is a page that provides [Barack Obama's Timeline](#).⁵ For 2008, it states:

- June 3, 2008: After defeating Senator Hillary Clinton in the primaries, Barack Obama becomes the presumptive nominee of the Democratic Party for the 2008 presidential election.
- November 3, 2008: Barack Obama's grandmother, Madelyn Dunham, age 86, dies of cancer, just one day before the Presidential Election.



Barack Obama, August 4th, 1961, 7:24 pm, Honolulu, HI

- November 5, 2008: Barack Obama wins the US Presidential Election and becomes the first African-American President of the United States

If we were going to chronicle Obama's Neptune-age in accordance with the aforementioned sections, it would look like this:

Planetary Sign-House: Neptune Scorpio 9th

Age: 46.9

Month and Year: June 2008

Aspects:

- ♄♏ 9th □ ☾♉ 6th
- ♄♏ 9th ✕ ♀♏ 7th
- ♄♏ 9th △ ♀♏ 5th
- ♄♏ 9th ✕ ☾♉ 4th

According to Obama biographers, 2008 was a time of constant travel (9th house) for the aspiring president. Obama gave soaring speeches about national unity (Neptune in 9th) and his intention to “fundamentally transform America”—ergo, higher taxes on “the rich” and redistribution of income to help the disadvantaged (Neptune in Scorpio), as exemplified in his championing of Universal Health Care—his signature legislation (Obamacare).

Obama was seen by many people as a charismatic, messianic figure that could heroically alter the course of America toward “social justice” and a more ideal, compassionate society (Neptune square Sun Leo). By the time the year ended, he had finally arrived at a position of power to implement his vision for America.

Significantly, this vision had initially taken form when he was visiting Kenya at 26 years-old in a search for his identity and life purpose. Age 26 corresponds to his Sun Leo in the 6th, which Neptune squares.

It is also significant that Neptune Scorpio in the 9th corresponds to the year that he lost his grandmother, Madelyn Dunham. Neptune is consistent with a debilitating illness and subsequent loss; Scorpio signifies pain, and the 9th house rules grandparents. Thus, that year Obama sustained the painful loss of his grandmother to the debilitating illness of cancer. In many ways, Madelyn Dunham was more a mother to Barack than his actual mother, for he had been sent to live with her at age 10.

Note that his Moon in the 4th forms an applying 5° closing quincunx to his Neptune in the 9th. Since his Moon signifies age 10,

Moon quincunx Neptune would be consistent with losing his *actual* mother at age 10 (she remained in Indonesia for 2 years) and, therefore, moving in with his grandmother. The painful loss of his grandmother on the eve of his election as the first African American President of the United States is perfectly encapsulated by Neptune in Scorpio in the 9th. It's also an example of diachronicity, for both periods that correlate to the aspect (age 10 and age 46) likewise correlate to the loss of a maternal figure.

Note that Neptune also squares Obama's 6th house Sun, which signifies age 25.7 in March of 1987. Sun Leo in the 6th corresponds to an earlier developmental event that was pivotal in Obama's life: his 1987 trip to Kenya to visit his father's grave. Obama had been abandoned by his father before he was born, which is consistent with the Sun's square to Neptune (Sun/father, Neptune/loss). When Obama was 11, he spent a short but confusing time with his father who briefly visited him on a business trip from Kenya. Barack never saw his father again (Obama Sr. died in 1982 when Obama was 21). The absence of his black father was both painful and a source of identity confusion given that Obama's mother and grandparents were white. In effect, Obama was raised as a white child.

To resolve the painful Neptunian loss of his father and the source of his identity confusion, Obama decided to visit his father's birthplace when he was 26. Again, the particulars of that event are related not merely to Sun Leo's position in the 6th, but its square to Neptune in the 9th. For that aspect clearly signifies Obama's abandonment by an idealized father (Sun-Neptune) who had lived in a foreign land (9th house). That Obama would travel to Kenya in hopes of restoring a spiritual connection to his father and thereby consolidate his own solar identity on precisely the year that corresponds to his Sun's position is certainly significant.

In [Barack Obama's Timeline](#), it states:

Barack Obama is now 26 years old. Before beginning his law studies, he decides to visit Kenya. He arrives in the village of Alego, situated on Lake Victoria, his father's hometown. He arrives there because he knows very little of his father. He wants to know who his father was, so he can understand his own identity. In Alego, Barack Obama meets his late father's family for the

first time. He meets his grandmother and half siblings, cousins, nieces and nephews. The trip to Kenya helps Barack Obama realize the struggles that his father went through. It gives Barack a sense that the work he is doing is directly connected to his Kenyan family and their struggles. Barack Obama says: "[the visit] helped unify my outward self with my inward self in an important way."

It is also significant that the very year that Obama is elected president—a heroic father figure to his country—he arrives at that juncture in his chart where Neptune resides. This suggests a connection between 2008 and 1987, or Neptune square Sun. In his autobiography, *Dreams From my Father*, Obama reveals how his political aspirations were inspired by the trip to Kenya during which he first formed a vision of his solar identity and life purpose.⁶

The DAM confirms that his attainment of the presidency was the fulfillment of a Neptunian dream that began during his solar age-point when he identified with his deceased father's suffering, sacrifice, and heroic ideals (Sun square Neptune). Obama's autobiography, which he started writing only a few years after his 1987 Kenyan trip, reveals the foundation of the dream that he finally realized at his Neptune age-point of 47 in 2008. This is another startling example of *diachronicity*.

Summary

As a predictive tool, the DAM is different from transits, progressions, or solar returns. Rather than tracking the actual or symbolic movement of planets in relation to natal positions, it sees each natal planet as itself symbolizing a specific period of the life. This allows for the interpretation of a natal planet in terms of its sign, house, and aspects, but also with respect to its age-point. The DAM adds an additional dimension of meaning—developmental stage—to any natal configuration. For one can now discern that planet's impact not only for the year it signifies, but also in the context of the overall life cycle. Notable events of that planetary year may have diachronistic reverberations in subsequent stages associated with the planets it aspects.

* * * * *

Notes:

¹ In *A New Vision of Astrology*, Tad Mann offers a model that places conception on the cusp of the 9th house with gestation unfolding through the next three houses until birth (1st house). The remaining houses comprise one's actual life until the 8th house, which is alleged to be the last stage ending with death. This limits the entire life cycle to 8 houses, age correlations to which are out of synch with studies from developmental psychology.

² While the term 'diachronic' generically refers to the way something develops or evolves over time, it can be applied to several fields of research. As used here, diachronicity entails a meaningful coincidence between events from different developmental stages that are expressions of the same planetary aspect. Use of the term 'diachronicity' can also be found in *Cosmos and Psyche* (2006) by Richard Tarnas, though of slightly different meaning. Tarnas uses the term to describe meaningful correlations between events that occur during different phases in the synodic cycle of two planets.

³ Cosmic Patterns astrological software (specifically "Kepler") is a chart calculation program of David and Fei Cochrane and can be purchased from their [website](http://www.keplerastrology.com/). The newest version of Solar Fire (Version X), due out later this year (2026), will also include the DAM.

⁴ Solar fire software works well in this regard, as you can choose a chart layout that pinpoints with a mark on the inside of the house exactly where the planet resides. For example, if the planet is exactly one third of the way into a house, there will be a mark one third of the way into that house. This is useful when there are multiple planets in a house so that planetary glyphs appear earlier or later in the house than a planet actually is.

⁵ See: <http://www.barack-obama-timeline.com/>, which was accessed on 12/15/17.

⁶ To fully appreciate the connection of these two periods, see Obama's autobiography, *Dreams from my Father*, and/or the biography written by Dinesh D'Souza, *The Roots of Obama's Rage* (later made into a film/DVD, 2016: *Obama's America*).