

CHINESE MEDICAL
ASTROLOGY

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Introduction

There are many systems of Chinese Astrology. The most popular is four pillars of destiny. This method was popularized in the Tang Dynasty, 581-907 AD, by *Li Xu Zhong*. He used the year of birth Chinese zodiac animal as the centerpiece. In the Song Dynasty, 960-1127, *Xu Zi Ping* changed the emphasis of the four pillars. One major change was a shift from the year branch to the day stem representing the centerpiece of a person. This method is practiced today and is called Ba Zi, Zi Ping or four pillars of destiny. It is a highly accurate divination system for predicting fortune, fate, personality, health, romance, marriage, wealth and family relations.

The common usage of Chinese Astrology in the western community has been evaluating attributes of the Chinese zodiac animals. This analysis captures only the birth year aspect of a person's life. It does not include the hour, day, month or future cycles of time. In Zi Ping astrology, all cycles of time are evaluated to obtain a complete picture of a person and his or her life path. Calculating a birth chart or "four pillars" is the initial step in performing four pillars of destiny analysis. This information is obtained from the ancient 10,000-year Chinese calendar, and includes the influences of the hour, day, month and year. Because the complete Chinese calendar has been largely inaccessible in the west, the deeper aspects of Chinese Astrology have not been revealed. A "Chinese Astrology Calendar" consists of two major aspects for each segment of time: stems and branches. I have developed an English translation of the Chinese calendar. It is user-friendly, and in short time you will be able to construct a four pillars birth chart in less than 60 seconds.

The key to learning this ancient system is the chapter on the five phases. It is the foundation to this system. With a strong understanding of the five phases you are prepared to deeply understand this powerful system of divination.

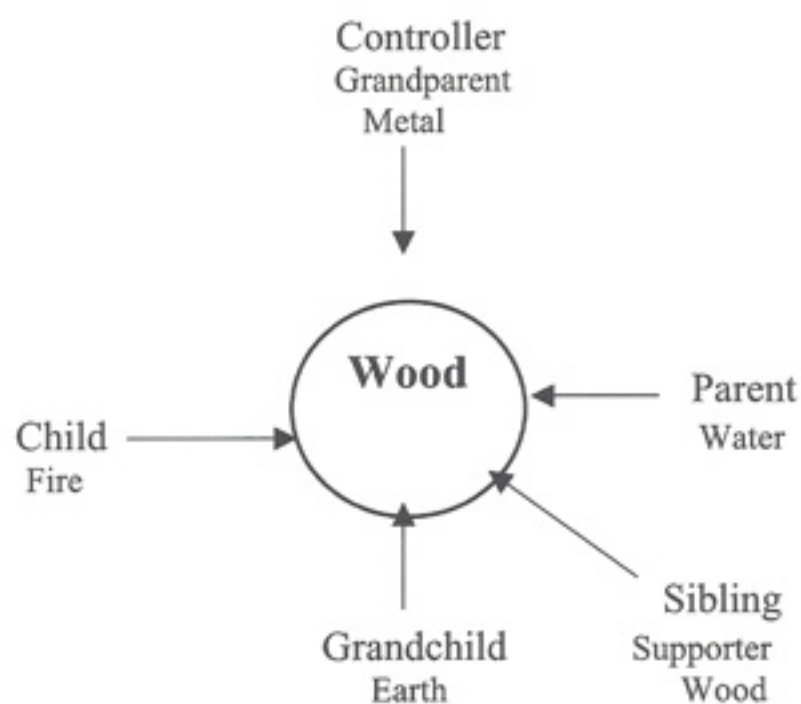


Table 3

| Element | Corrections for Excess | Corrections for Weakness |
|---------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Water | Earth, Wood | Metal, Water |
| Wood | Metal, Fire | Water, Wood |
| Fire | Water, Earth | Wood, Fire |
| Earth | Wood, Metal | Fire, Earth |
| Metal | Fire, Water | Earth, Metal |

Five Phases Cycles

The five phases interact in a variety of ways and there are four major patterns or cycles. They are the promotion, controlling, sedation and insulting cycles. These cycles provide the basis for many applications of Chinese astrology. These cycles are now explained.

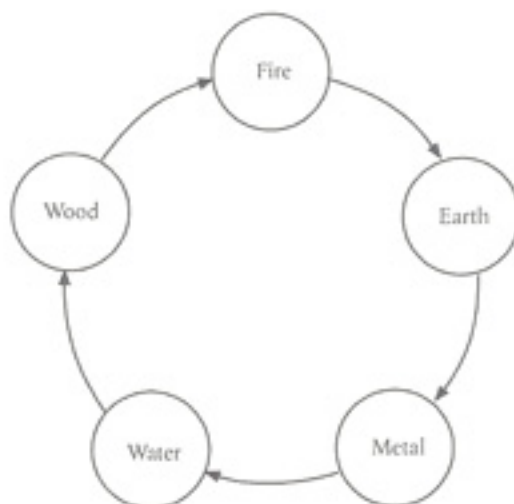
Promotion Cycle

The promotion cycle is the parent to child relationship. It is a cycle that nourishes, supplements or strengthens the child element. Its influence can be favorable or unfavorable depending on the condition of the elements. The adjacent diagram illustrates the promotion cycle.

Promotion Cycle

1. If Water is placed on Wood it grows; Water is the mother of Wood.
2. If Wood is placed in Fire it grows; Wood is the mother of Fire.
3. Fire transforms substances into ashes or Earth; Fire is the mother of Earth.
4. Metal is found within Earth; Earth is the mother of Metal.
5. Metal can be liquefied into Water; Metal is the mother of Water.

The Promotion cycle nourishes or strengthens.



Branch / Animal Relationships

Table 3 summarizes the major relationships of branches. Each branch has an animal name, corresponding main element, season, time of day and direction, and under the main element is the Chinese name for the branch. This information is used to calculate specific elemental influences that affect a person and are explained in detail throughout the book. Note the four Earths: Ox, Dragon, Sheep and Dog have a wet and dry quality, this is very important when determining the influence of these branches. For example, if a person needs Water, the Ox is wet, and gives some Water (nourishment) based on the season of birth.

Table 3

| Animal | Main Element * | Season | Time of day | Direction |
|----------------|---|--------|-------------|-----------|
| Pig Hai | Yang Water | Winter | 9pm-11pm | North |
| Rat Zi | Yin Water | Winter | 11pm-1am | North |
| Ox Chou | Yin Earth This is winter and is called "Wet Earth" | Winter | 1am-3am | North |
| Tiger Yin | Yang Wood | Spring | 3am-5am | East |
| Rabbit Mao | Yin Wood | Spring | 5am-7am | East |
| Dragon Chen | Yang Earth This is Winter-Spring and is called "Wet Earth" | Spring | 7am-9am | East |
| Snake Si | Yang Fire | Summer | 9am-11am | South |
| Horse Wu | Yin Fire | Summer | 11am-1pm | South |
| Sheep Wei | Yin Earth This is Summer and is called "Dry Earth" | Summer | 1pm-3pm | South |
| Monkey Shen | Yang Metal | Fall | 3pm-5pm | West |
| Rooster You | Yin Metal | Fall | 5pm-7pm | West |
| Dog Xu | Yang Earth This is Summer and is called "Dry Earth" | Fall | 7pm-9pm | West |

* Reflects the internal method

Stem and Branch Cycle of 60

For hours, days, months and years

| | | | | | | |
|-------------|------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Number | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| stem branch | Yang Wood Rat | Yin Wood Ox | Yang Fire Tiger | Yin Fire Rabbit | Yang Earth Dragon | Yin Earth Snake |
| Number | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| stem branch | Yang Metal Horse | Yin Metal Sheep | Yang Water Monkey | Yin Water Rooster | Yang Wood Dog | Yin Wood Pig |
| Number | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| stem branch | Yang Fire Rat | Yin Fire Ox | Yang Earth Tiger | Yin Earth Rabbit | Yang Metal Dragon | Yin Metal Snake |
| Number | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| stem branch | Yang Water Horse | Yin Water Sheep | Yang Wood Monkey | Yin Wood Rooster | Yang Fire Dog | Yin Fire Pig |
| Number | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| stem branch | Yang Earth Rat | Yin Earth Ox | Yang Metal Tiger | Yin Metal Rabbit | Yang Water Dragon | Yin Water Snake |
| Number | 31 | 32 | 33 | 34 | 35 | 36 |
| stem branch | Yang Wood Horse | Yin Wood Sheep | Yang Fire Monkey | Yin Fire Rooster | Yang Earth Dog | Yin Earth Pig |
| Number | 37 | 38 | 39 | 40 | 41 | 42 |
| stem branch | Yang Metal Rat | Yin Metal Ox | Yang Water Tiger | Yin Water Rabbit | Yang Wood Dragon | Yin Wood Snake |
| Number | 43 | 44 | 45 | 46 | 47 | 48 |
| stem branch | Yang Fire Horse | Yin Fire Sheep | Yang Earth Monkey | Yin Earth Rooster | Yang Metal Dog | Yin Metal Pig |
| Number | 49 | 50 | 51 | 52 | 53 | 54 |
| stem branch | Yang Water Rat | Yin Water Ox | Yang Wood Tiger | Yin Wood Rabbit | Yang Fire Dragon | Yin Fire Snake |
| Number | 55 | 56 | 57 | 58 | 59 | 60 |
| stem branch | Yang Earth Horse | Yin Earth Sheep | Yang Metal Monkey | Yin Metal Rooster | Yang Water Dog | Yin Water Pig |

| Branch | Pig | Rat | Ox | Tiger | Rabbit | Dragon | Snake | Horse | Sheep | Monkey | Rooster | Dog |
|----------------|------------|-----------|-----------|------------|----------|------------|------------|-----------|-----------|------------|-----------|------------|
| Main Element | Yang Water | Yin Water | Yin Earth | Yang Wood | Yin Wood | Yang Earth | Yang Fire | Yin Fire | Yin Earth | Yang Metal | Yin Metal | Yang Earth |
| Hidden Element | Yang Wood | | Yin Water | Yang Fire | | Yin Wood | Yang Earth | Yin Earth | Yin Fire | Yang Earth | | Yin Metal |
| | | | Yin Metal | Yang Earth | | Yin Water | Yang Metal | | Yin Wood | Yang Water | | Yin Fire |

Example

A male born on June 30, 1957 at 6:30 am daylight savings time

Four Pillars

| | Hour | Day | Month | Year |
|----------|----------|-----------|-----------------------|-----------|
| Stem | Yin Wood | Yin Water | Yang Fire | Yin Fire |
| Branch | Rabbit | Rooster | Horse | Rooster |
| Elements | Yin Wood | Yin Metal | Yin Fire Yin Earth | Yin Metal |

10-Year Fate Cycles

| Age | 0 | 8 | 18 | 28 | 38 | 48 | 58 | 68 | 78 |
|-----------------|-----------|--------------------------|-----------------------|-----------|-------------------------|------------------------|------------|------------|-----------------------|
| Stem | Yang Fire | Yin Wood | Yang Wood | Yin Water | Yang Water | Yin Metal | Yang Metal | Yin Earth | Yang Earth |
| Branch | Horse | Snake | Dragon | Rabbit | Tiger | Ox | Rat | Pig | Dog |
| Main Element | Yin Fire | Yang Fire | Yang Earth | Yin Wood | Yang Wood | Yin Earth | Yin Water | Yang Water | Yang Earth |
| Hidden Elements | Yin Earth | Yang Earth Yang Metal | Yin Wood Yin Water | | Yang Fire Yang Earth | Yin Water Yin Metal | | Yang Wood | Yin Metal Yin Fire |

The birthday is June 30, 1957

1. This is a Yin Rooster or Yin male, count backwards.
2. The solar month is June 6-July 6, count from June 30 to June 6.
3. There are 25 days. Divide 25 by 3 to get 8, with a remainder of 1.
4. Do not round up, use 8.
5. Eight years to 17 years is the first 10-year fate cycle.
6. The month stem-branch is Yang Fire/Horse or number 43 in the 60 stem-branch cycle chart, place it in the 0 time frame.

7. This is a Yin Male, move backward to binomial 42 or Yin Wood/Snake, and place this binomial in cycle 8-17.

8. Place binomial 41 in cycle 18-27 and continue for as many 10-year cycles as preferred. See the example above.

Stem and Branch Cycle of 60

| | | | | | | |
|----------------|---------------------|--------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| Number | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| stem branch | Yang Wood Rat | Yin Wood Ox | Yang Fire Tiger | Yin Fire Rabbit | Yang Earth Dragon | Yin Earth Snake |
| Number | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| stem branch | Yang Metal Horse | Yin Metal Sheep | Yang Water Monkey | Yin Water Rooster | Yang Wood Dog | Yin Wood Pig |
| Number | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| stem branch | Yang Fire Rat | Yin Fire Ox | Yang Earth Tiger | Yin Earth Rabbit | Yang Metal Dragon | Yin Metal Snake |
| Number | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| stem branch | Yang Water Horse | Yin Water Sheep | Yang Wood Monkey | Yin Wood Rooster | Yang Fire Dog | Yin Fire Pig |
| Number | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| stem branch | Yang Earth Rat | Yin Earth Ox | Yang Metal Tiger | Yin Metal Rabbit | Yang Water Dragon | Yin Water Snake |
| Number | 31 | 32 | 33 | 34 | 35 | 36 |
| stem branch | Yang Wood Horse | Yin Wood Sheep | Yang Fire Monkey | Yin Fire Rooster | Yang Earth Dog | Yin Earth Pig |
| Number | 37 | 38 | 39 | 40 | 41 | 42 |
| stem branch | Yang Metal Rat | Yin Metal Ox | Yang Water Tiger | Yin Water Rabbit | Yang Wood Dragon | Yin Wood Snake |
| Number | 43 | 44 | 45 | 46 | 47 | 48 |
| stem branch | Yang Fire Horse | Yin Fire Sheep | Yang Earth Monkey | Yin Earth Rooster | Yang Metal Dog | Yin Metal Pig |
| Number | 49 | 50 | 51 | 52 | 53 | 54 |
| stem branch | Yang Water Rat | Yin Water Ox | Yang Wood Tiger | Yin Wood Rabbit | Yang Fire Dragon | Yin Fire Snake |
| Number | 55 | 56 | 57 | 58 | 59 | 60 |
| stem branch | Yang Earth Horse | Yin Earth Sheep | Yang Metal Monkey | Yin Metal Rooster | Yang Water Dog | Yin Water Pig |

Determining the Condition of the Five Phases

Determining the condition of each element within the four pillars is an art and science. The following is a quantitative method for calculating the strength of each element. In a short period of time you will be able to calculate this condition by understanding the five phases relationships of the four pillars. This formula is very accurate, but no formula is 100% accurate. The key is to understand the mechanics of the formula and apply the principles without the formula. The following explains this procedure and examples follow which illustrate the process.

Below is a basic method for determining the timeliness of the birth chart elements. This method is followed by a more complex method.

Basic Method

| Season | Prosper Vibrant Strong | Born Birth Strong | Die Dead Weak | Imprison Jailed Weak | Retreat Retiring Weak |
|--------|------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Spring | Wood | Fire | Earth | Metal | Water |
| Summer | Fire | Earth | Metal | Water | Wood |
| Fall | Metal | Water | Wood | Fire | Earth |
| Winter | Water | Wood | Fire | Earth | Metal |

Born, the Qi is growing and strong.

Prosper, the Qi is very strong.

Retreat, the Qi is on the decline and weak.

Imprisoned, the Qi is contained and weak.

Die, the Qi is very weak.

We can use this analysis to evaluate the day stem and how it may be influenced by the seasons. For example, if a person is born on a Water stem day, during the summer months, they are jailed and weak.

How to read this chart

1. Wood born in spring is prosper and very strong.
2. Metal born in spring is imprisoned and weak.
3. Water born in spring is retreat and weak.