
Schema huius præmissæ diuisionis Sphærarum.
EMPIREVM
HABITACVLVM DEI
CRYSTALLINVM
PRIMVM MOBILE
FIRMAMENTVM
SATVRNI
IOVIS
MARTIS
SOLIS
VENERIS
MERCVRII
LVNÆ
ELEMENTORVM
AQVARVM
TERRA

roue astronomique

In many civilizations, the movement of the stars has been represented in a circular form. Celestial maps, astrolabes, and astronomical clocks translate the rhythms of the sky into the movements of wheels and circles. This association is based on a fundamental observation: the stars, the Sun, and the planets appear to follow regular paths around the Earth. The wheel thus becomes a model of the cosmos itself. In Mesopotamian, Greek, Chinese, and Islamic traditions, circular representations of the sky play a major role in the organization of knowledge. They enable the measurement of time, the prediction of seasons, and the ordering of space. The astronomical wheel demonstrates that circular motion belongs as much to the history of ideas as to that of machines. It connects observational techniques, worldviews, and the search for a universal order.