

## **Heliocentric cosmology and technical vocabulary in Sanskrit mathematical astronomy**

Kim Plofker  
Union College, Schenectady

The meaning and application of Sanskrit scientific technical terms were scrupulously discussed by commentators throughout the long history of the technical genre of *jyotisa* or mathematical and astral sciences. This paper examines how Sanskrit technical vocabulary in mathematical astronomy changed in the colonial period to accommodate new cosmological concepts such as the heliocentric solar system, and how commentarial practices responded to such changes.