

SUDA entry sigma 148: Σάρωι (Saros-cycles, saroi)

[The saros is] a measure and a number among Chaldeans.[1] For 120 saros-cycles make 2222 years according to the Chaldeans' reckoning, if indeed the saros makes 222 lunar months, which are 18 years and 6 months.

Notes

"The periodicity and recurrence of eclipses is governed by the Saros cycle, a period of approximately 6,585.3 days (18 years 11 days 8 hours). It was known to the Chaldeans as a period when lunar eclipses seem to repeat themselves, but the cycle is applicable to solar eclipses as well." Fred Espenak, at [footnote 1](#).

The calculation given here is not completely accurate. The 18.5 years would have to be years of 12 lunar months. The 120 saros-cycles would make 2220 years.

[1] Hesychius sigma226 says Babylonians. For the Chaldaeans see chi 13 and elsewhere.

Keywords: [chronology](#); [definition](#); [geography](#); [mathematics](#); [science and technology](#)

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This is the version of the Suda On Line entry created 30 January 2022; the current version, at <http://www.cs.uky.edu/~raphael/sol/sol-entries/sigma/148>, may be different.

¹ <https://eclipse.gsfc.nasa.gov/SEsaros/SEsaros.html>