
Benno Van Dalen
The Šustaka Zīj by Ḫusayn ibn Mūsā al-Hurmūzī, which, judging from a number of sample calculations, was compiled in the early 11th century, is of a very different nature from the Arabic and Persian astronomical handbooks with tables that are usually called “zīj”. In fact, the Šustaka Zīj (possibly meaning “Sexagesimal Zīj” or “Pocket Zīj”) consists of only fourteen brief chapters, explaining for each of the seven planets, how to calculate its position from that of a certain period of time ago. Thus the Šustaka Zīj can particularly conveniently be used in combination with ephemerides for a number of previous years. al-Hurmūzī’s work is extant in more than ten Arabic manuscripts, both of a longer and of a shorter version, and one late Persian manuscript. It is the latter which is edited and studied in this article. As an appendix, a facsimile reproduction of one of the oldest Arabic manuscripts (Meshhed, Holy Shrine Library, MS 5335) is included.
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