

# Einführung in die Astronomie I

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Wintersemester 2008/2009

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**Friedrich-Alexander-Universität  
Erlangen-Nürnberg**



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## Astronomie an der FAU

**NF im Bachelor:** Gebraucht werden:

- Scheine Astronomie I und II
- Astronomisches Praktikum (Schein)

**Astronomie/Astrophysik im Hauptstudium Physik:** hängt davon ab...

**PWB:** 10 SWS weiterführende Vorlesungen Astro-/Teilchenphysik, davon 2 SWS Theorie

**nichtphysikalisches Wahlfach:** wie NF im Hauptstudium, nur wenn

Astronomie nicht im Vordiplom!

**Nebenfächer** (NF im Hauptstudium für Nichtphysiker):

- Astronomie I und II
  - Eine weiterführende Vorlesung (2 SWS)
  - Ein physikalischer Praktikumsschein (z.B. Astronomisches Praktikum)
- Frühstudium, Seniorenstudium:** freiwillig,
- möglich sind Scheine Astronomie I und II

Preliminaries

1



1-1

## Introduction



1-3

## Astronomie im BA/MA Physik, I

**NF im Bachelor/Master:** Zwei Module (Je 10 ECTS):

- NW-1 (Grundkenntnisse) kann gewählt werden im 1./2., 3./4. oder 5./6. Semester
- NW-2 (vertieft) kann u.a. gewählt werden im 4./5. Semester oder als NW im Masterstudium

**PW im Bachelorstudium:** Modul für PW-1, PW-2, oder PW-3

**PW im Masterstudium:** Modul für PWM-1 oder PWM-2

Preliminaries

2



**Praktikum**

Praktikum wird an der Dr. Karl Remeis-Sternwarte, Bamberg, als Blockpraktikum durchgeführt werden.

**Termine:**

- 16.02.–27.02.2009
- 02.03.–13.03.2009
- 14.09.–25.09.2009
- 28.09.–09.10.2009

⇒ 21 Plätze pro Termin

⇒ Wir lassen  $84 + x$  Personen zu ( $x \geq 0$ ).

Eintragung heute, *vorläufige* Zulassung erfolgt im Laufe dieser Woche und wird nächste Woche mitgeteilt.

**Zum Bestehen des Moduls sind für alle das Praktikum sowie die zwei Scheine Astronomie I und II erforderlich.**

Preliminaries

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**Textbooks**

KARTUNNEN, KRÖGER & OJA, 2003, *Fundamental Astronomy*, Heidelberg: Springer, €64 (softcover), 500 pp.

Good general overview of astronomy.

Recommended, especially for exam preparation.

KUTNER, 2003, *Astronomy: A Physical Perspective*, Cambridge: Cambridge

Univ. Press, €55, 580 pp.

Modern physics based textbook, easy to read. Recommended.

UNSÖLD & BASCHEK, 2005, *Der neue Kosmos. Einführung in die Astronomie und Astrophysik*, Berlin: Springer, €50, 577 pp.

Intermediate level: Good overview of stellar astronomy, weak on extragalactic astronomy.

Good secondary reading.

Literature

1

**Textbooks**

ZEILIK & GREGORY, 1998, *Introductory Astronomy & Astrophysics*, 4th ed., Thomson Learning, €68, 600 pp.

Intermediate level, self contained, but sometimes chaotic order.

CARROLL & OSTLIE, 2007, *Modern Astrophysics*, Reading: Addison-Wesley, €80 (softcover), 1400 pp.

Advanced level, expects good physics background.

Recommended if you want to specialize in astronomy.

DE PATER & LISSAUER, 2001, *Planetary Sciences*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, €93, 544 pp.

Advanced: *The* textbook of planetary science.

Good secondary reading.

Literature

2

**Contents**

14 Oct	Organisation, Introduction, History
21 Oct	Planets: Overview, Dynamics
28 Oct	Planets: Inner Planets
04 Nov	Planets: Outer Planets
11 Nov	Planets: Transneptunians, Asteroids, Comets, Meteorites
18 Nov	Measurement Methods: Telescopes, Coordinates
25 Nov	Stars: Distances, Luminosity, HRD
02 Dec	Stars: Binaries, masses & radii
09 Dec	Extra solar planets
16 Dec	Stars: Formation, Structure
23 Jan	Stars: The Sun
13 Jan	Stars: Evolution
20 Jan	Stars: Evolution, continued
27 Jan	<i>Exam!</i>
03 Feb	Supernovae

Contents

1



2-1

## History of Astronomy



Disk of Nebra: 1600 BC  
first reproduction of the night sky, constellation of Moon and Pleiades  
measures solstices and equinoxes  $\implies$  calendar



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## History

Together with theology, astronomy one of the oldest professions in the world.



Stonehenge: 2500 BC; solar observatory?

History

1





### History

Together with theology, astronomy one of the oldest professions in the world.

So what?

History



### History

Together with theology, astronomy one of the oldest professions in the world.

So what?

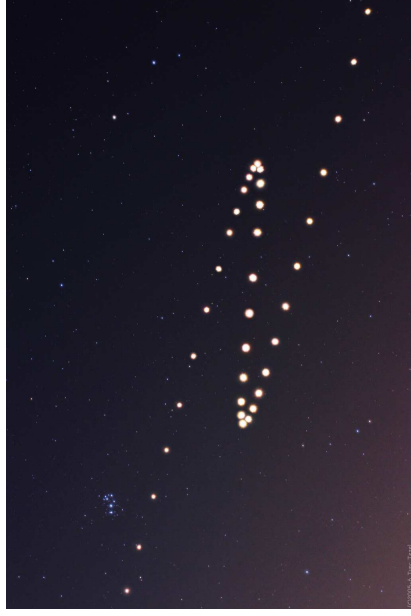
Astronomical nomenclature is still strongly influenced by this tradition.

⇒ appreciation of history of astronomy is required for understanding even of today's astronomy. Many terms used are based on this history, e.g. magnitudes by the greek astronomer Hipparchos (~150 BC)

History



### Early Cosmology



Composite of images of Mars spaced ~ a week apart – from late July 2005 (bottom right) through February 2006 (top left).

Explain observations:

- daily motions of Sun, Moon, planets & stars from E to W
- much slower motion of Sun & Moon with respect to stars
- occasional retrograde motions of planets (E to W)
- solar and lunar eclipses

History



### Babylon

Babylonian astronomy: Earliest astronomy (flourish ~700 BC) with influence on us:  
⇒ sexagesimal system [360:60:60], 24 h day, 12 x 30 d year, ...

- ⇒ Observations of sun and moon
- ⇒ stellar constellations, 12 signs of zodiac
- ⇒ bookkeeping on solar and lunar eclipses, Saros cycle: 18 yr 11 d
- ⇒ description of planet movement
- ⇒ cataloging stellar positions



Image: Mul.Apin cuneiform tablet (British Museum, BM 86378, 8 cm high), describes rising and setting of constellations through the Babylonian calendar. Summarizes astronomical knowledge as of before ~690 BC.

History



## Greek, I



Atlas Farnese, 2c A.D., Museo Archeologico Nazionale, Napoli

Greek Astronomers: "Mathematicians"

development of the geocentric world model

- Thales (624–547 BC): Earth is flat, surrounded by water.
- Pythagoras (ca. 570–510 BC): "Everything is number" A harmonic universe (music) requires orbital motions in certain ratios of integer numbers (see Kepler: *Harmonices mundi*)
- Plato (427–347 BC): the circle is the perfect geometric form, uniform circular motion is eternal ⇒ "the hex of circles"
- Eudoxus (408–355 BC): Geocentric, planets affixed to concentric crystalline spheres. First real model for planetary motion!

History



## Greek, III

Hipparchus (?? – ~127 BC): First Greek observer:

- Star catalog: 850 stars
- Magnitudes of stars: 0<sup>m</sup> . . . 6<sup>m</sup>
- Parallax of the moon
- Table of chords (early trigonometry)
- Discovery of precession (shift of the vernal equinox) by comparison with Babylonian star catalog
- Seasons have unequal length
- used geocentric world model of Aristotele to make predictions (Epicycle).

History



## Greek, I

Greek Astronomers: "Mathematicians"

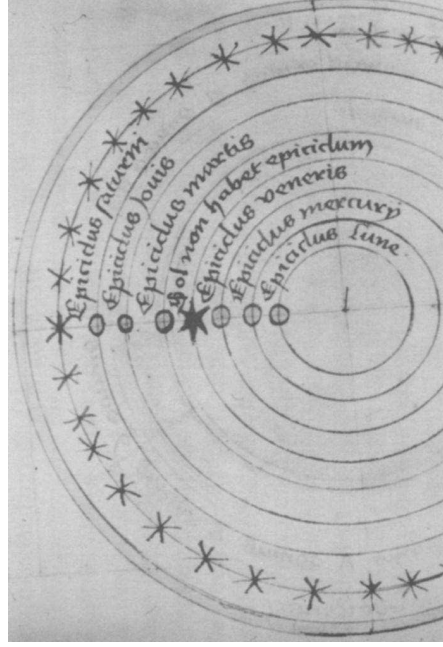
development of the geocentric world model

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History



## Greek, II



Aristotle (384–322 BC, *de caelo*): Refinement of Eudoxus model: add spheres to ensure smooth motion  
⇒ Universe filled with crystalline spheres (*nature abhors vacuum*).

⇒ Central philosophy until ~1450AD!

History

## Greek, IV



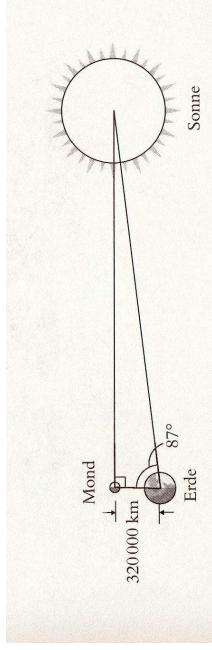
(Aveni, 1993, p. 58)

Ptolemaeus (~140AD): *Syntaxis* (aka *Almagest*): Refinement of Aristotelian theory into model useable for computations  
⇒ Ptolemaic System.

History



## Greek, V



Development of the heliocentric world model: Aristarchus (310–230 BC)  
determination of the radius of the Sun

1st and last quarter of moon:

observed  $\angle(\text{Moon, Sun}) = 1/4 \text{ circle} - 1/30 \times 1/4 \text{ circle} = 87^\circ$

$\Rightarrow$  distances:  $D(\text{Sun} - \text{Earth}) = 19 \times D(\text{Moon} - \text{Earth})$

in reality: 400 times

Since angular diameters of sun and moon are almost equal:

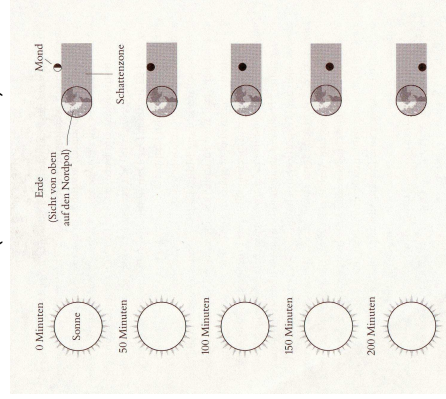
$R(\text{Sun}) = 19 \times R(\text{Moon})$

History



## Greek, VI

Development of the heliocentric world model:  
Aristarchus (310–230 BC) radius of the sun



lunar eclipses:

Moon fits into earth shadow twice

(in fact: 3.68 times)

$\Rightarrow$  Radii:  $R(\text{sun}) = 9.5 \times R(\text{earth})$

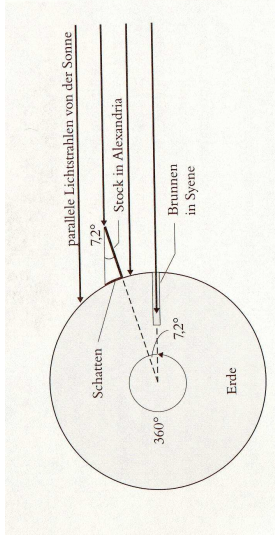
$\Rightarrow$  common sense: smaller body  
moves around the larger one!

**Heliocentric world model**

History



## Greek, VIII



Eratosthenes (276–195 BC):  
measurement of the earth's  
radius

Idea: measure culmination  
of the sun at two places of  
known distance (N to S) on  
the same day.

Syene: sun at zenith, Alexandria:  $7.2^\circ$  away from Zenith

$\Rightarrow$  Distance between Alexandria and Syene:  $d/(2\pi R) = 7.2/360$

Measured: 5000 Stades

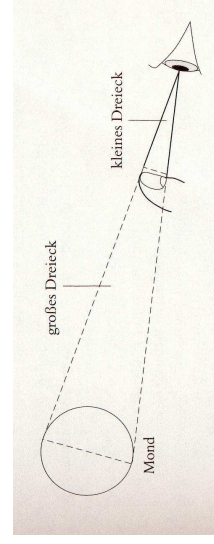
Some historians believe that this distance corresponds to  $\sim 820$  km, so if true then the radius of the Earth would have been determined to 6264 km

in fact: 6378 km; repeated: 1671: Paris-Amiens (J. Picard)

History



## Greek, VIII



The distance to the Moon  
and the Sun:

angular diameter of the moon  
equals width of finger as  
seen from 1 m away

$\Rightarrow R_{\text{moon}}/d_{\text{moon}} = 1/200$

Lunar occultations:  $R_{\text{moon}} = 1/2 R_{\text{earth}}$

$\Rightarrow R_{\text{earth}}/d_{\text{moon}} = 1/100$

$d_{\text{moon}} = 100 \times R_{\text{earth}} = 626400 \text{ km}$

$\Rightarrow$  distance to the sun:

$d_{\text{sun}} = 19 \times R_{\text{moon}} = 11.9 \text{ Mio km}$

History





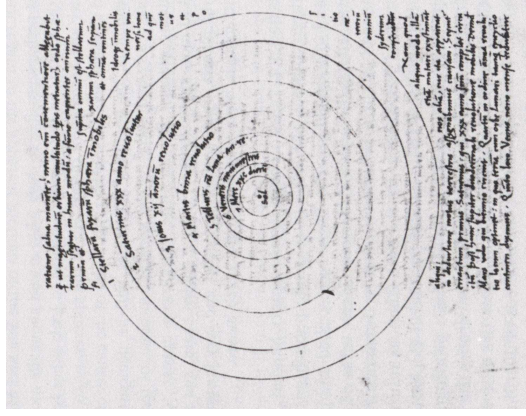
### Renaissance, I



- Regiomontanus: Johannes Müller from Königsberg (Franconia) (1436–1476):
- Studies at Leipzig (1447) and Vienna (1450): Maths and Astronomy
  - *Epytoma Joanis de monte regio in alogesi ptolemei* (1461–1463): translation to latin with much improved maths
  - *De triangulis omnimodis* (1462–1464): foundation of modern trigonometry
  - *Ephemerides astronomicae ab anno 1475–1506*: most accurate ephemerides
- ⇒ Navigation: Columbus & Vasco da Gama
- Founder of Nuremberg Observatory



### Renaissance, III



(Gingerich, 1993, p. 165)

Nicolaus Copernicus (1473–1543): Earth centred Ptolemaic system is too complicated, a Sun-centred system is more elegant:

*De revolutionibus orbium coelestium*: “In no other way do we perceive the clear harmonious linkage between the motions of the planets and the sizes of their orbs.”

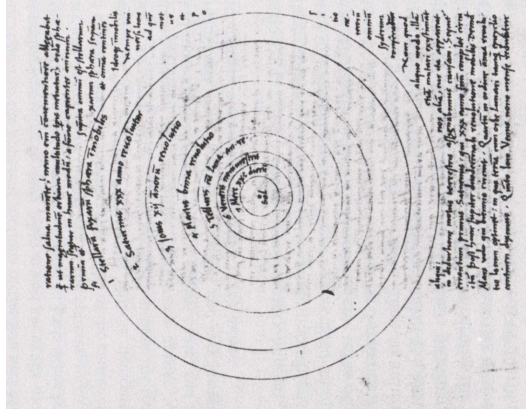


### Renaissance, II



Nicolaus Copernicus (1473–1543): Earth centred Ptolemaic system is too complicated, a Sun-centred system is more elegant.

### Renaissance, IV



(Gingerich, 1993, p. 165)

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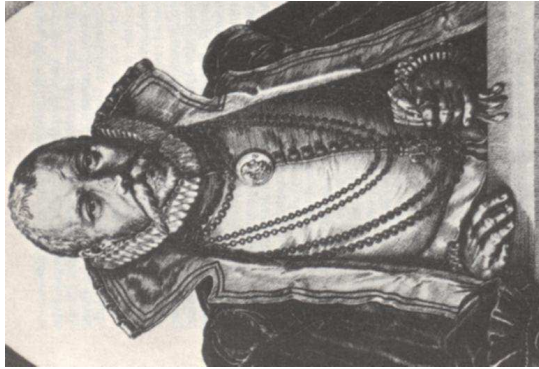
*De revolutionibus orbium coelestium*: “In no other way do we perceive the clear harmonious linkage between the motions of the planets and the sizes of their orbs.”

**Copernican principle: The Earth is not at the center of the universe.**

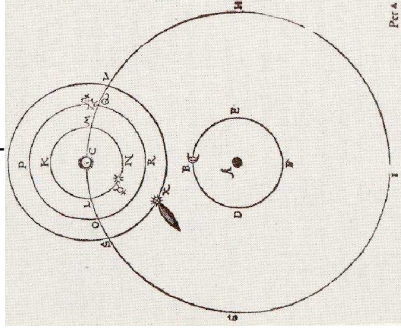




Renaissance, V



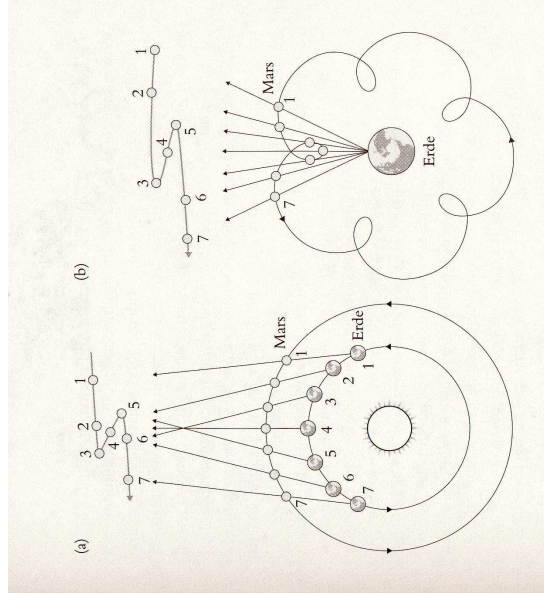
Tycho Brahe (1546–1601): Visual planetary positions of highest precision reveal flaws in Ptolemaic positions.



History



Renaissance, VI

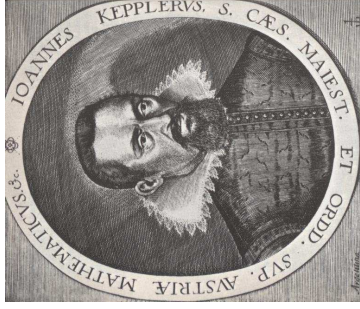


Retrograde motion: heliocentric vs geocentric model

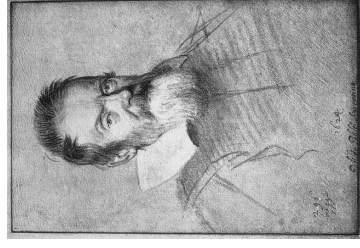
History



Renaissance, VII



Johannes Kepler (1571–1630): Planets orbit on ellipses around Sun, not on circles, laws of motion.

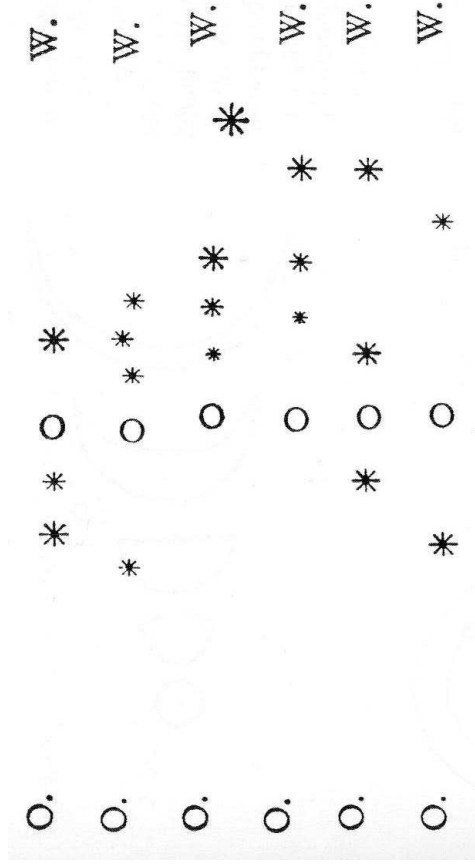


Galileo Galilei (1564–1642): Telescopic observations, discovery of four moons of Jupiter

History



Renaissance, VIII



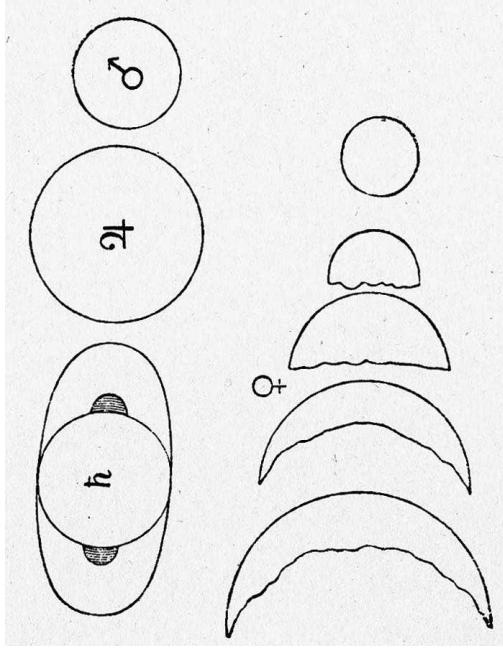
Moons move around Jupiter (=> similar to heliocentric model!)

History



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### Renaissance, IX



Discovery of phases of Venus (Il Saggiatore, 1623)

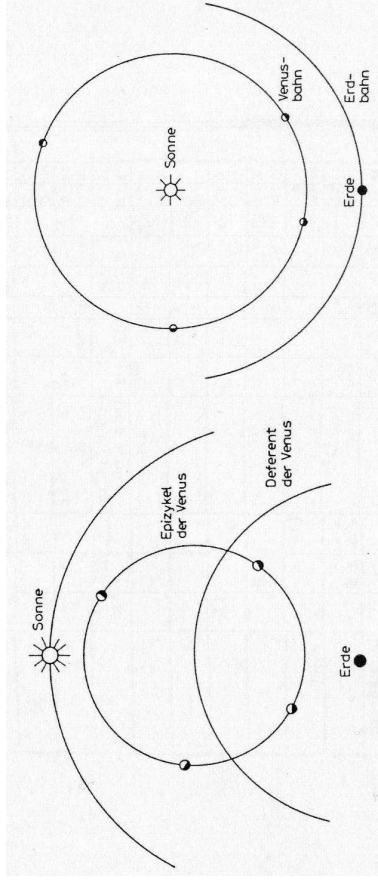
History

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2-23

### Renaissance, XI



The observed phase changes of Venus can be explained only by the heliocentric world model, not by the Ptolemaic geocentric system, nor by Tycho's!

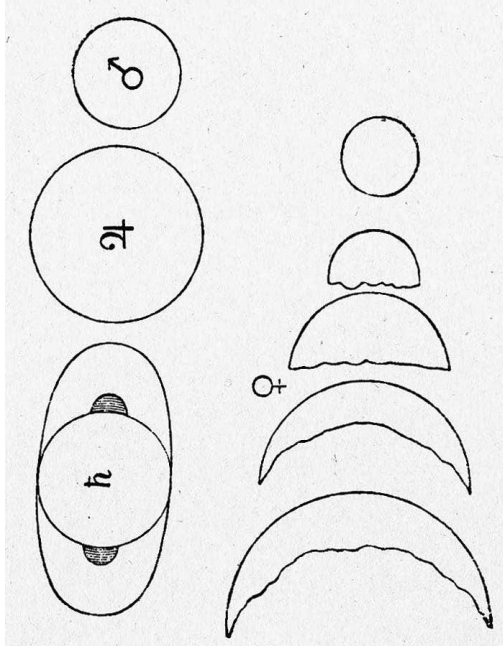
History

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2-21

### Renaissance, IX



Discovery of phases of Venus (Il Saggiatore, 1623)

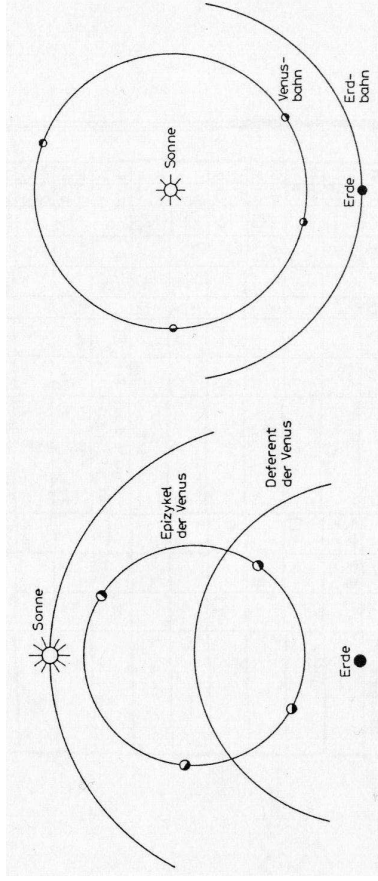
History

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2-23

### Renaissance, XI

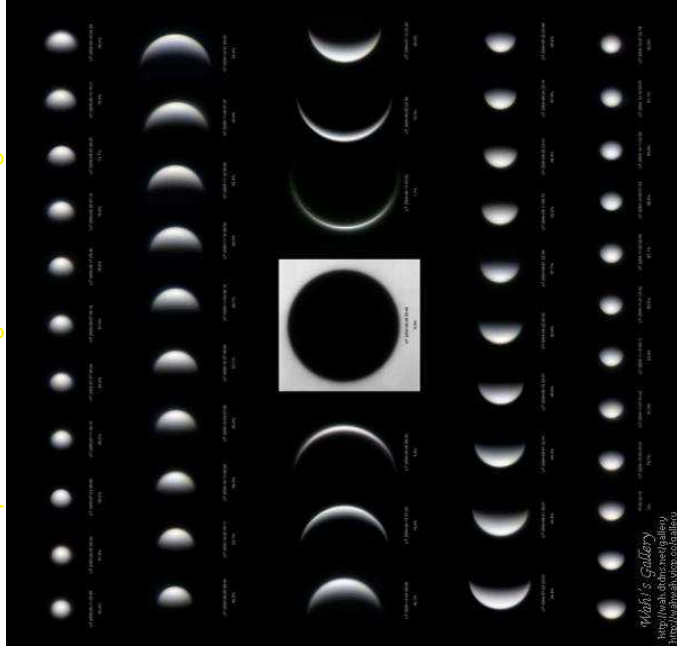


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History

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Observed phases and angular size changes of Venus



Apple's Gallery  
http://www.apple.com/gallery  
http://www.apple.com/gallery

History

18



2-24

### Newton



(Newton, 1730)

Isaac Newton (1642–1727): Newton's laws, physical cause for shape of orbits is gravitation  
(*De Philosophiae Naturalis Principia Mathematica*, 1687).

⇒⇒ Begin of modern physics based astronomy.

History

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Aveni, A. F., 1993, *Ancient Astronomers*, (Washington, D.C.: Smithsonian Books)  
Gingerich, O., 1993, *The Eye of Heaven – Ptolemy, Copernicus, Kepler*, (New York: American Institute of Physics)  
Newton, I., 1730, *Opticks*, Vol. 4th, (London: William Innes), reprint: Dover Publications, 1952