



By the regularity of their motions, the four major moons of Jupiter provided important evidence for universal laws governing the motions of celestial bodies (this is the icy, crater-covered Callisto).

Fig. 2-10
Terms describing the relative positions of the Earth and other planets. For this purpose the Earth may be considered as stationary.



Fig. 2-11 above: Determination of the astronomical unit. Determination of the Earth-Venus or Earth-planetoid distance by radar, allows the Earth-Sun distance (which cannot be directly measured) to be calculated by simple trigonometry, as all the angles in the triangle are already known.

