

The Scientific Revolution

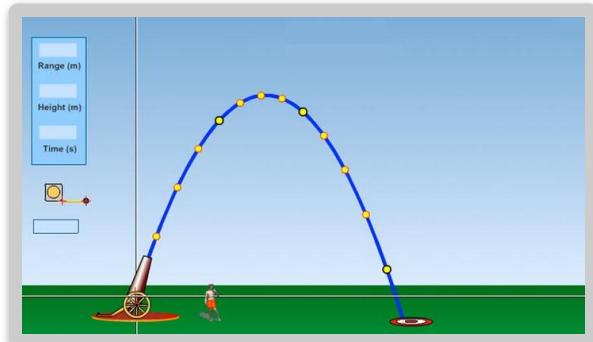
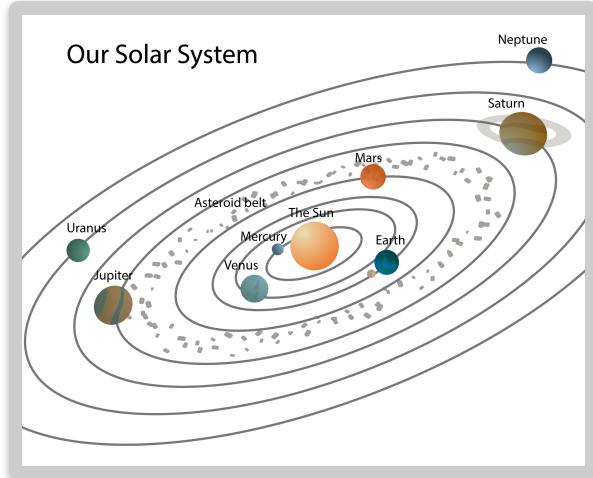
the world turned upside down



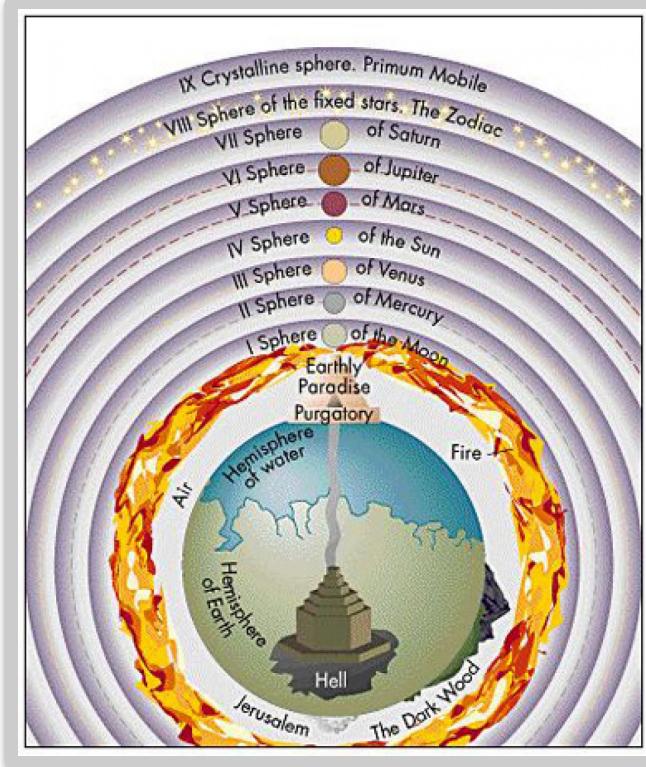
George Matthews, Plymouth State University

2020

Heaven and Earth: before and after



The Medieval World View



The universe is split in two:

- heaven and earth
- mind and matter
- humans and animals
- saints and sinners
- perfection and imperfection

Human life plays out on center stage between heaven and earth and everything else revolves around this drama.



Nicholas Copernicus
1473-1543

"Therefore, when I considered this carefully, the contempt which I had to fear because of the novelty and apparent absurdity of my view, nearly induced me to abandon utterly the work I had begun."

Copernicus' Challenge

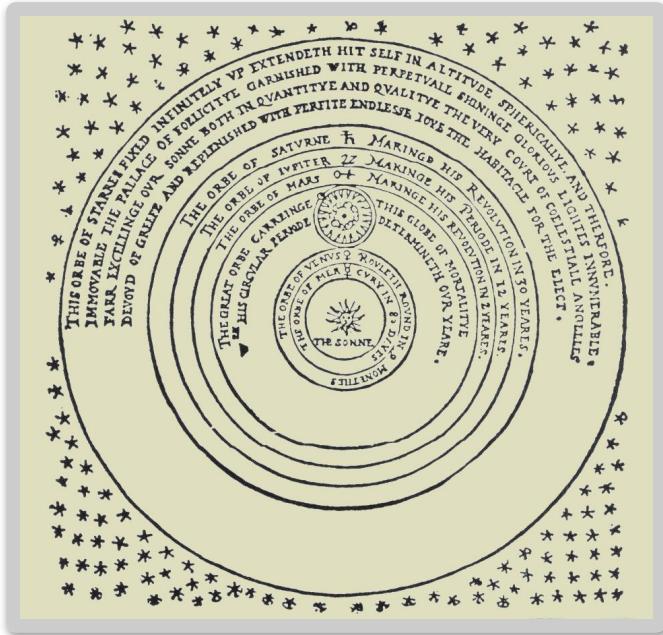


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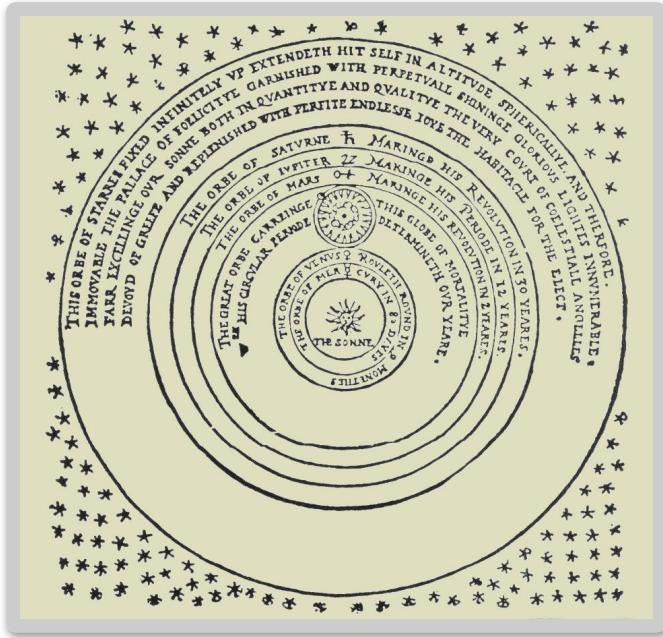
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60 years after his death only 15 people accepted his theory.



Tycho Brahe
1546-1601

"The machine of Heaven is not a hard and impervious body full of various real spheres . . . it extends everywhere, most fluid and simple, and nowhere presents obstacles as was formerly held, the circuits of the Planets being wholly free . . . being divinely governed under a given law."

Brahe's Data



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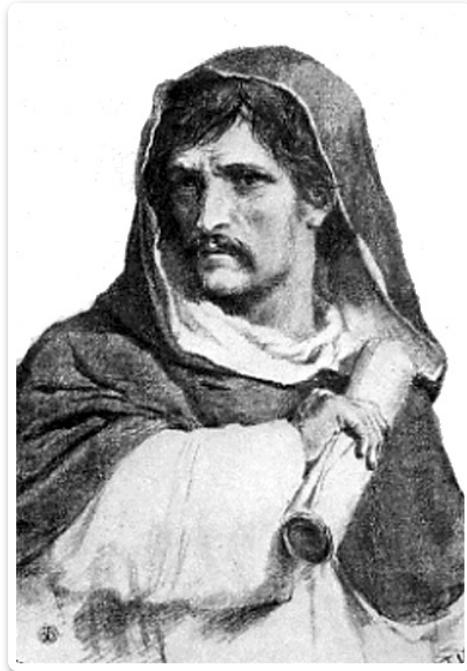
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Developed hybrid geocentric/heliocentric model of solar system.



Giordano Bruno
1548-1600

"Innumerable suns exist. Innumerable earths revolve around these.
Living beings inhabit these worlds."

Bruno's Heresy



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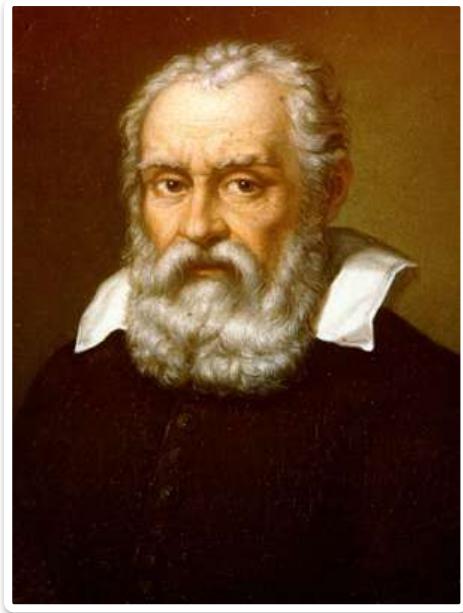
Bruno's Heresy



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First person known to suggest that stars are distant suns.

Tried and executed by burning as a heretic after he returned to Italy in 1600.



Galileo Galilei
1564-1642

"For in the sciences the authority of thousands of opinions is not worth as much as one tiny spark of reason in an individual man. Besides, the modern observations deprive all former writers of any authority, since if they had seen what we see, they would have judged as we judge."

Galileo's observations



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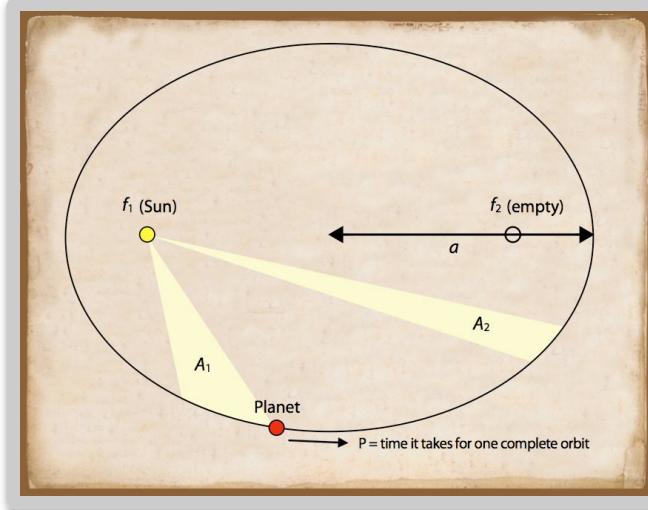
Forced to publicly deny his own theories or face torture and death.



Johannes Kepler
1571-1630

"I was almost driven to madness in considering and calculating this matter. I could not find out why the planet would rather go on an elliptical orbit."

Kepler's models

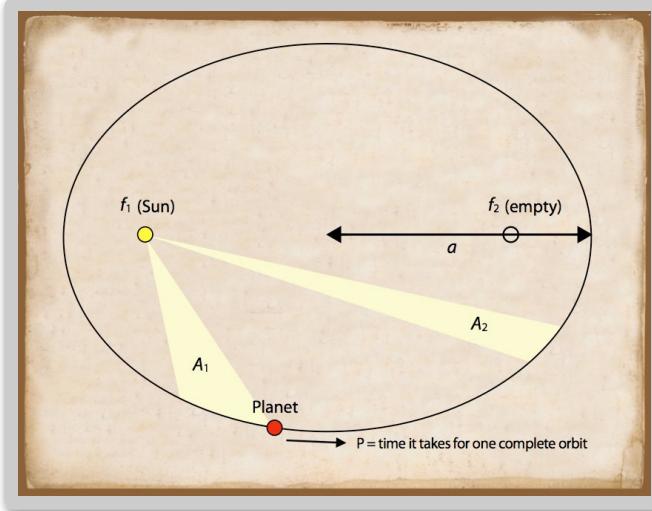


Kepler's models



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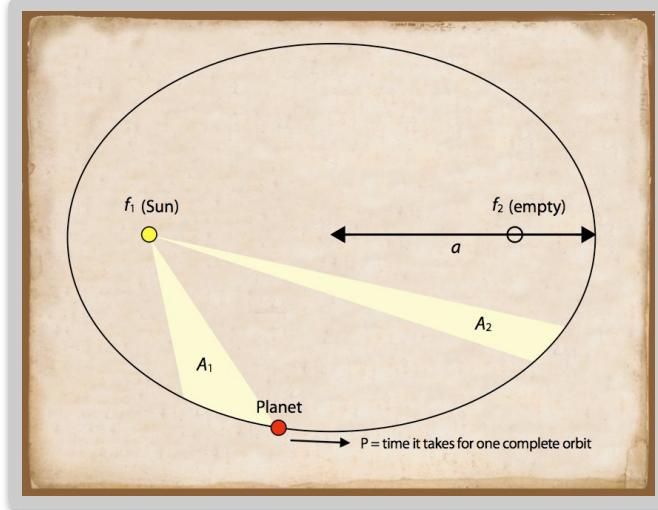
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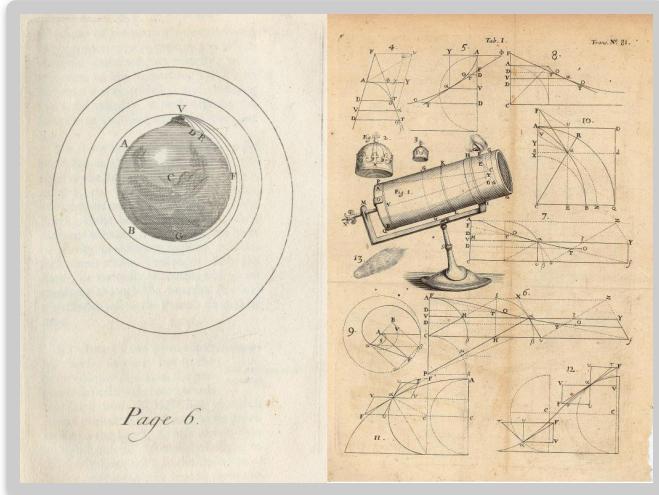
His three laws of planetary motion were derived from careful study of the data.



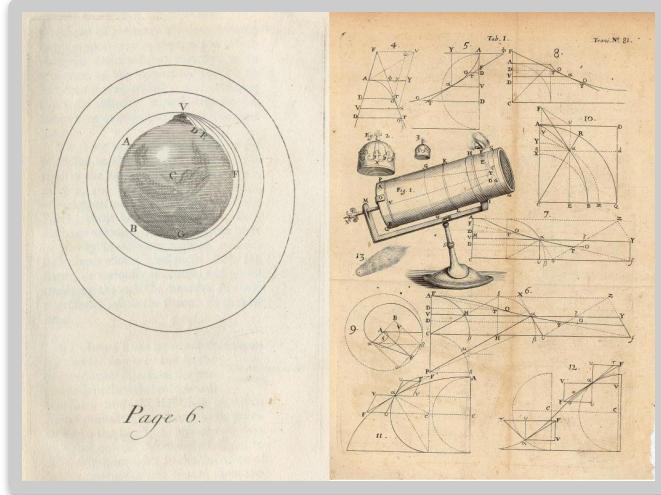
Isaac Newton
1643-1727

"Every body continues in its state of rest, or of uniform motion in a right line, unless it is compelled to change that state by forces impressed upon it."

Newton's Laws

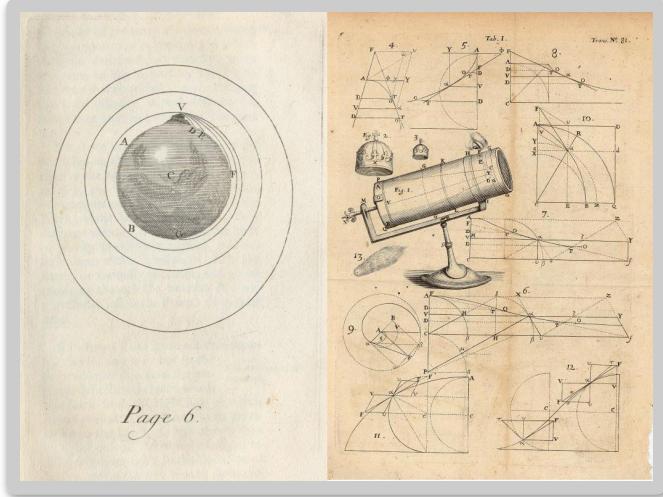


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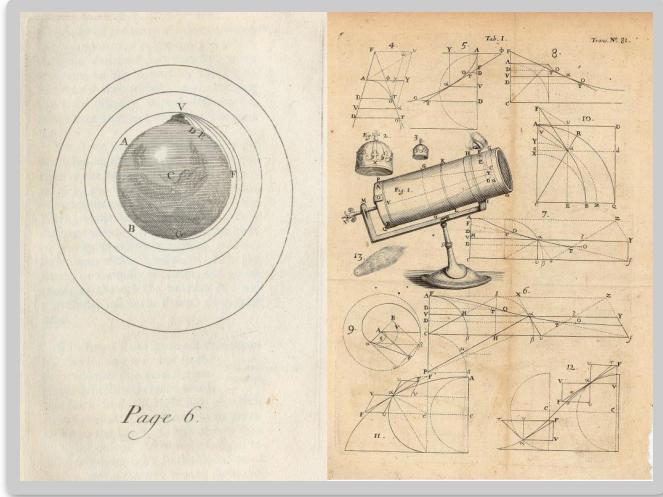
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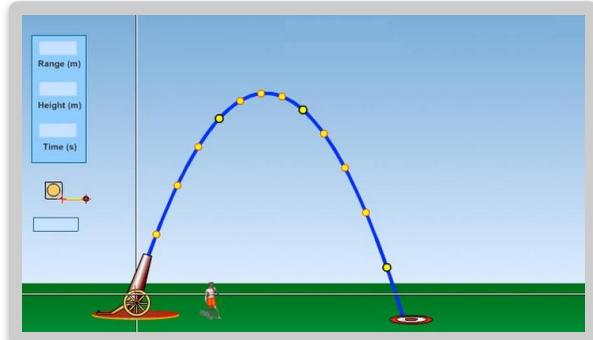
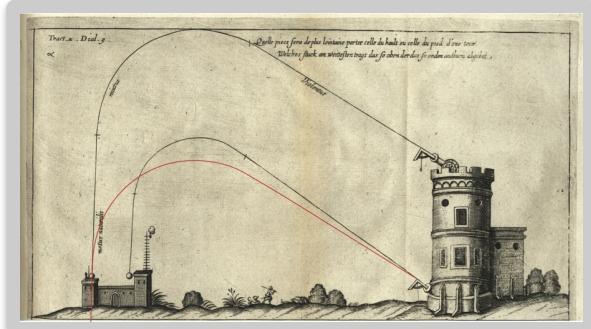
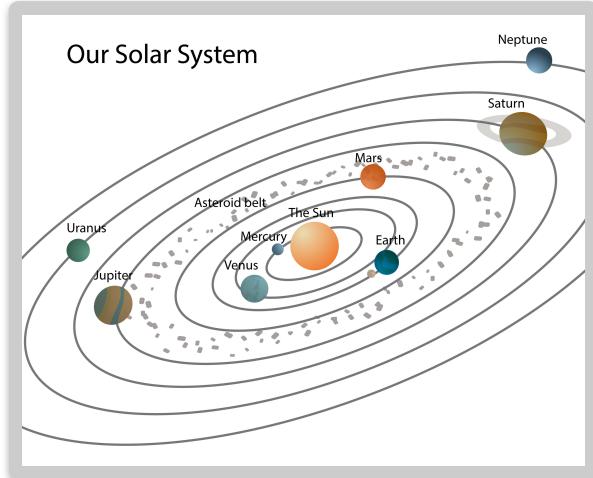


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Developed the calculus as a way to describe continuous change in the motion of bodies acted upon by forces.

Refused to speculate on the causes of gravitation.

Heaven and Earth: before and after



find out more

Timeline of the scientific revolution: find out more about some major figures -- those mentioned here and others as well.

Deciphering the motions of the planets: the key problem that initiated the Scientific Revolution

Gravity simulator: a fun and mildly addictive simulator that tests your skills at building stable solar systems.



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