

# The Quest for Other Worlds Virginia Trimble

Physics & Astronomy, UC Irvine

Las Cumbres Observatory G.T. Net

CM 2007

Casa Romantica 2008

MSU Marches 2008

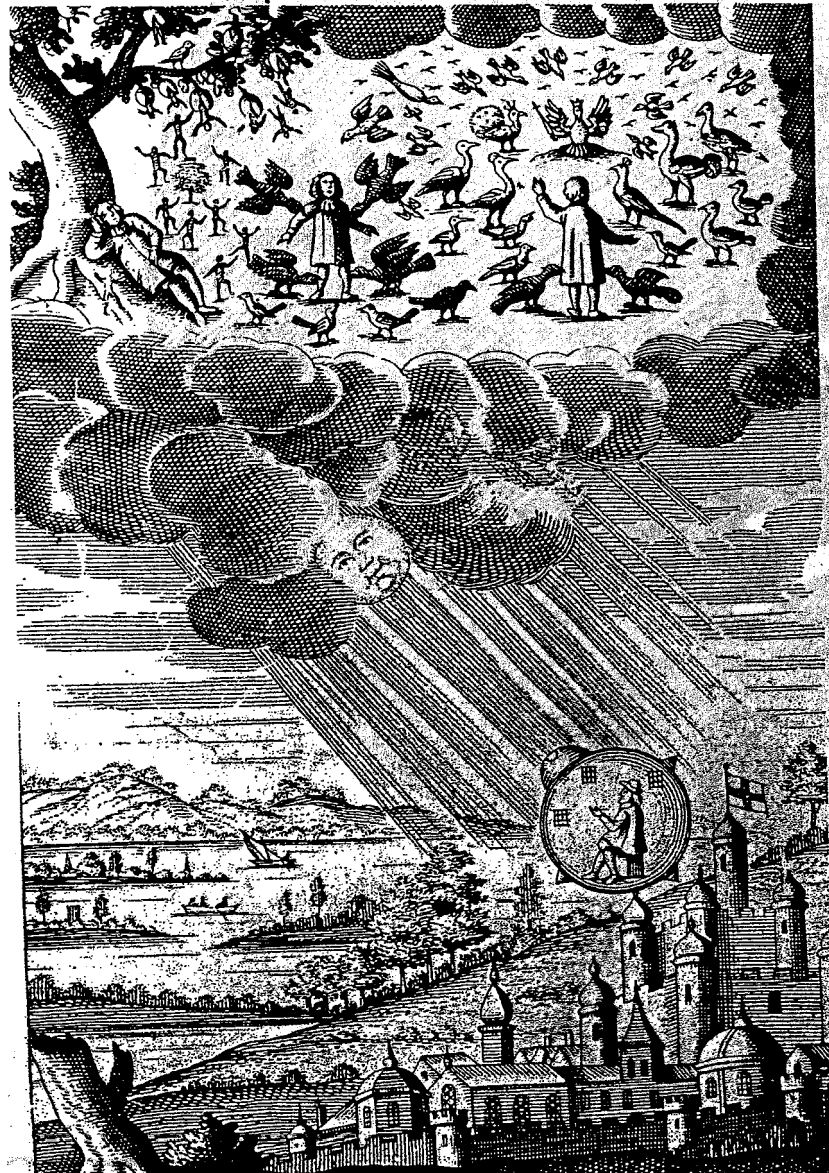
MT ST 2008

OCM ena 2008

Cyrano de Bergerac

1687

Last spacecraft  
designer to test fly  
his own design?



απειρο κοσμοι (Plurality of Worlds;  
Plenitude)

from -350 to + 1995

In the 4th century BCE, Epicurus taught that there are an infinite number of worlds like (and unlike) ours, and Aristotle taught that there is only one.

Neither hypothesis can currently be falsified.

© ASHLEIGH BRILLIANT 1985.  
SANTA BARBARA

POT- SHOTS NO. 3253.

*Ashleigh  
Brilliant*

**YOU  
CAN GET  
A GREAT  
REPUTATION  
FOR WISDOM**

**JUST BY  
TELLING PEOPLE  
WHAT THEY ALREADY KNOW.**



## MEANING OF "OTHER WORLDS"

2.

Entire earth or sun centered systems  
(kosmoi) not detectable by us. Greeks.  
Roger Bacon, Thomas Aquinas c. 1250  
(against!)

! Other systems like ours and potentially  
detectable. earth-centered c. 1330  
Bradwardine, Occam, Buridan  
Sun-centered, c. 1600 Bruno, Digges  
post-telescopic, Fontenelle  
(first woman to deny, Aphra Behn 1686  
first woman to support, Fanny Burney  
1786). Maria Mitchell undecided.

! Moon and perhaps sun & other Sol Syst  
planets with featured, inhabited  
surfaces. 1610 onward (Galileo, Wm.  
Herschel, Schiaparelli, Lowell)

2  
Other worlds in temporal succession  
Origen (3rd cent), Oresme 1277

1. Images possible
2. Images unlikely

## MODERN ANALOGS

Complete, undetectable systems:  
multiverse, self-reproducing inflation

Detectable planetary systems: search for  
exoplanets, success, characterization

Known planets & moons: water on Mars

*Europa??*

Sequential worlds in temporal succession:  
oscillating universe (needs matter  
with non-positive mass-energy)  
brane worlds, *quasi Steady-State*

# What is a Planet?

Star  $\equiv$  H fusion  $\therefore T_c \sim 10^7 K$   $M \gtrsim 0.08 M_{\odot}$   
 $\equiv 85 M_{\text{Jup}}$

BD = no H fusion - formed like  $\delta$

[but D fusion,  $\therefore T_c \sim 10^6 K$   $M \gtrsim 0.015 M_{\odot}$ ]

Planet  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} M \lesssim 15 M_{\oplus} \text{ ("Orphan" planets)} * \\ \text{orbit something bigger (PG + BD only)} * \\ \text{co-formed w/ } \delta \text{ in outlying disk} * \\ \quad (\text{SS yes, polar planets no}) * \\ \text{chemical differentiation (SS yes)} * \\ \quad \text{"maybe" for some exoplanets} \end{array} \right.$

\* easier to measure

\* better definition

# WHAT DO YOU NEED FOR AN EARTH?

Solid planet

Air & water (at reasonable temperature)

Tides (moon? or sun enough) *Rotn. axis stabilization (?)*

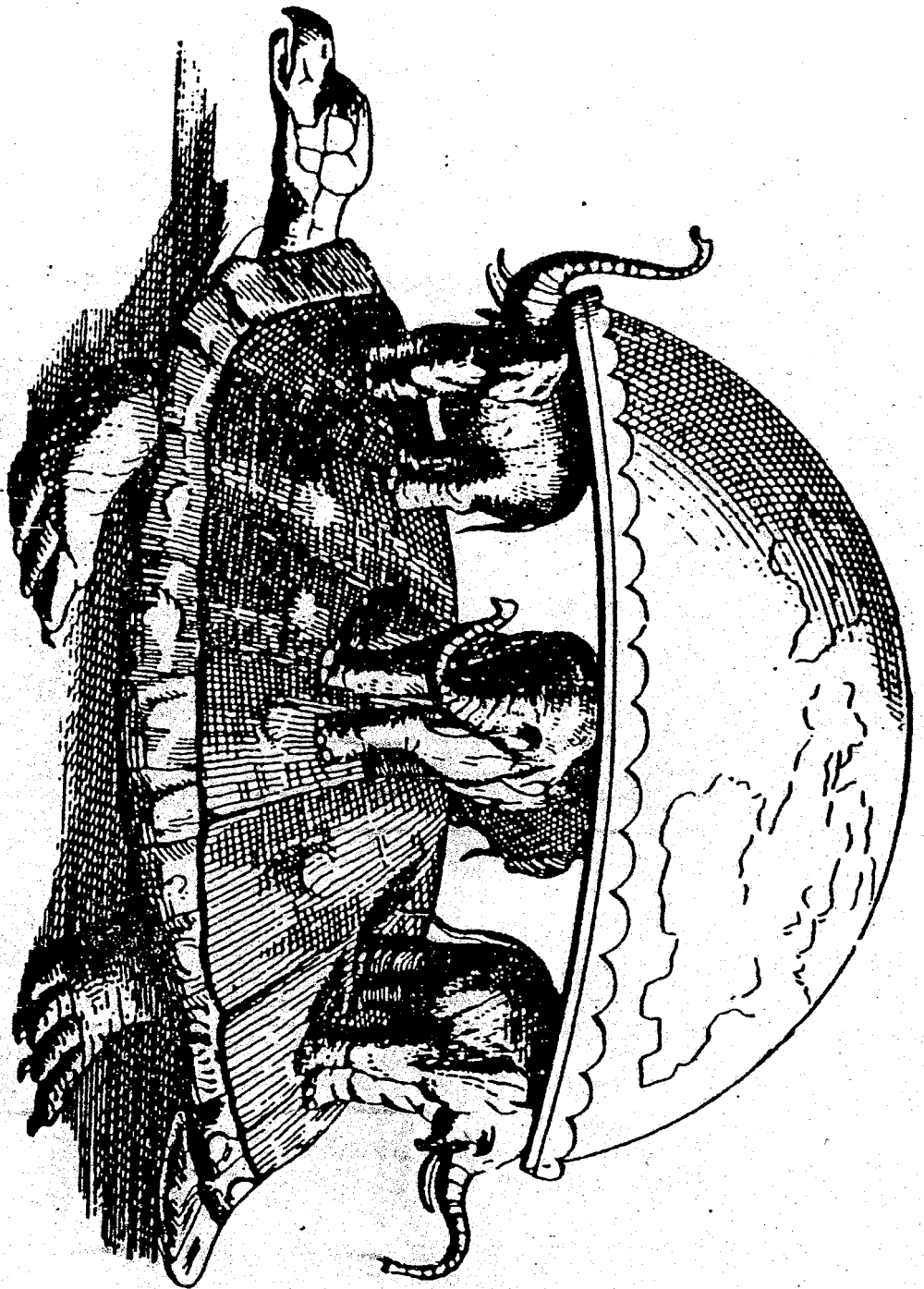
Plate tectonics [land/sea, ores, fossil fuels - requires radioactive heating, molton core + rotation(?), water coolant(?)]

Magnetic field (GCR protection; rotation + molton core)

"Jupiter" to clear out debris (excessive bombardment protection)

Life actually present ( $O_2$ ,  $O_3$ ,  $CH_4$ ...)

*Turn 'em all the  
way down*



## PLURALITY OF WORLDS

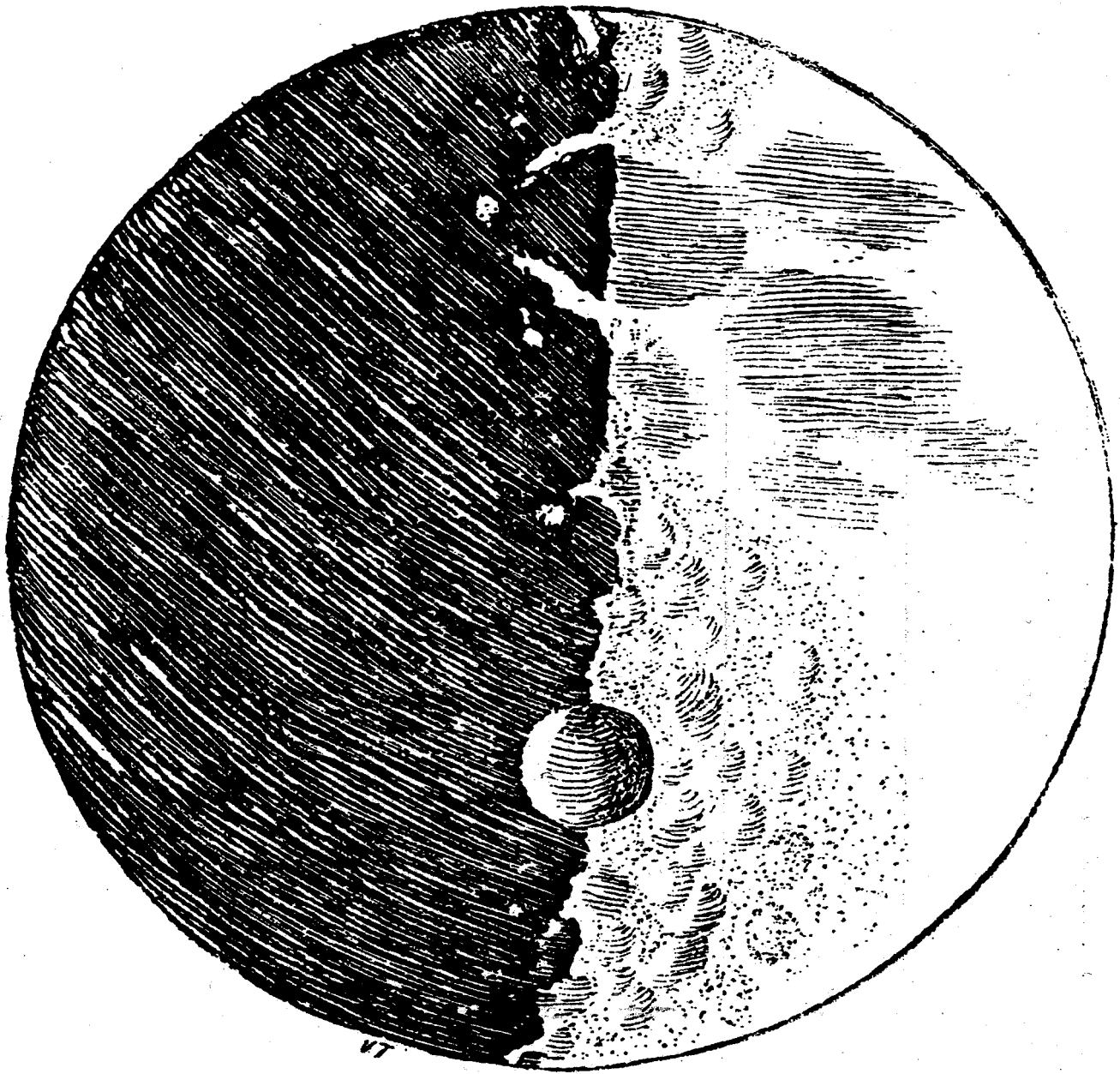
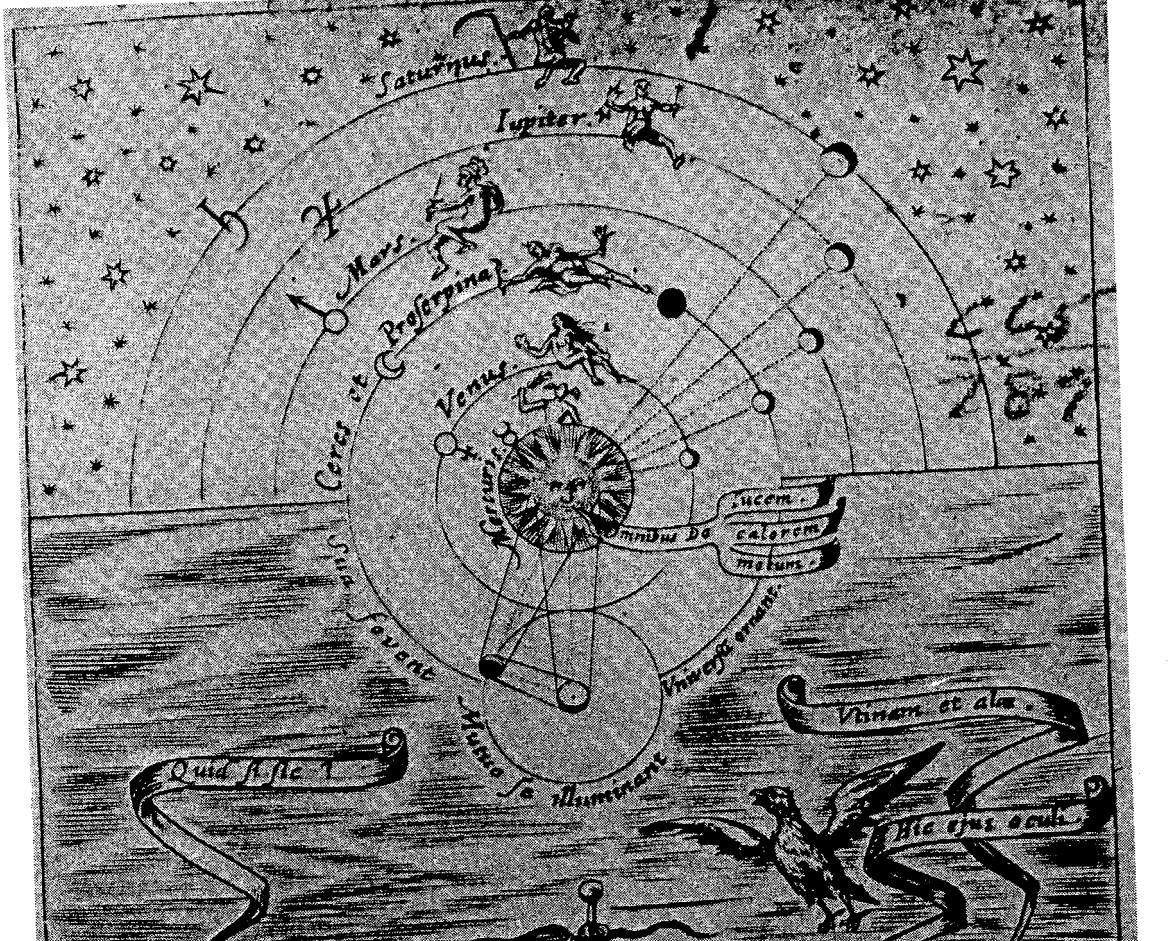


Figure 4 The diagram from Galileo's *Sidereus nuncius* (1610), clearly showing the circular feature that Kepler interpreted as evidence of lunar inhabitants. From Galileo's *Opere*, III, pt. 1, p. 66.

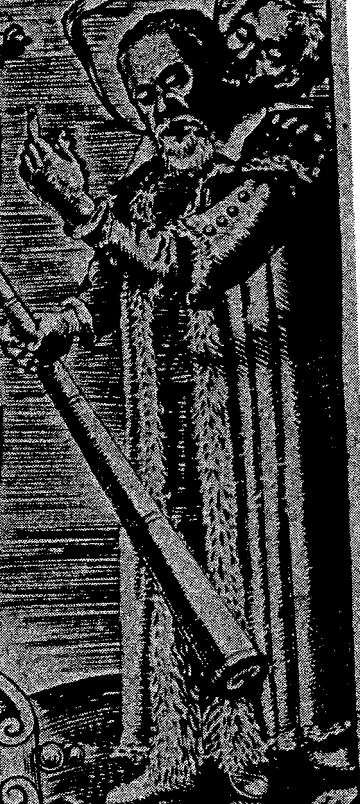
hewn out of that circular embankment"<sup>42</sup> (see Figure 4). Finally, Kepler argued from the perfectly smooth edge of the moon that it might be wrapped in a sphere of air, which moderated the heat with its moisture and allowed the inhabitants to bear the intense heat of the sun. He cited Maestlin in support of this atmosphere,





N. Copernicus

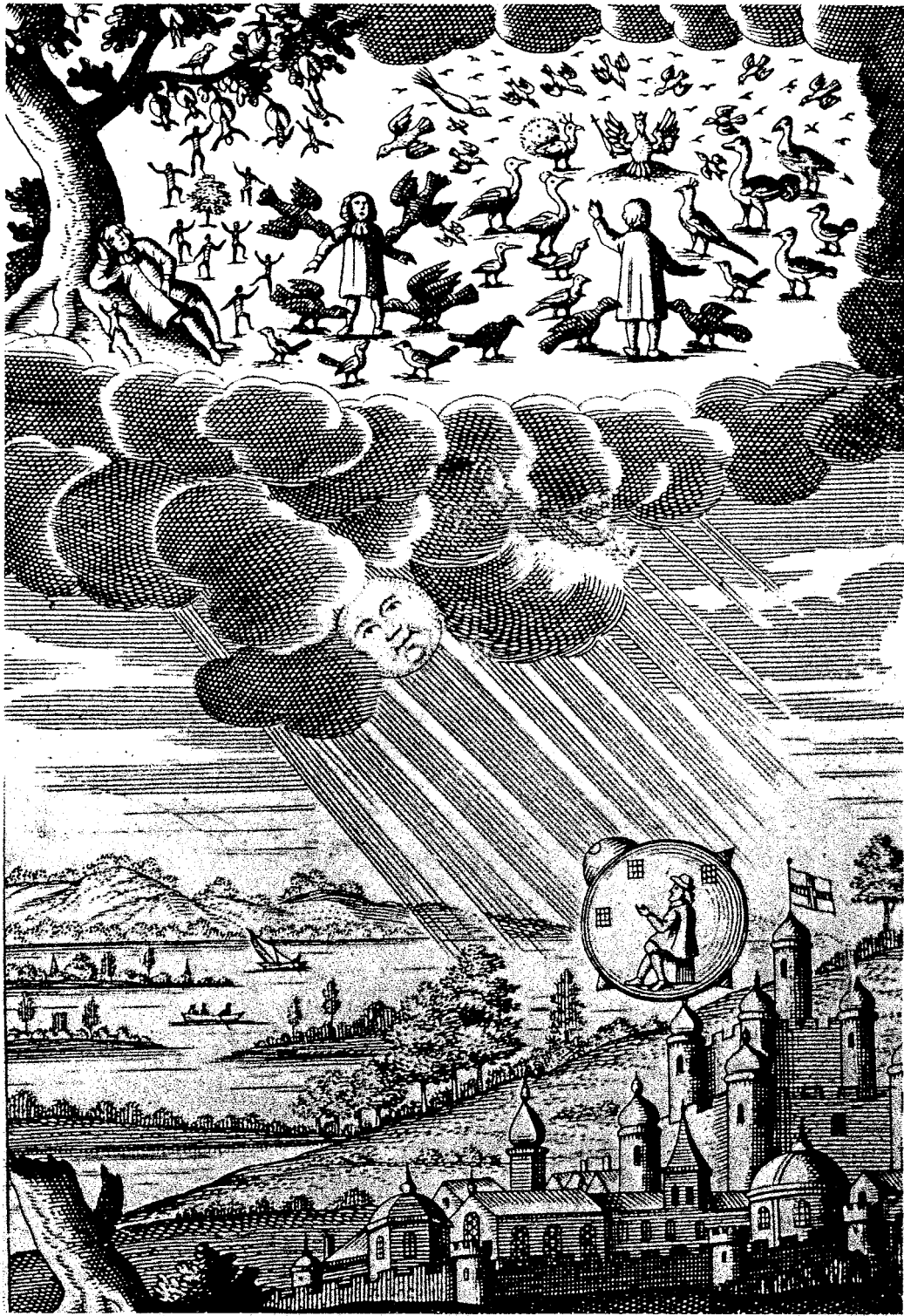
A Discourse  
concerning  
A NEW  
world  
&  
Another Planet  
In 2 Bookes



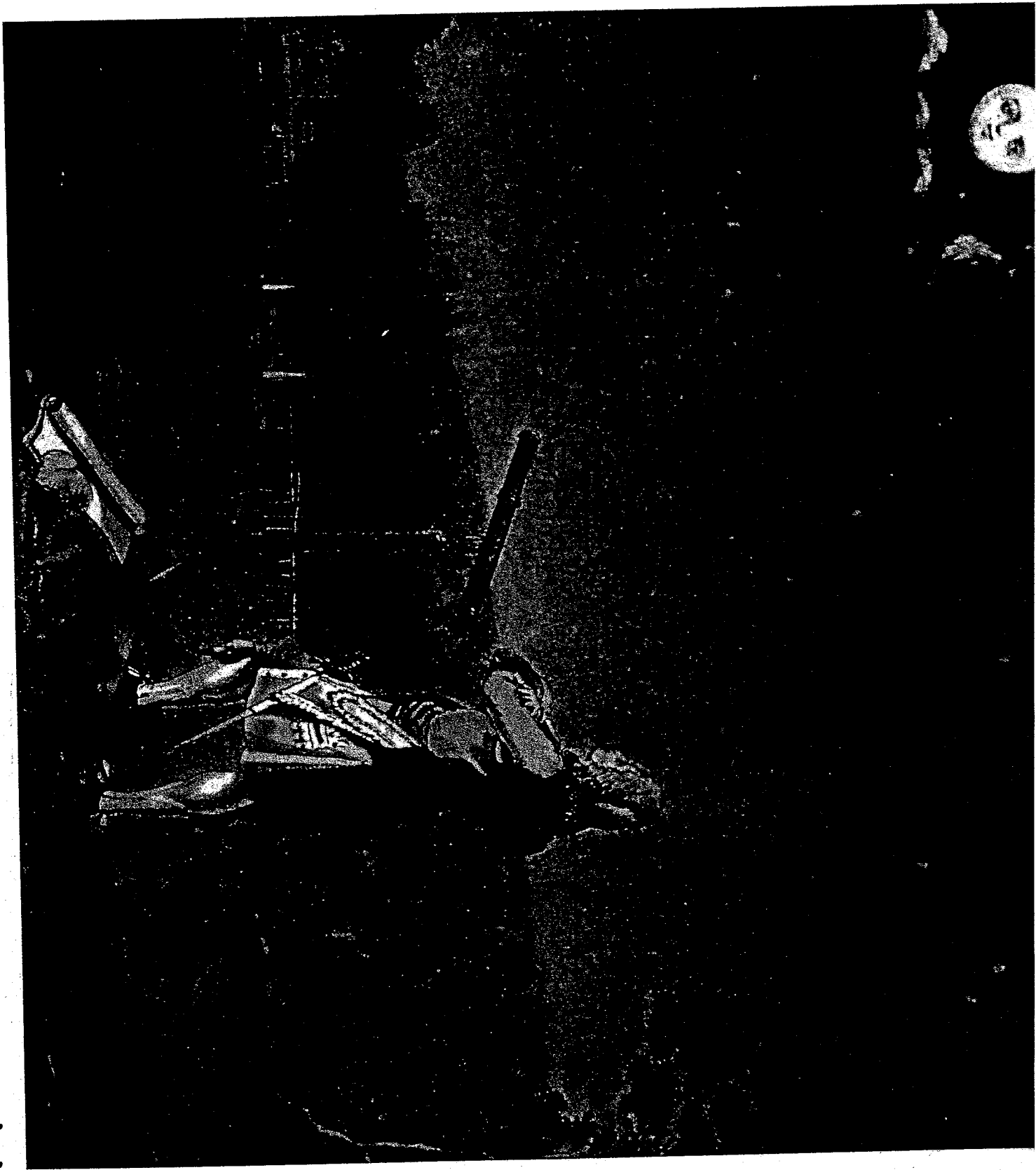
Galilaeus Kepler

Printed for  
John Maynard  
Care to be sold at the  
George in Fleetstreet  
neare St. Dunstons  
Church. 1640.

W. Marshall, sculp. et



*Cyrano de B. 1687*



*Fantennella 1751 and the gal in the moon*

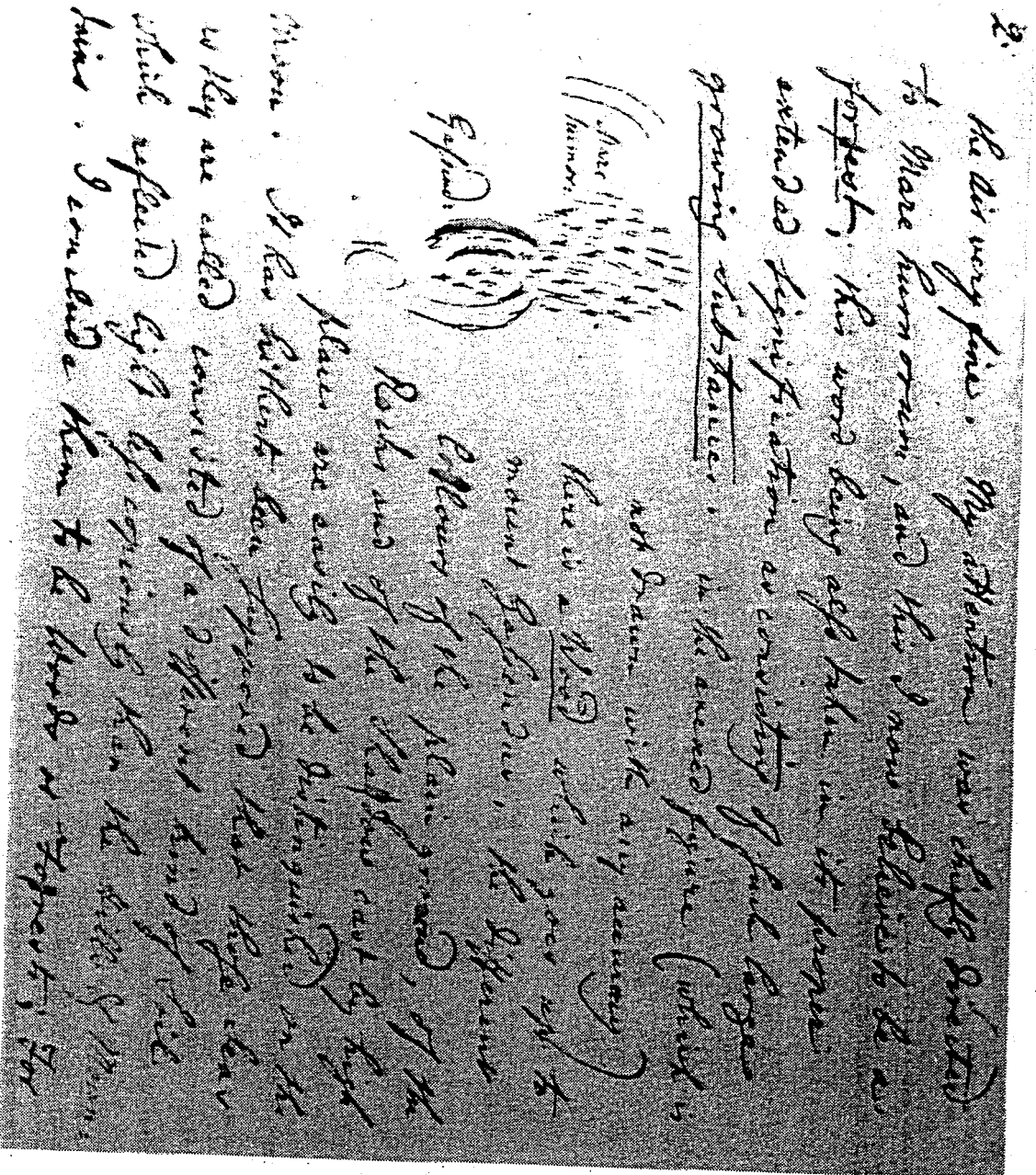


Figure 2.2. A portion of Herschel's unpublished notes on his lunar observations, including his drawing of the lunar forest he believed he had observed. (Courtesy of the Royal Astronomical Society.)

## ASTRONOMY

much rarer than ours and means of clouds shining enough to suppose that a Building one half will have Sun. Perhaps, then on the Moon this be true ought we not Lunarians may the Building this. . . . By reflecting a numberless small Circuses and may be called their Tower it is evident an exact list of But this is no easy undertaking many a careful Astronomer However this is what I will

Having adopted this remedy no small factor in his effort making numerous lunar craters that to classify the lunar craters, Cities, Villages" but terms "Large places, Mountains, I 1979, entry records his observation to be the effect of seeing a new spot in the North a city."<sup>62</sup> Extensive lunar craters, many from the early mountains. The latter year late June yielding numerous and "circuses."<sup>63</sup> On another





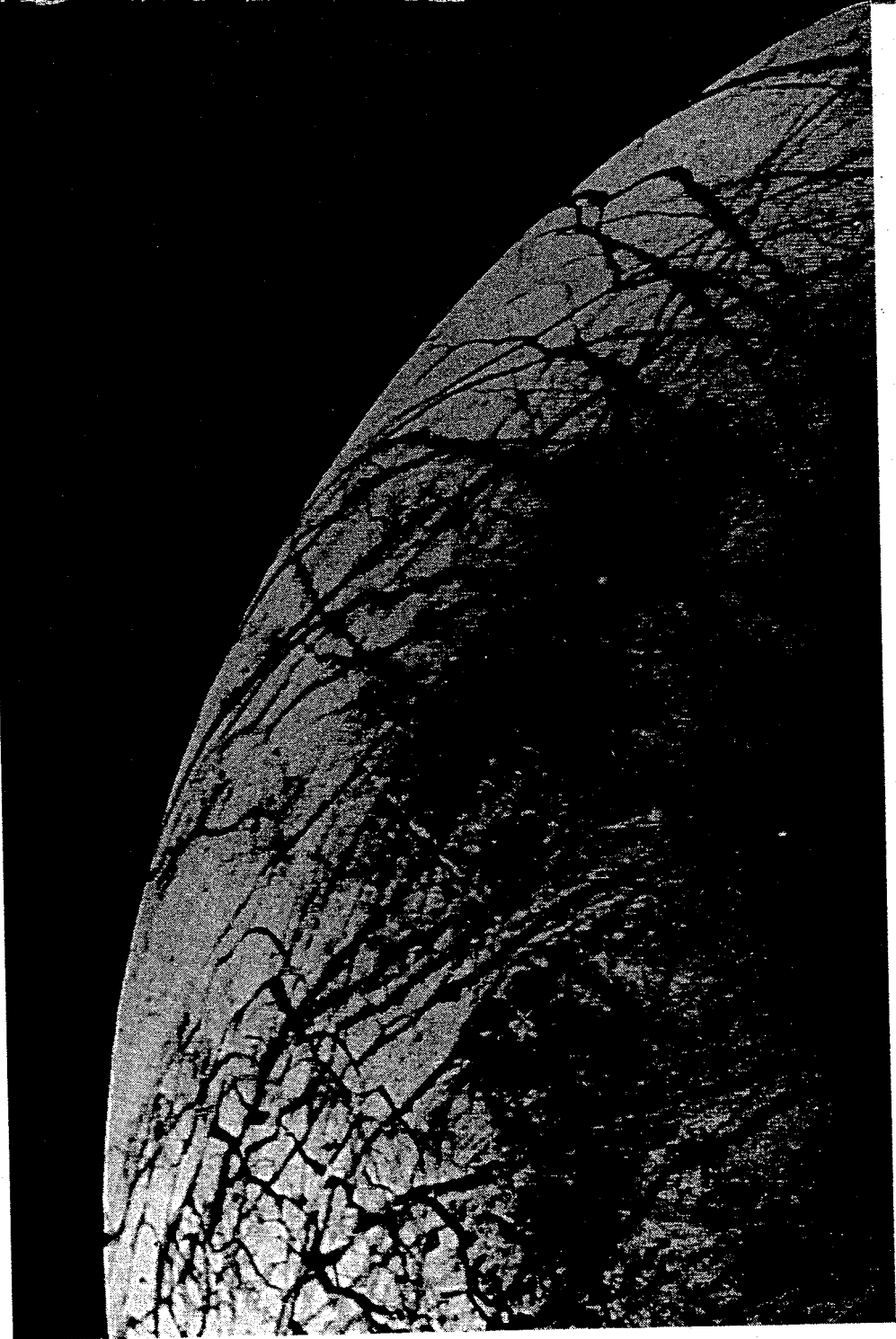
Figure I.1 Percival Lowell's 1907 globe of Mars. Some thought that the linear features were irrigation canals built by Martians.

*Nb: These features, real, misinterpreted*

to organic matter: extreme cold, toxic soil and lack of water. In many people's minds, these findings dashed all hopes that extraterrestrial life would ever be found in the solar system. This was a crushing blow to the nascent field of astrobiology. *Venus feature = retinal capillaria*

At about this time there was another major disappointment: The first serious searches for "extrasolar" planets all yielded negative results. Although many astronomers believed that planets were probably common around

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*Cracks in the ice of Jupiter's moon Europa.  
Is there an ocean down there? And life? NASA*

14th c. Manuscript of Immutability  
 of the Heavens  
 Macrobius 15th Cent. Argues to Tycho



Publius Cornelius

Sapio Africanus Publii Simonis

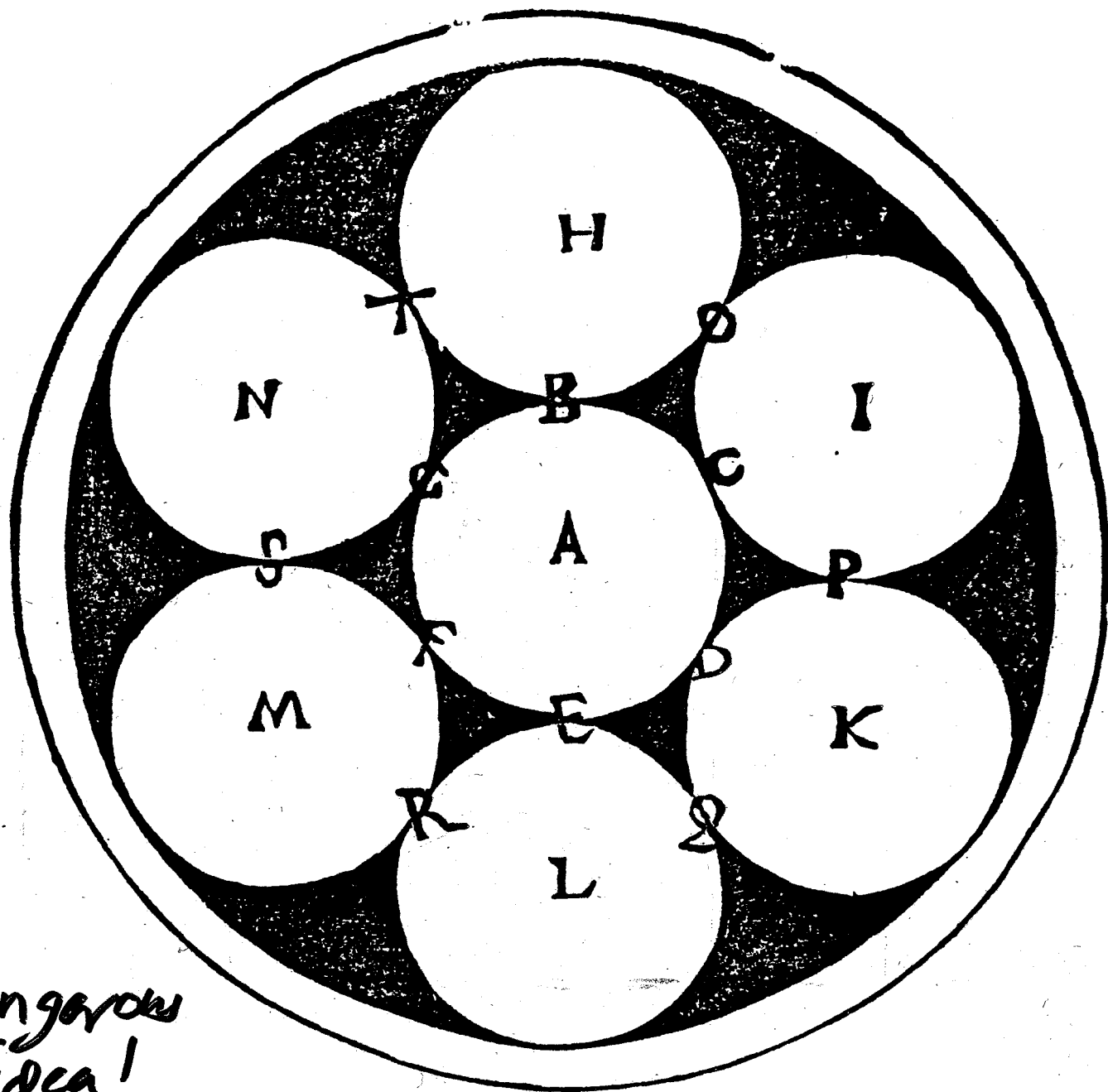
Lucius Cornelii Sapio Summi. Cuius numatus

Paulus Sapio pater publici



Milky Way  
 (lucky guess)

PLURALITY OF WORLDS



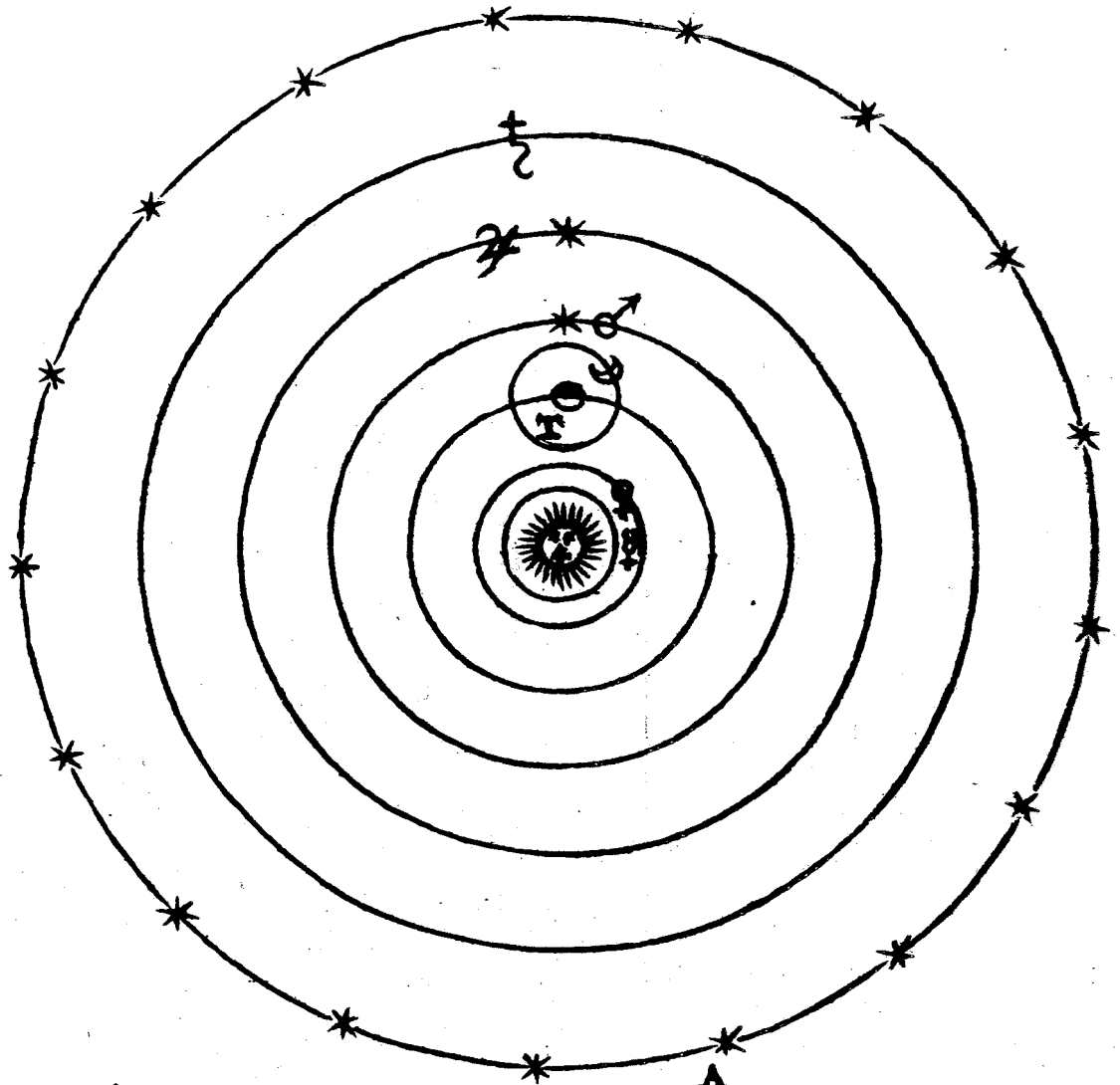
Dangerous  
idea!

Figure 3 Diagram used by Giordano Bruno in his *De immenso et innumerabilibus* (1591) to illustrate that “a part of world H placed at B cannot and ought not to drive toward the center A of another system, but toward the center of its own system.” Bruno’s worlds were actually celestial bodies separated by one immense space, and not touching, as shown here. A simplified version of this diagram appeared in *De l’infinito universo e mondi* (1584).

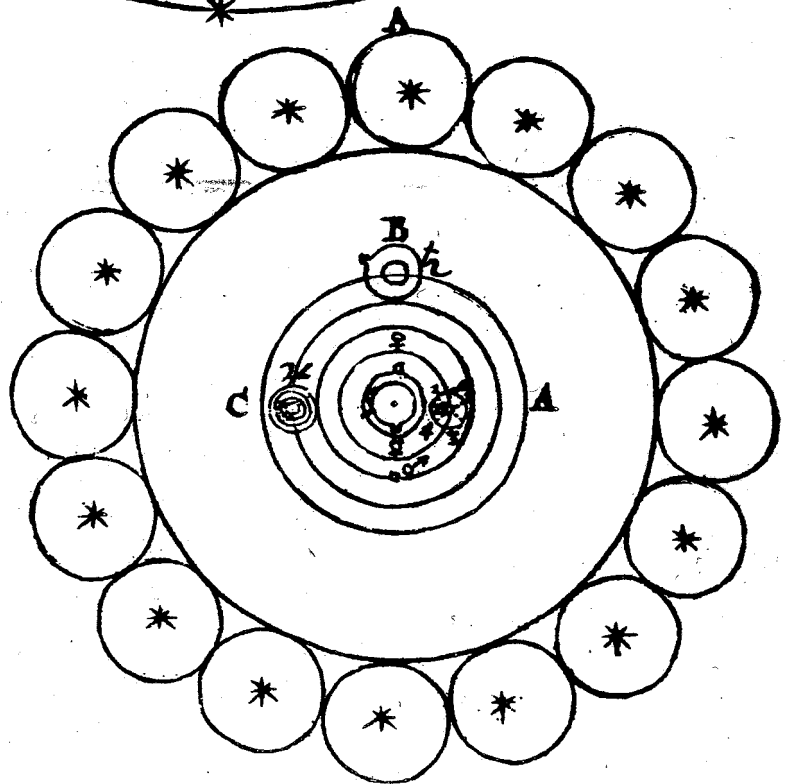
Bruno’s transformation of every celestial body into a world. While



Copernicus



Cartesian extension  
Henry Regius 1654



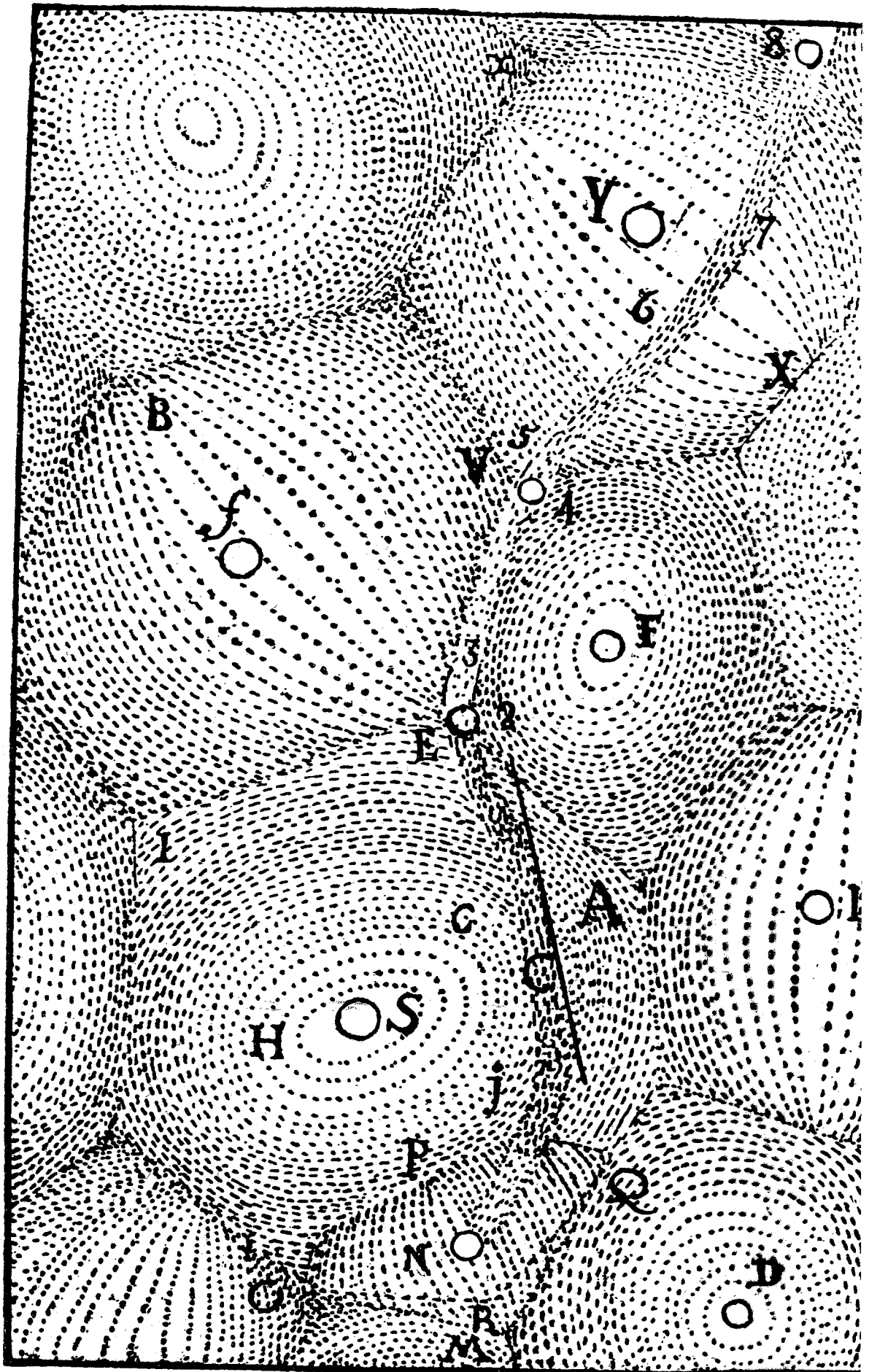
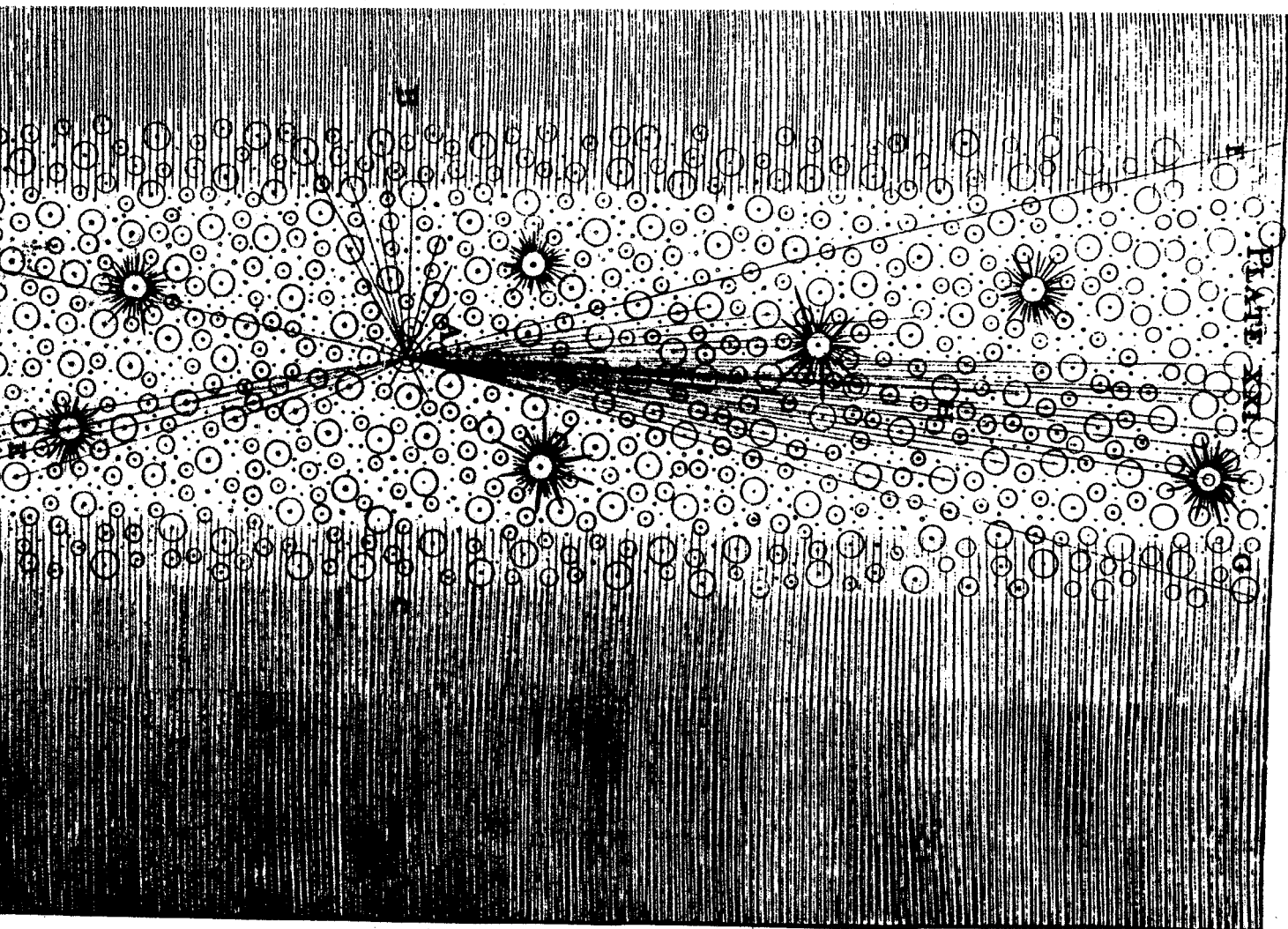
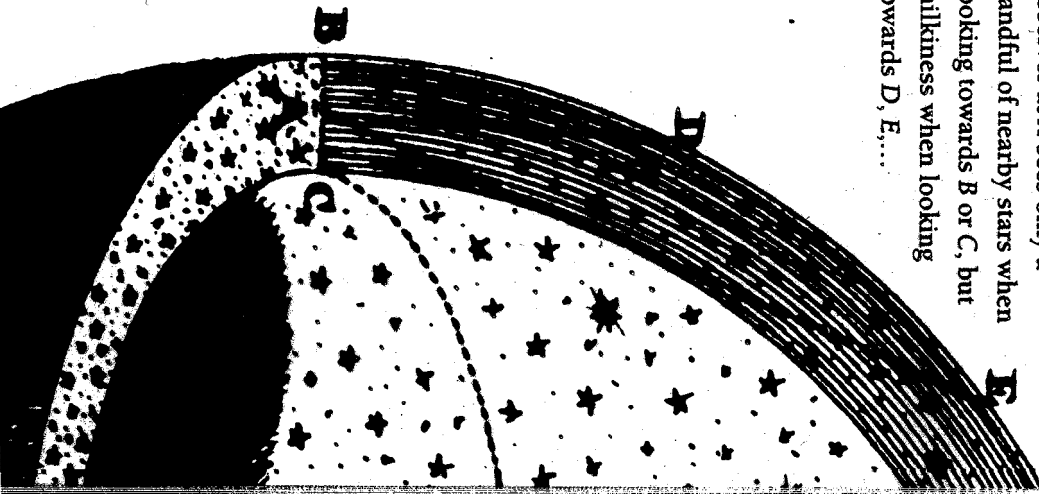


Figure 7 Descartes' vortex cosmology from his *Principia philosophi* (1644).

PLATE XXI

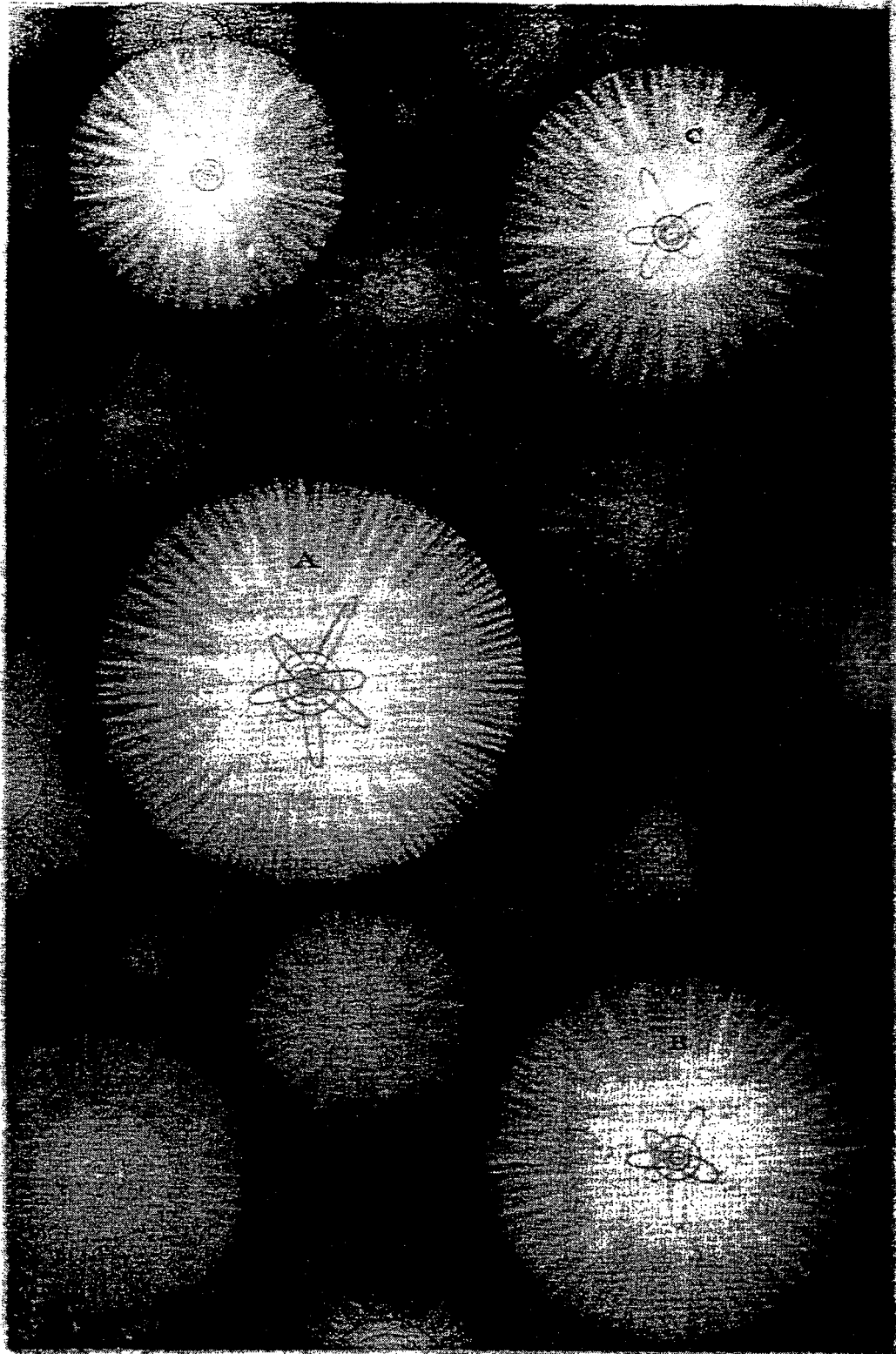


Below: Wright's preferred model. Stars near enough to be seen by us form a small segment of a vast spherical system, whose radius is so great that the boundaries of the segment approximate to parallel planes. Again, an observer at A sees only a handful of nearby stars when looking towards B or C, but milkiness when looking towards D, E,....



SS not centered

PLATE XVII.



Thomas Wryer  
1750

A = SS    B = Sirius System  
C = Rigel System

NOTE orbit shapes - not coplanar - comets

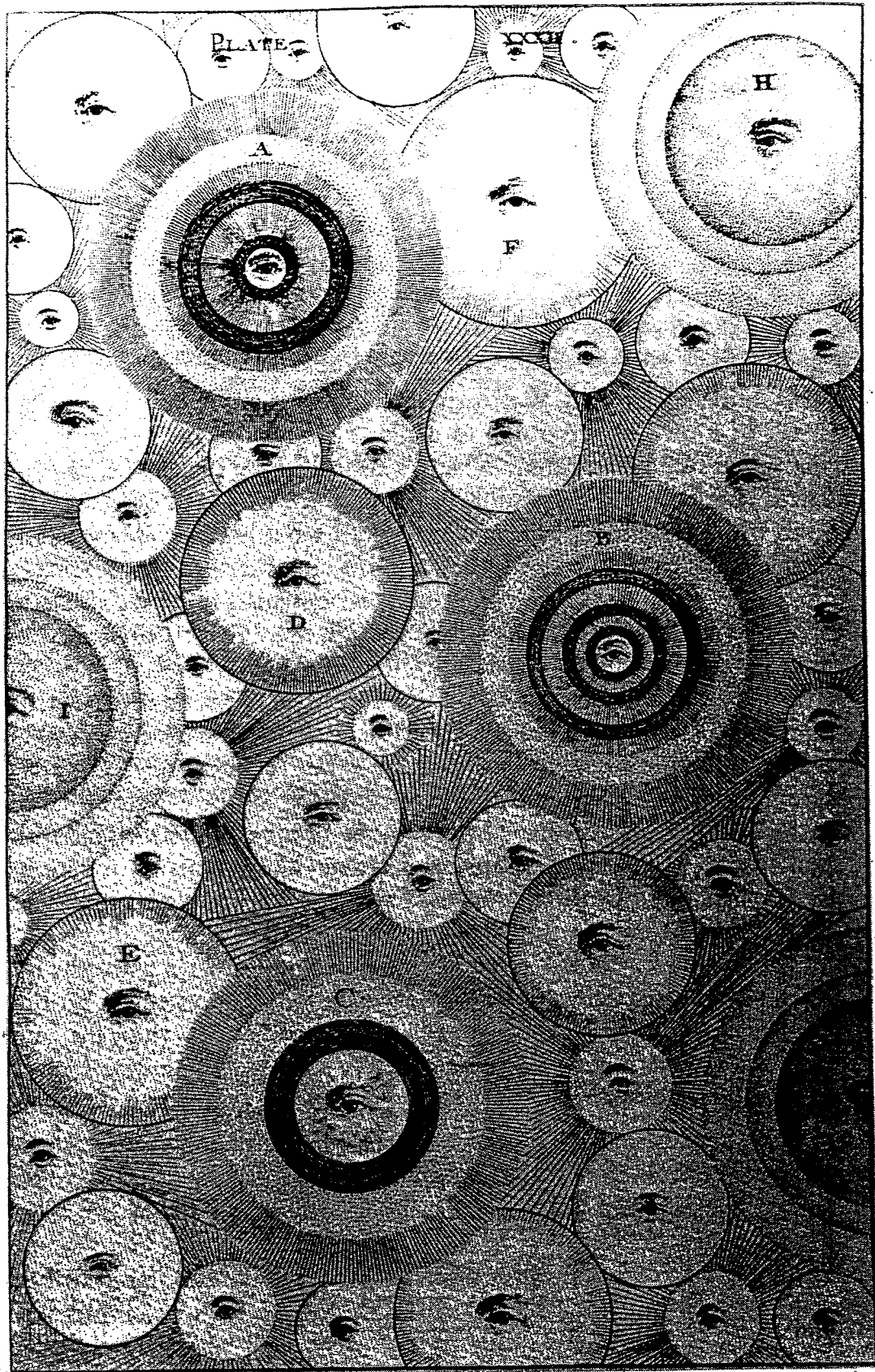


Figure 2.1. Wright's representation of infinity, showing sections of shells of stars, each having at its center the "Eye of Providence."



one of them include all of  
the main part

PLATE XXVI.



Norman Wryler 1750

SS central

DEMOCRITUS TO LOWELL

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are water.  
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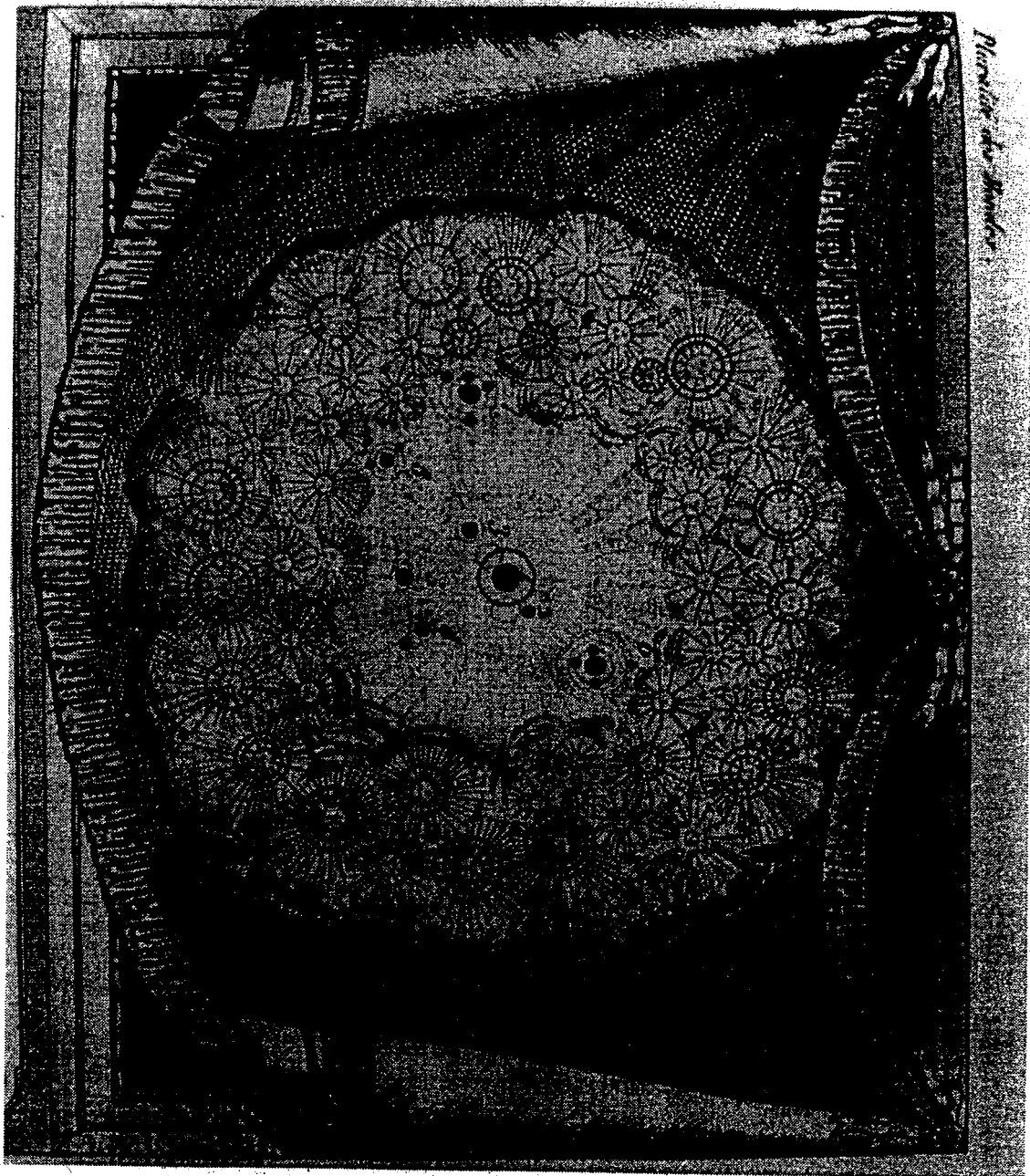


Fig. 1.2. Frontispiece to the 1821 French edition of Fontenelle's *Entretiens sur la pluralité des mondes* (1686), depicting the plurality of solar systems. From Steven J. Dick, *Plurality of Worlds* (Cambridge, 1982), by permission of Cambridge University Press.

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# Aristotle returns

## PLURALITY OF WORLDS AND ANTHROPOCENTRISM

DIAGRAM OF STELLAR UNIVERSE (Plan) *Very similar to*

*Eddington 1912*

*Stellar Maximas*

*note: Darwin was pro-plurality*

*SS in uniquely good place*

*[2007 G. Gonzalez ditto; Tho not center of MW]*

*ps He didn't get tenure @ Ohio State & is sorry.*

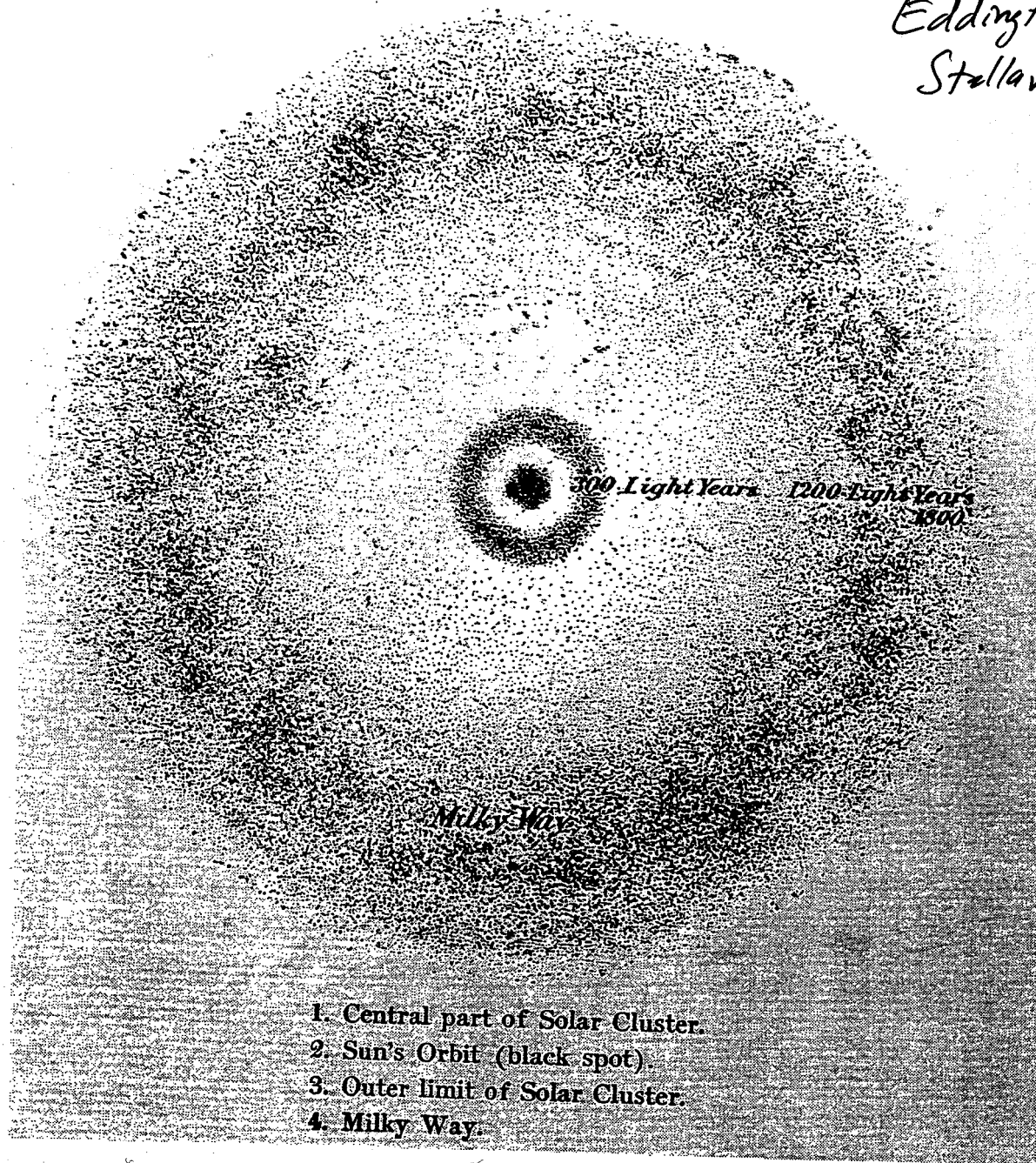


Fig. 2.2. The anthropocentric image of the universe according to A. R. Wallace (1903), showing the Milky Way stellar system, 3600 light years in diameter, with the Sun (a tiny black dot almost invisible here) near the center.

The centrality of the Sun was "the very heart of the subject" of Wallace's inquiry for more than philosophical reasons, for on that position rested much of his argument against other worlds. The importance



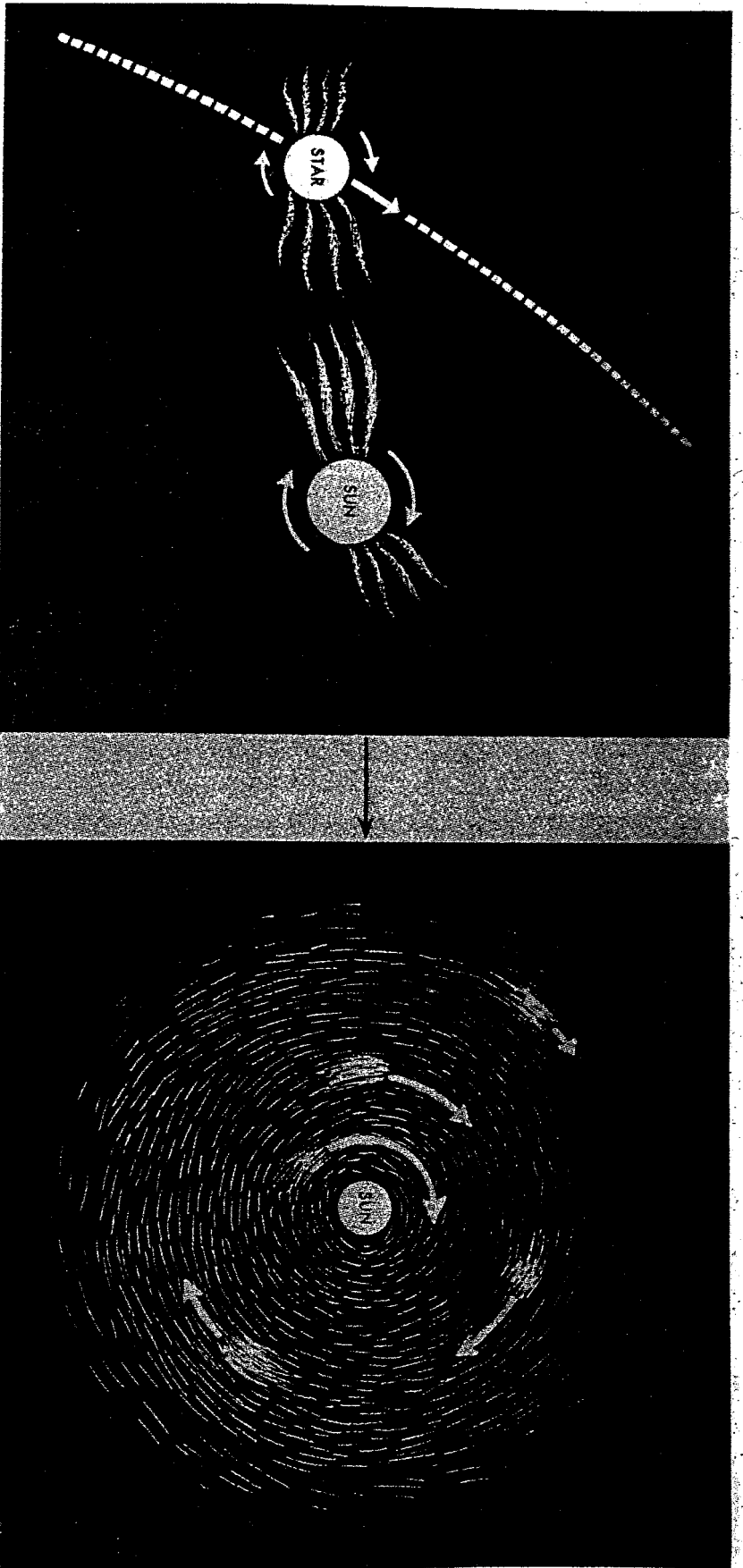


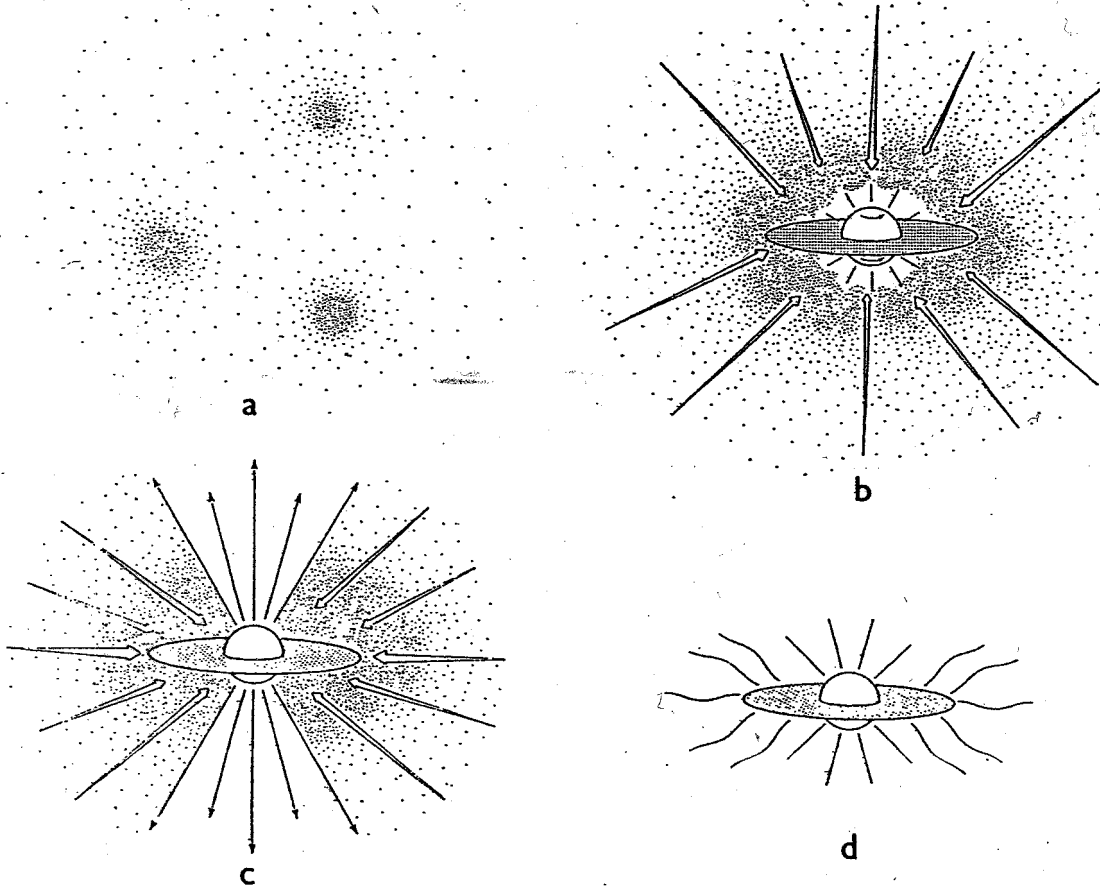
Figure 4.1. The Chamberlin-Moulton planetesimal hypothesis (1905), according to which a close encounter of another star with the Sun causes gases to erupt from both (left). These gases condense to form a large number of planetesimals that, in turn, accrete to form the planets (right). The spiral part of the theory, dropped a few years after it was proposed, is not depicted. (See also Figure 4.2.) From a review of theories of the origin of the Earth by astronomer Thornton Page in *Physics Today* (October 1948), at a time when abundant planetary systems were again being proposed.

No point in looking?  
vs Laplace nebular hypothesis

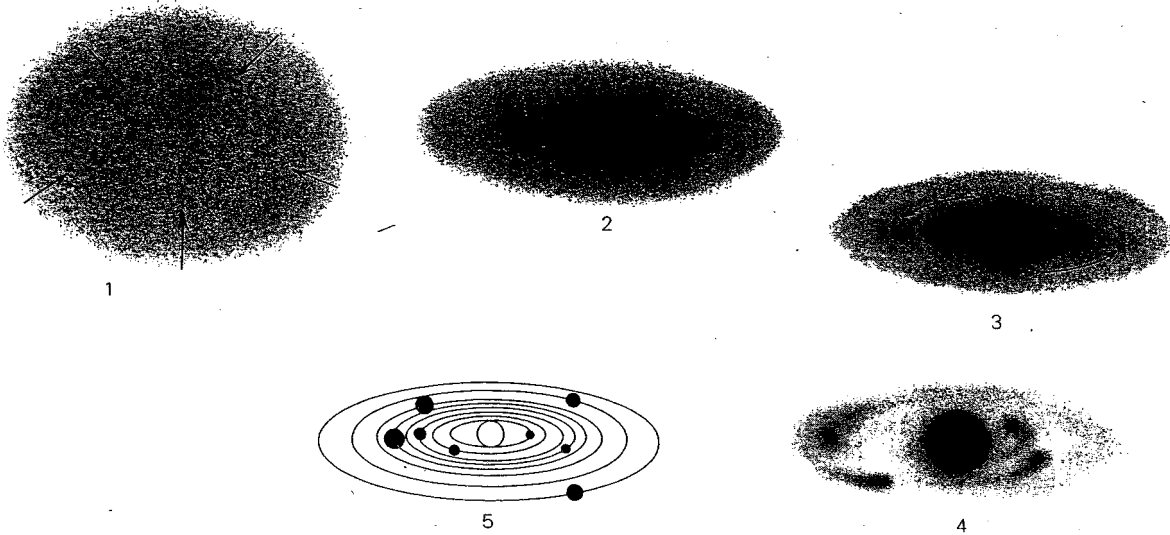
# La place updated

72

SHU, ADAMS & LIZANO



14.3 Origin of the Solar System 273



## NOTED FALSE ALARMS

1896-97 Thomas Jefferson Jackson See  
direct imaging of several "dark"  
companions. Publ. in Atlantic Monthly  
(self-delusion or fraud) *NUT*

1896 TJJ See, proper motion 3rd star in  
70 Oph AJ 16, 17 *NUT*

1943 Kaj Strand, 61 Cyg & 70 Oph B

1944 Peter van de Kamp, Barnard's star,  
Lalande 21185 *error in telescope alignment*

1963 P. vd Kamp, Barnard's star with two

1996 George Gatewood, Lalande 21185

1988 Campbell et al. 1989 Latham et al.  
radial velocity variables (stellar  
activity, brown dwarfs)

*McGlyh over tool pr 18.9 yr*

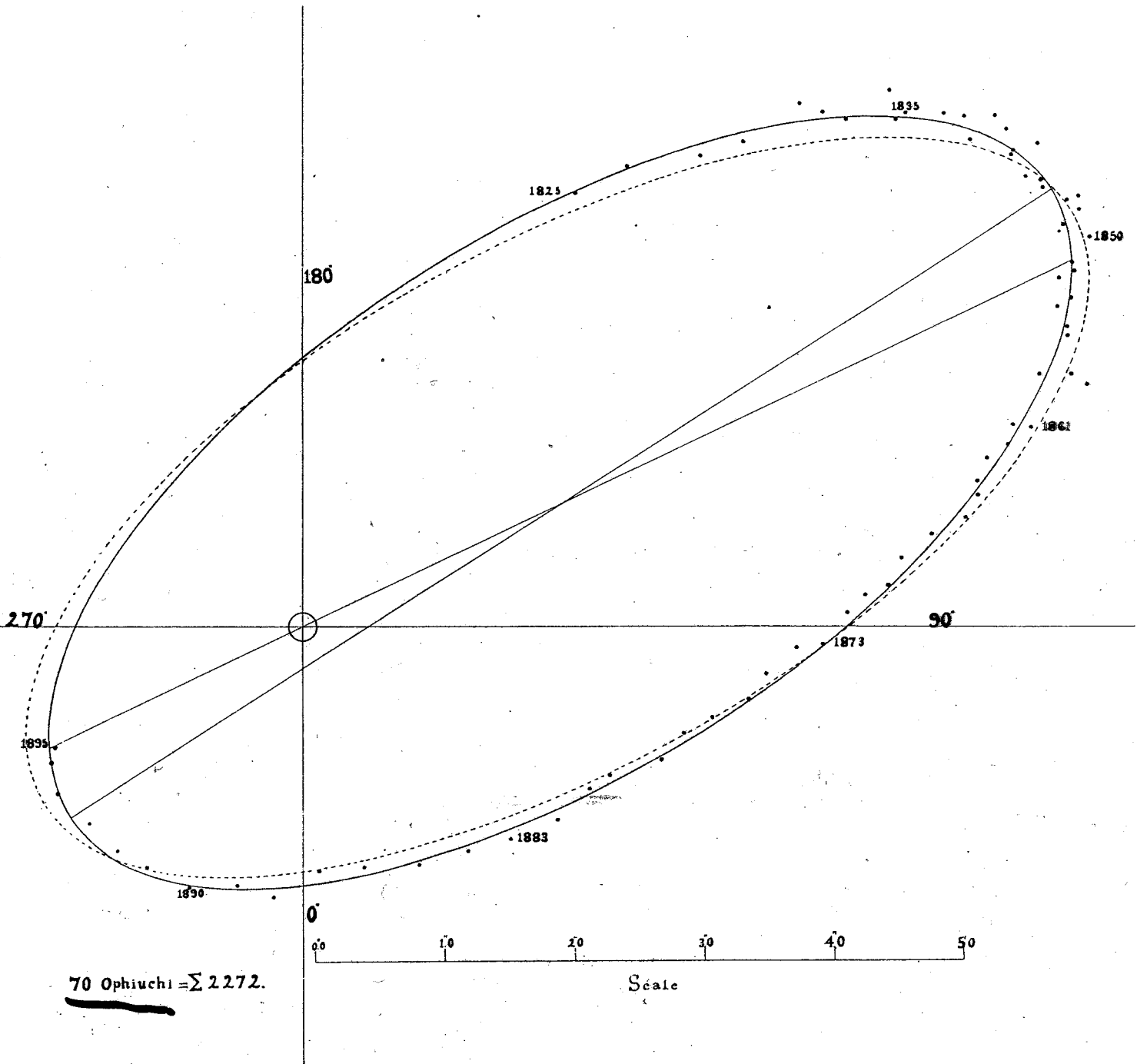
1991 Bailes et al. Timing residuals of  
psr 1829-10 (with six month P)

*planet detected was B!*



C.14m

C 1900



70 Ophiuchi =  $\Sigma$  2272.

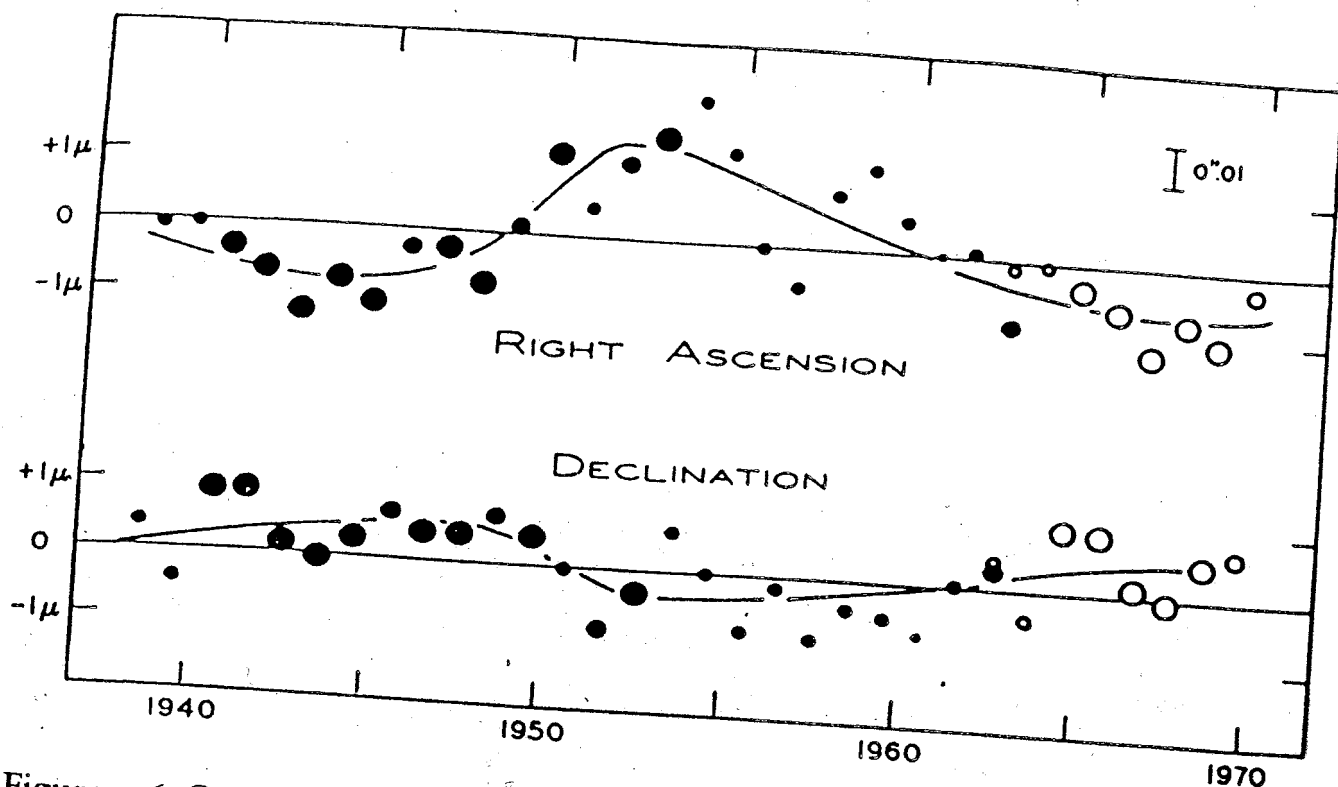


Figure 4.6. One of four methods of planet detection (see also Figures 4.7, 4.8, and 4.9). Van de Kamp's data for Barnard's star (1963) represent the classical astrometric method showing minute gravitational perturbations of a few hundredths of an arcsecond over a period of decades; plots using the spectroscopic radial velocity method look similar but need not cover such a long period of time. Used with permission from Elsevier Science Ltd.

*NOT TRUE!*

this mass and the period of the orbiting body were known, the mass of the latter could be calculated. It was here that van de Kamp finally came to the figure of .0015 times the mass of the Sun for his new planet: "The orbital analysis leads, therefore, to a perturbing mass of only 1.6 times the mass of Jupiter. We shall interpret this result as a companion of Barnard's star, which therefore appears to be a planet, i. e., an object of such a low mass that it would not create energy by the conventional..."

Equiv. Width (mÅ)      Velocity (m s<sup>-1</sup>)

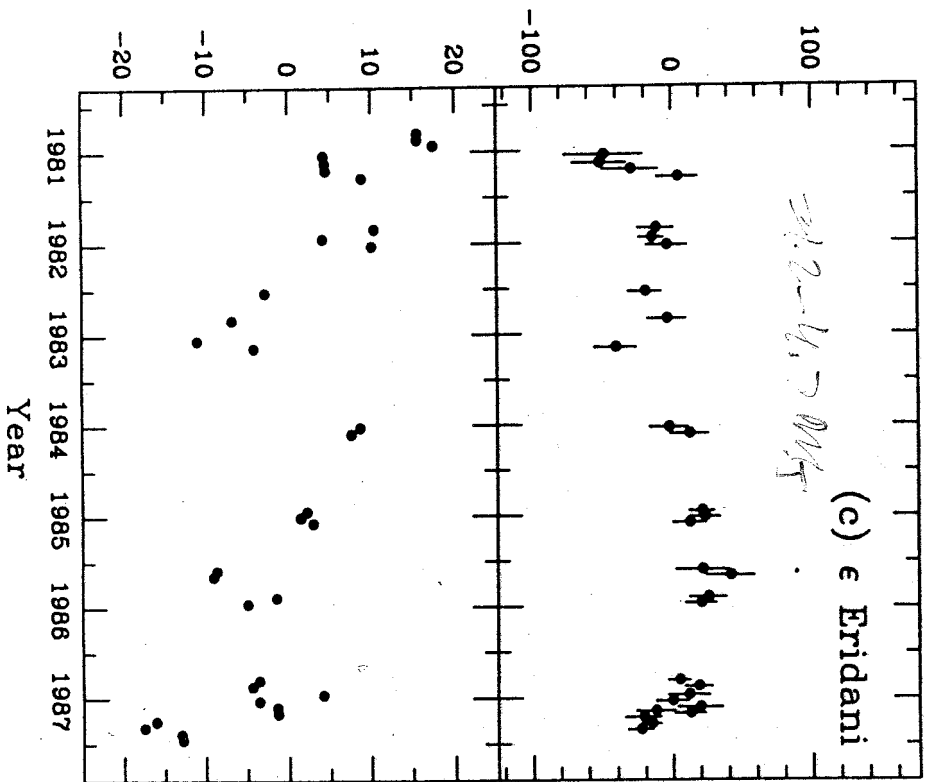


FIG. 2c

Equiv. Width (mÅ)      Velocity (m s<sup>-1</sup>)

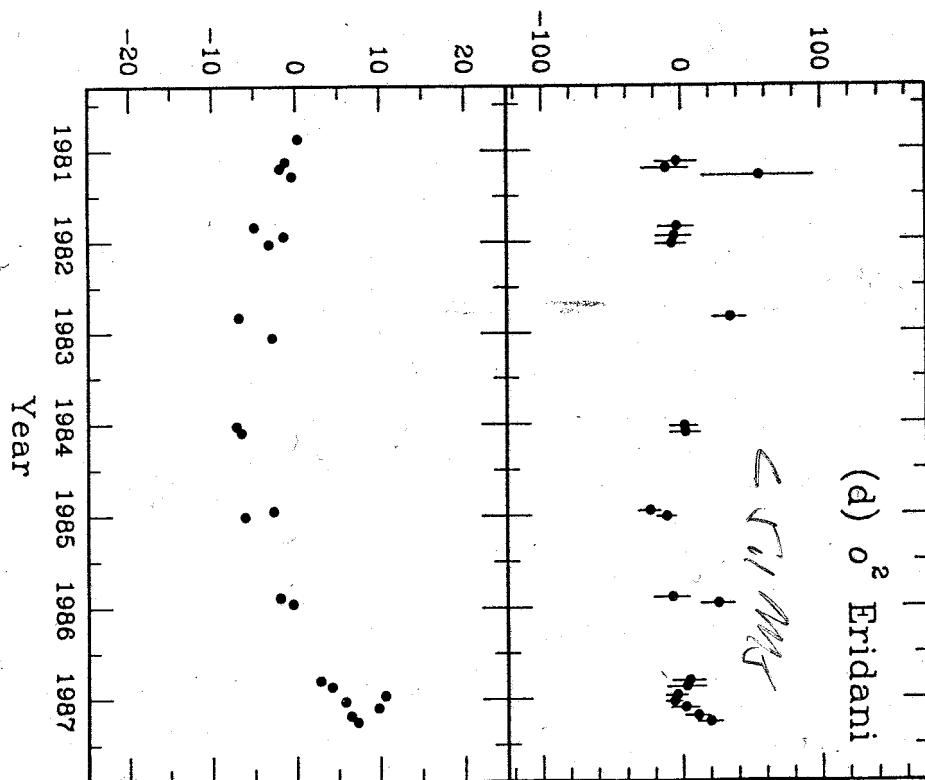


FIG. 2d

SMITH 1988

W. J. ...

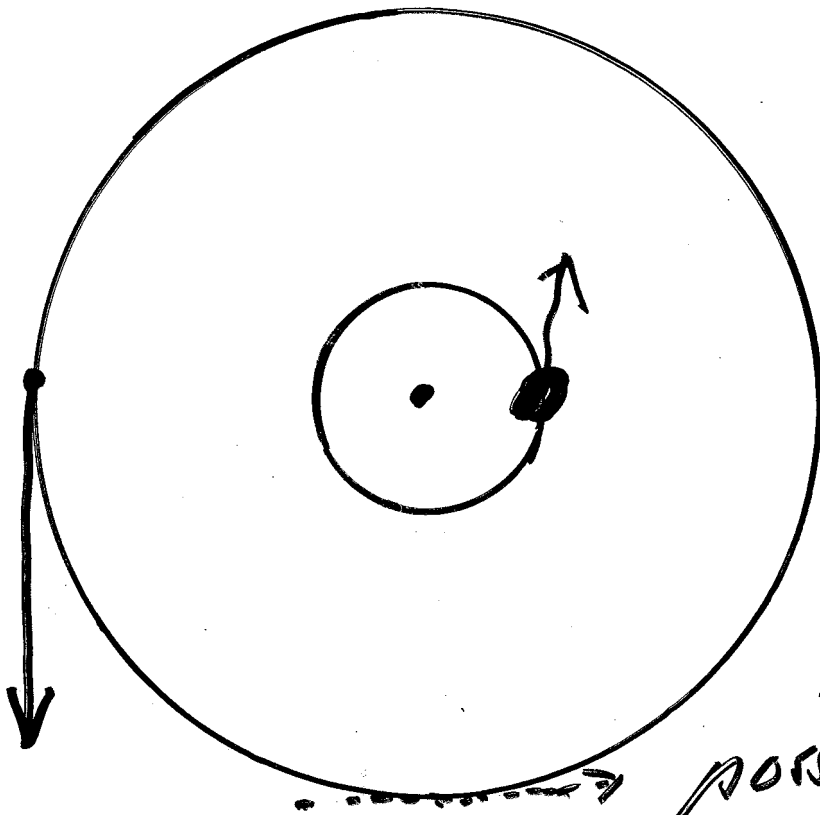
• = Center  
of Mass

● Big M

• little m

$$M_1 v_1 = M_2 v_2$$

possible transit



to  
observer



# SEARCH AND DETECTION METHODS

F = False Alarms                      D = Discoveries  
C = Confirmation of disc. by other meth.  
? = phenom exists; other mechs possible  
?? = phen. exists, other mechs probable  
S = Should exist; not yet seen

1. Direct imaging (F for companions;  
D for isolated)
2. Proper motion residuals (F,C)
- 3. Periodic residuals in radial velocities (F,D,C) *~ 90% of discoveries*
4. Residuals in pulsar timing (F,D)
- 5. Blips in microlensing (D) *a few (⊕) possible*
- 6. Transits (C,D; MANY candidates)
7. Distortions & disturbances of disks:  
Gaps, warps, ripples, dust growth(?)
8. Star occultation by dust vortex (F)
9. Collimation of bipolar ejecta (?)
10. Distortion of line profiles by reflected light or light absorbed in planet atms. (C)
11. Induced chromospheric activity (?) *cf/10*
12. Maser/laser activity in planet atm. or surface ?)
13. Periodic residuals in timing of EB light curves (?,S)
14. Pollution of host \* atm. (??)
15. OH, H<sub>2</sub>O in C star atm = comets (?)
16. Spin-up of evolved \*s

- as planetophagia (? , S) cf. CBS merge
17. V838 = star swallows planet (??)
  18. Mira pulsation = embedded planet (??)  
Microvariability = planets (S?)
  19. Io effect in white dwarfs
  20. WD atmosphere pollution by metals  
(earths) or H (gas giants) or debris disks
  21. Exo-zodi (S) protoplan  $\rightarrow$  debris @  $10^7$  yr, gone to  $10^8$
  22. X-ray flashers = planet collisions  
(??)
  23. GRBs as exhaust from spaceships (??)
  24. Various SETI, panspermia, LGM  
scenarios

$\text{Li}^6$ , oddities in Geminga, and more.  
Inventory expands about monthly

25. Subtraction (Spitzer, IR) (A + planet) - star during  
occultation = planet

25. Planet atm. during occultation entry - CH<sub>4</sub>  
in one planet (Nature 6 March), H, Na

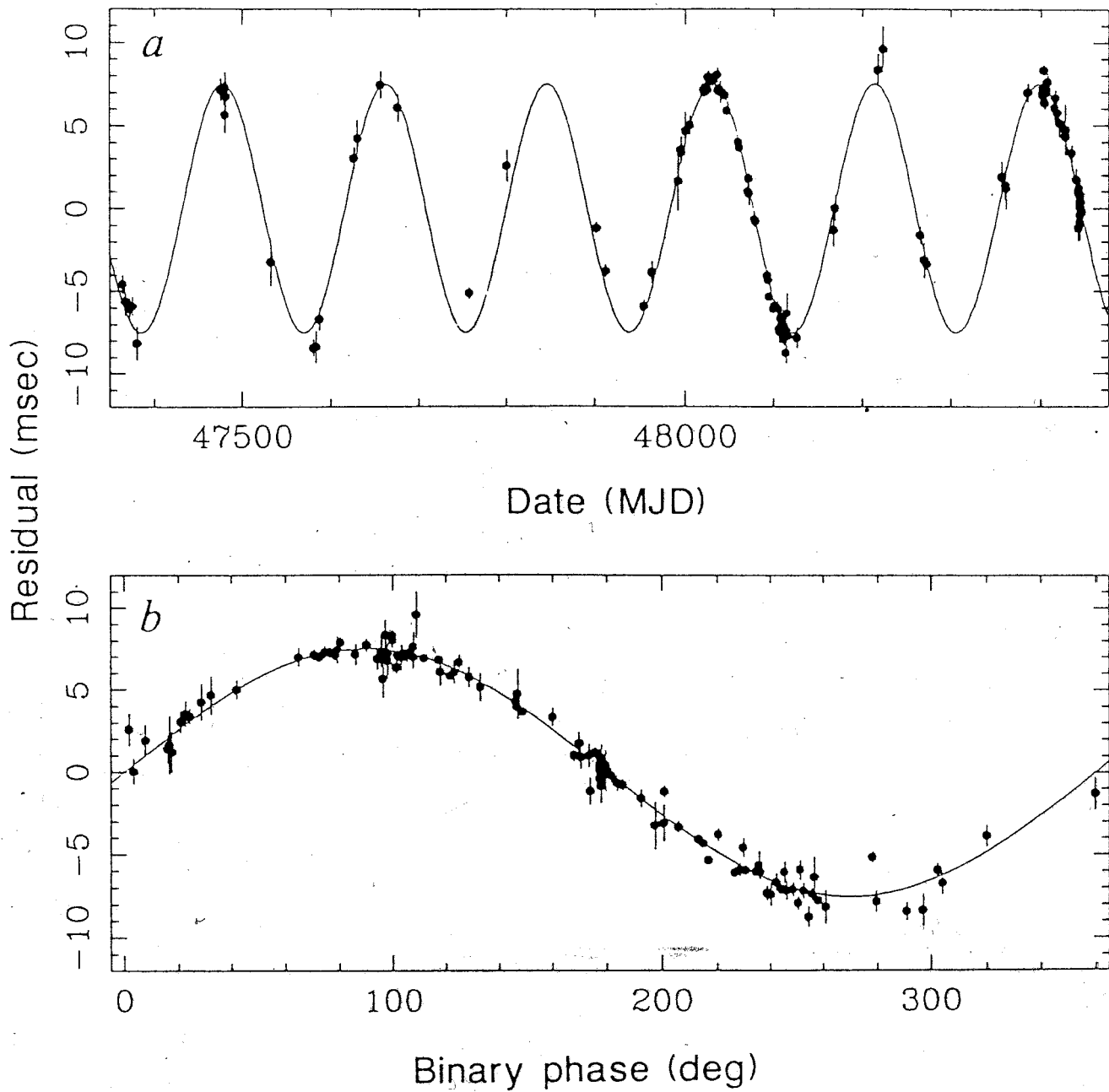


FIG. 1 The timing residuals for PSR1829-10. *a*, Plotted relative to a simple model of the slow down. The smooth curve represents the solution for a binary system with the parameters given in Table 1. *b*, As *a*, but plotted against orbital phase.

3 planets → both fit

Mb ⊕

Comp

un known

(Fe 2?)

Made of

SV full bars ?

Pulsar period - 6,218,530 (ns)

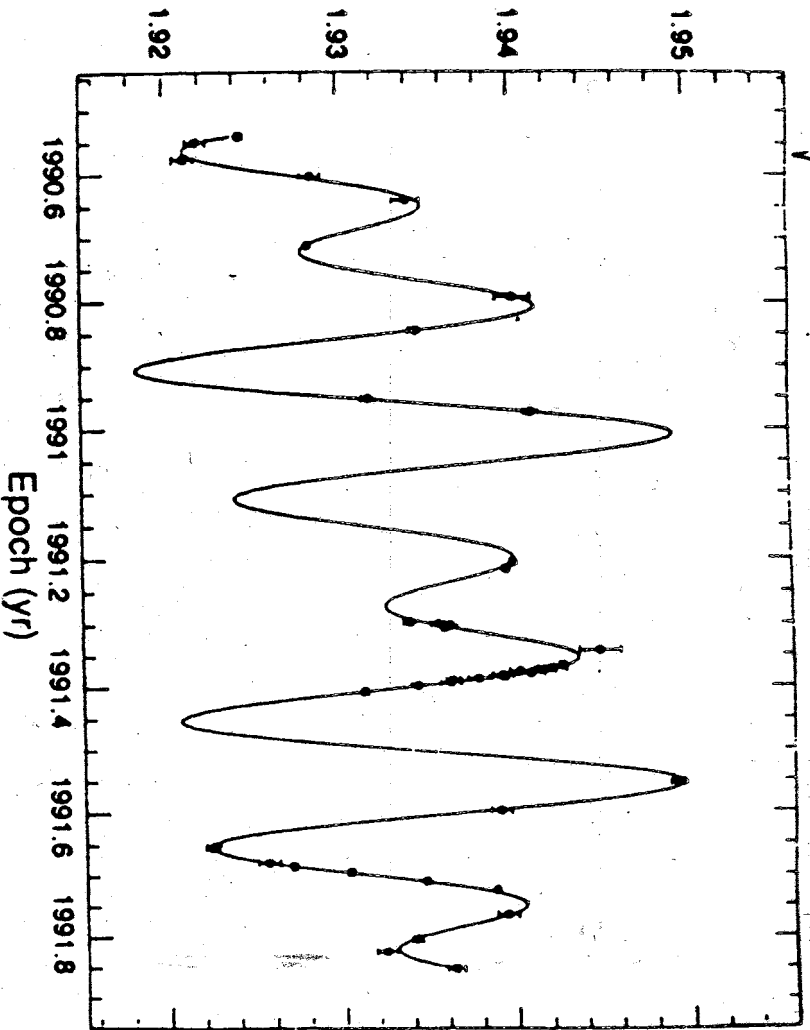


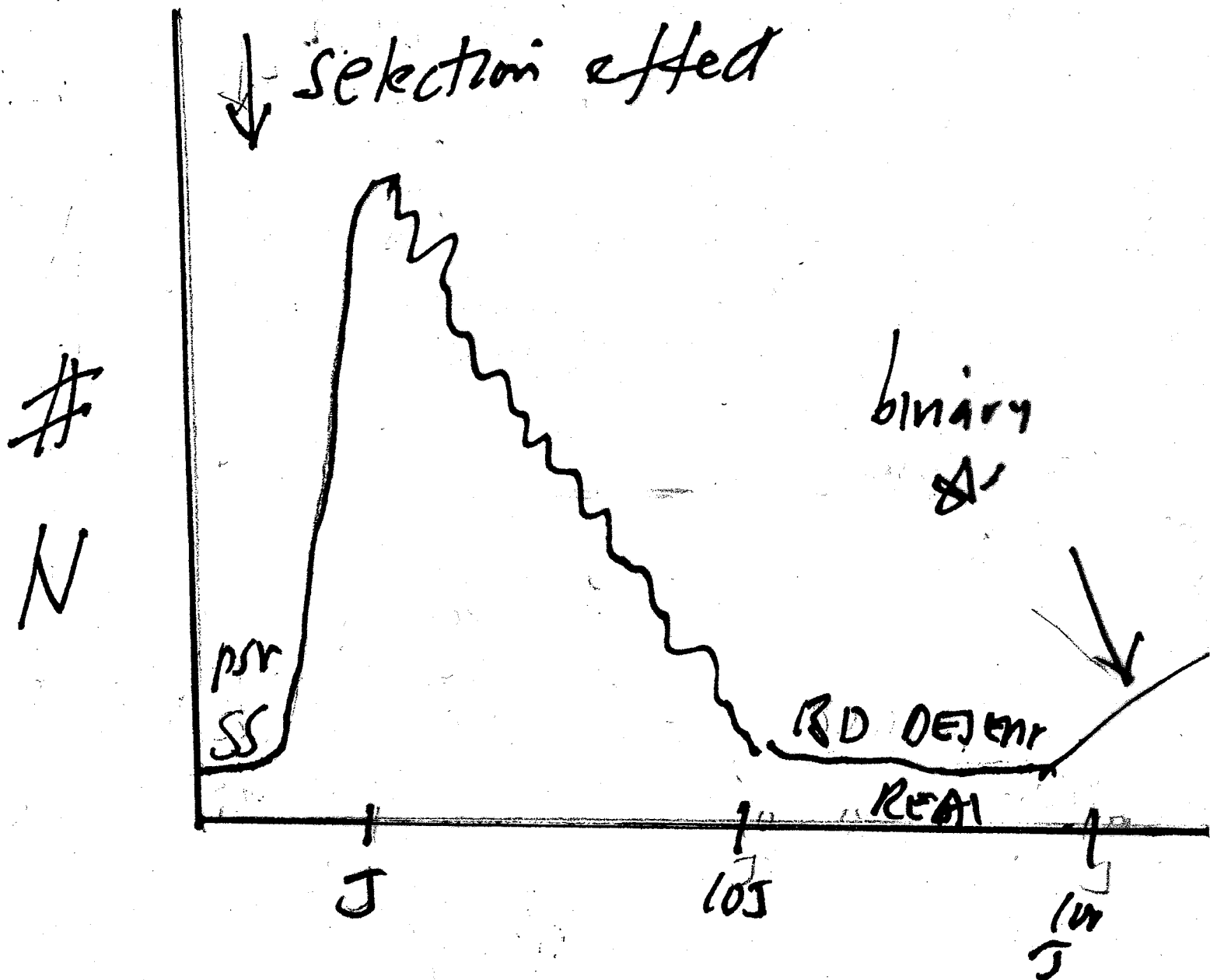
Figure 4.8. Data indicating pulsar planets (1992), the strongest evidence to date of planetary systems, is believed in this case to be irrefutably confirmed. The points represent observations, and the solid line indicates changes in period predicted by a two-planet model of this pulsar system. The vertical axis is in nanoseconds (billions of a second), so that the period variations of the pulsar are only .03 billionths of a second, or  $\pm 15$  picoseconds (thousandths of a billionth of a second). Note that only 1 year was needed for the pulsar method compared to decades for the astrometric method. Used with permission from A. Wolszczan and D. A. Frail, "A Planetary System around the Millisecond Pulsar PSR 1257 + 12," Nature, 355 (January 9, 1992), 145-147; copyright 1992 Macmillan Magazines Limited.

# EXOPLANETS

More than 300 known. 1 quint, a few quad & triples, many doubles

Most from  $V_r(t)$  "radial velocity method"  
a few each from transits, astrometry (HST FGS), direct imaging

Mass distribution: many J's, few N's  
min = 5.5 M(earth) - selection!!!!  
SS has 4 = M(earth); pulsar has 3



N(Period) or N(semi-major axis)

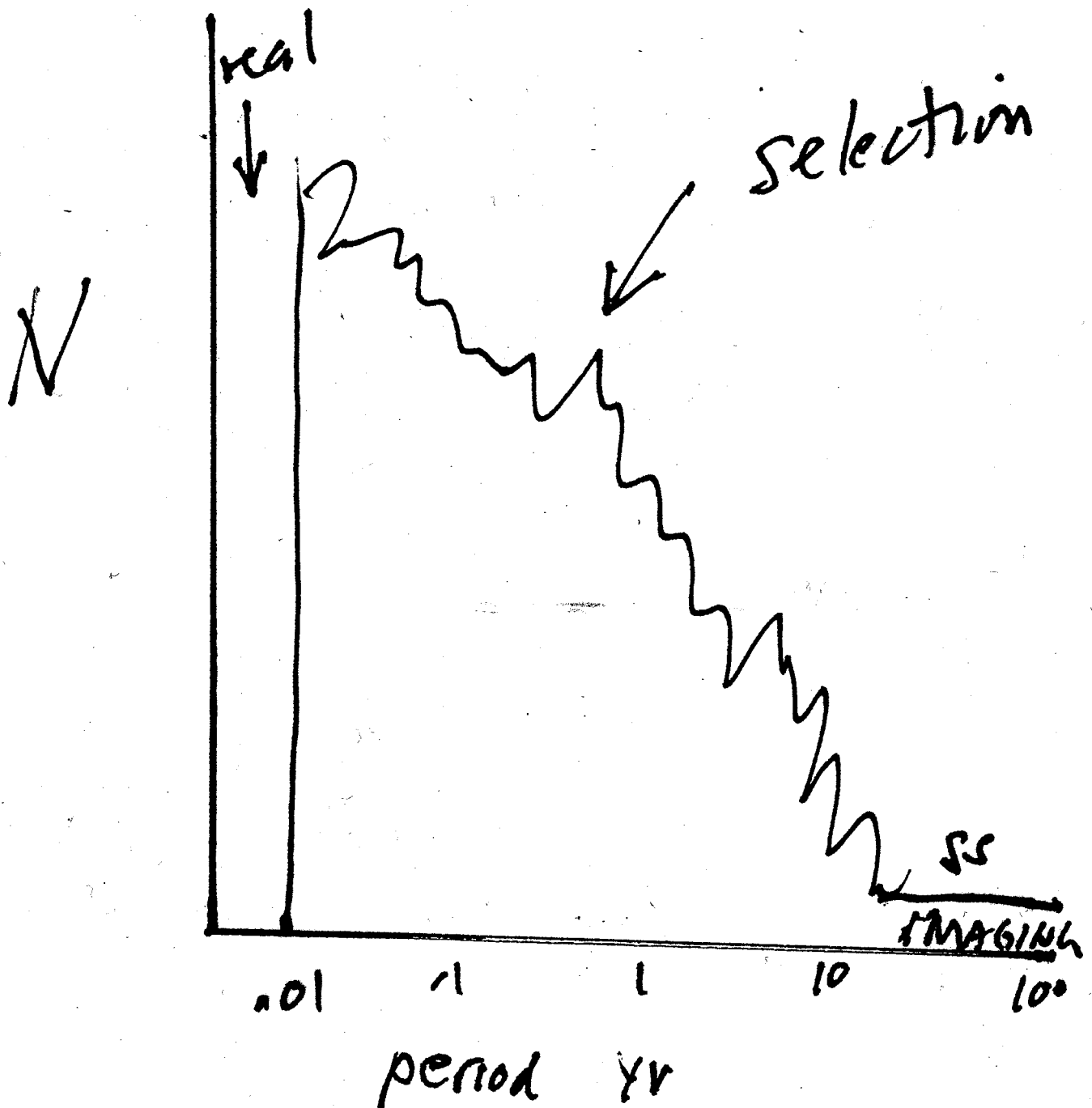
$$MP^2 = a^3$$

P(min) = 1.5 days (real)

P(max) = 12 years (selection,  $V_r$ )  
= centuries (direct imaging)?

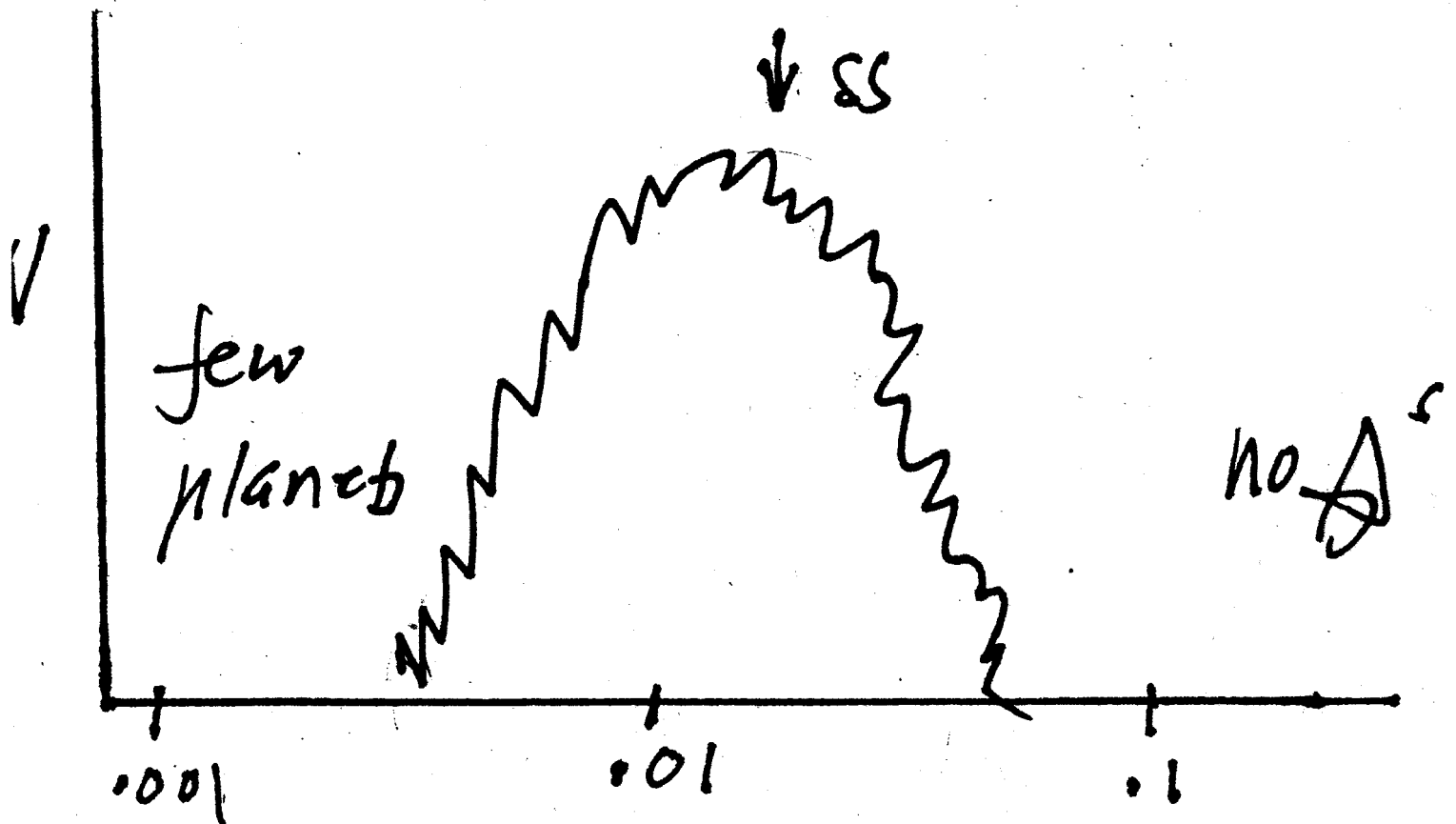
Solar system Ps = 0.24 - 240 years

SS Cnc (quint) fits Bode's law, which  
"predicts" analogues of Ceres & Sat.



# Compositions, structures

Host stars are "metal" rich



Planet spectra (by subtraction) show H, Fe, Na. Want  $\checkmark$ H<sub>2</sub>O,  $\checkmark$ CO<sub>2</sub>, O<sub>3</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub> chlorophyll edge

Formation: Make and migrate (Neptune took TNOs with it).

Planetesimal accumulation (slow)

Gravitational instability (maybe)

"true" planets are chemically differentiated

Theory:

Grav. instability vs. planetesimal accretion — TBO

Make & then migrate (TNO pile up at resonances)

Orbit stability: bin's  $a/a_g \gg 1$   
① is outside a J orbit?

Habitable zones of SS, Galaxy  
Snowline and  $H_2O$

POT-SHOTS NO. 3621.

Ashleigh Brilliant  
SANTA BARBARA

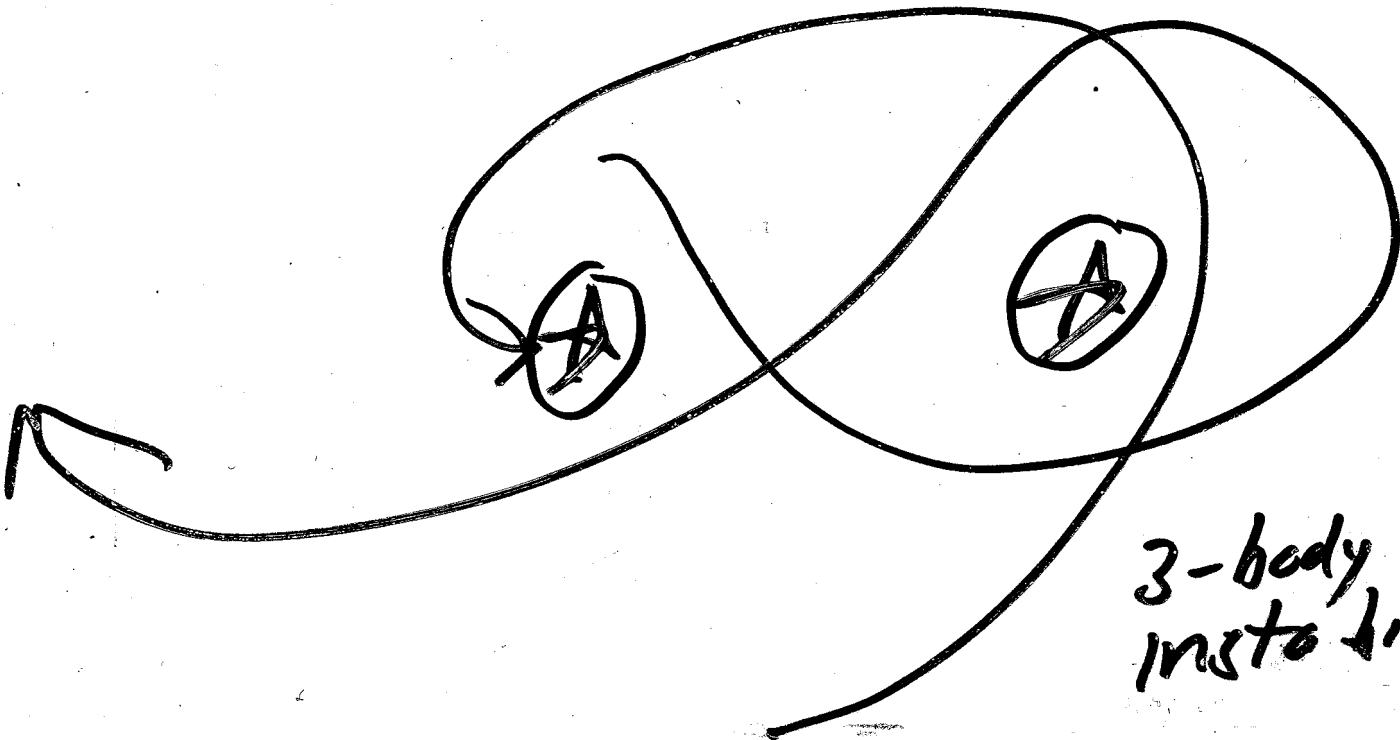
THE  
GREATEST  
OBSTACLE  
TO  
DISCOVERING  
THE TRUTH  
IS  
BEING  
CONVINCED  
THAT YOU  
ALREADY  
KNOW IT.





~~A~~  
hot  
just right  
cold

very dependent  
on str. hierarchy  
not well modeled



3-body  
instability

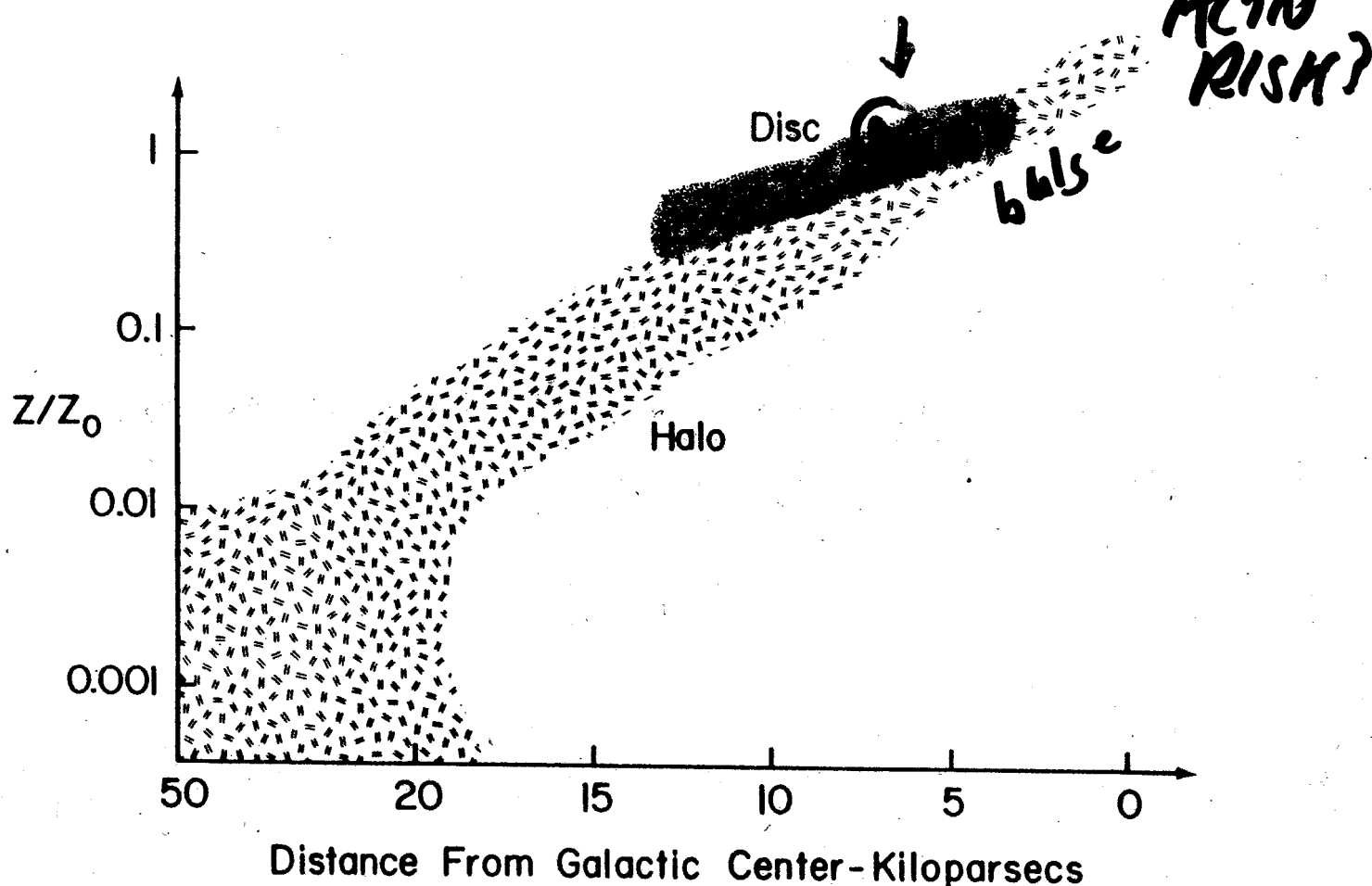


Fig. 15.4. Gradients of average metal abundance as a function of distance from the galactic center in halo (plus bulge) and disc populations of the Milky Way.

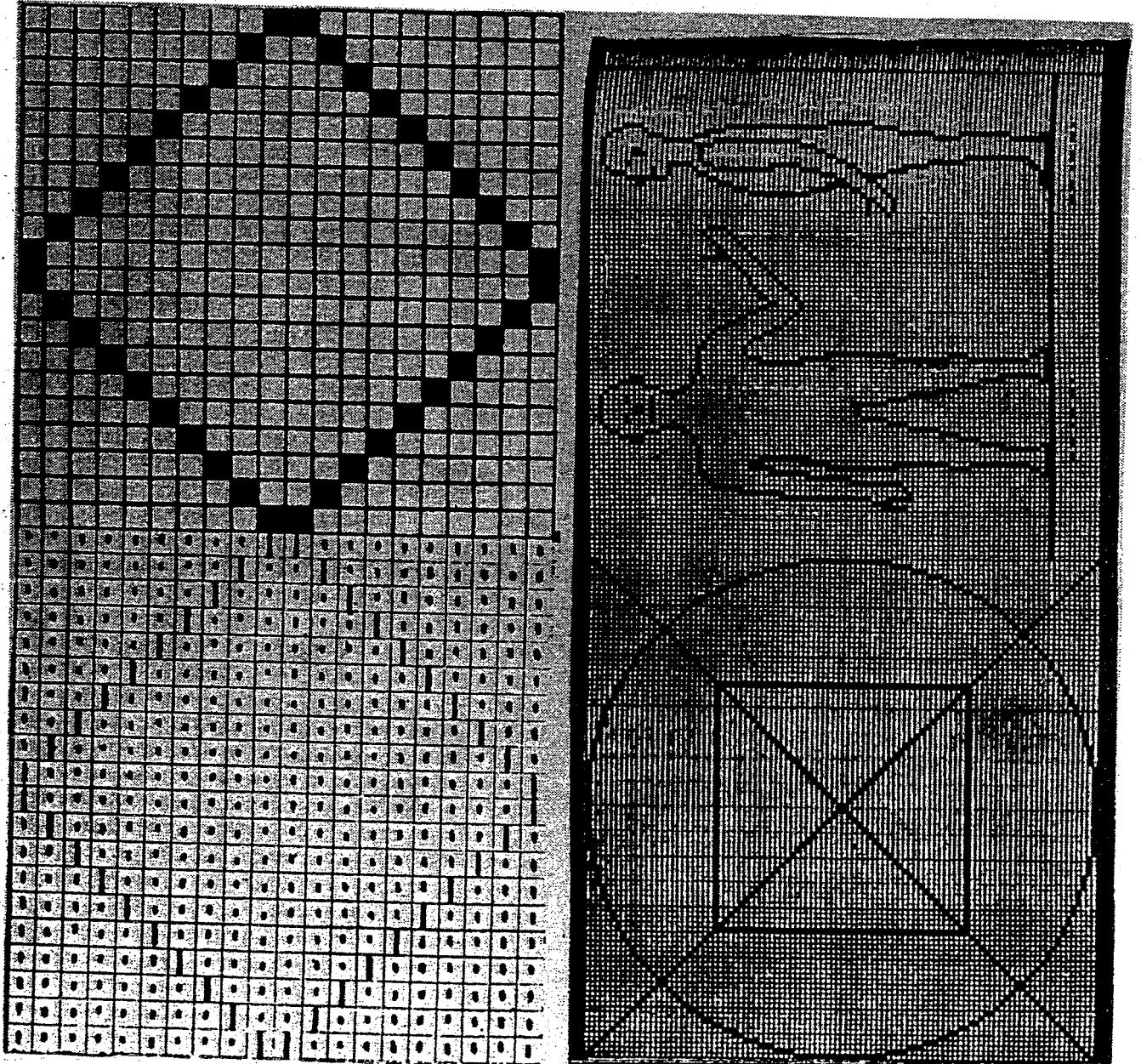
DISCUSSION

Robert Rood: I think that we should be especially careful in comparing stellar ages determined by different methods. The Sun is different from all the other stars and, working in this field, I would say that probably there is a 50 percent uncertainty generally in attaching other stellar ages to the solar age. So I would put 50 percent error bars on all those ages, in which case you get no information whatsoever.

Trimble: That isn't quite true.

Rood: Working with solar neutrinos gives me a great deal of skepticism in this area.

SETI



To be wirelessly to Mars as dots + dashes  
1920. (March 20 Sci. Am) SAGAN is better looking

# THE ONLY REQUIREMENT FOR EVENTUALLY GETTING THERE

IS TO KEEP GOING  
IN THE RIGHT  
DIRECTION.



non-Centrality of  $\odot$  - Copernicus 1543 +

non-uniqueness of  $\odot$  - Newton,  
Michell, Herschel 1700-1800

non-Centrality of  $\text{SS}$  - Shapley 1918

non-uniqueness of MW - Hubble 1925

non-uniqueness of  $\odot$  -

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