

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910300393503321
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Titolo	The Observer's Guide to Planetary Motion : Explaining the Cycles of the Night Sky // by Dominic Ford
Pubbl/distr/stampa	New York, NY : , : Springer New York : , : Imprint : Springer, , 2014
ISBN	1-4939-0629-1
Edizione	[1st ed. 2014.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (246 p.)
Collana	The Patrick Moore Practical Astronomy Series, , 1431-9756
Disciplina	523.2
Soggetti	Observations, Astronomical Astronomy—Observations Astronomy Mathematical physics Astronomy, Observations and Techniques Popular Science in Astronomy Mathematical Applications in the Physical Sciences
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Includes index.
Nota di contenuto	The Motion of the Planets -- The Outer Planets -- The Inner Planets -- Mars -- The Moon -- The Deep Sky.
Sommario/riassunto	To the naked eye, the most evident defining feature of the planets is their motion across the night sky. It was this motion that allowed ancient civilizations to single them out as different from fixed stars. But how does the geometry of the Solar System give rise to the observed motions of the planets and their moons? Although the motions of the planets may be described as simple elliptical orbits around the Sun, they must be observed from a particular vantage point--the Earth, which spins daily on its axis and circles around the Sun each year, resulting in more complicated patterns. The Observer's Guide to Planetary Motion provides accurate tables of the best time for observing each planet, together with other notable events in their orbits, helping amateur astronomers plan when and what to observe. Along the way, many questions are answered: Why does Mars take over two years between apparitions (the times when it is visible from Earth) in the night sky, while Uranus and Neptune take almost exactly a year?

Why do planets appear higher in the night sky when they're visible in the winter months? Why do Saturn's rings appear to open and close every 15 years? This book places seemingly disparate astronomical events into an understandable three-dimensional structure.

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