

MAKING FRIENDS WITH MERCURY RETROGRADE



Presenter:

Fei Cochrane, President

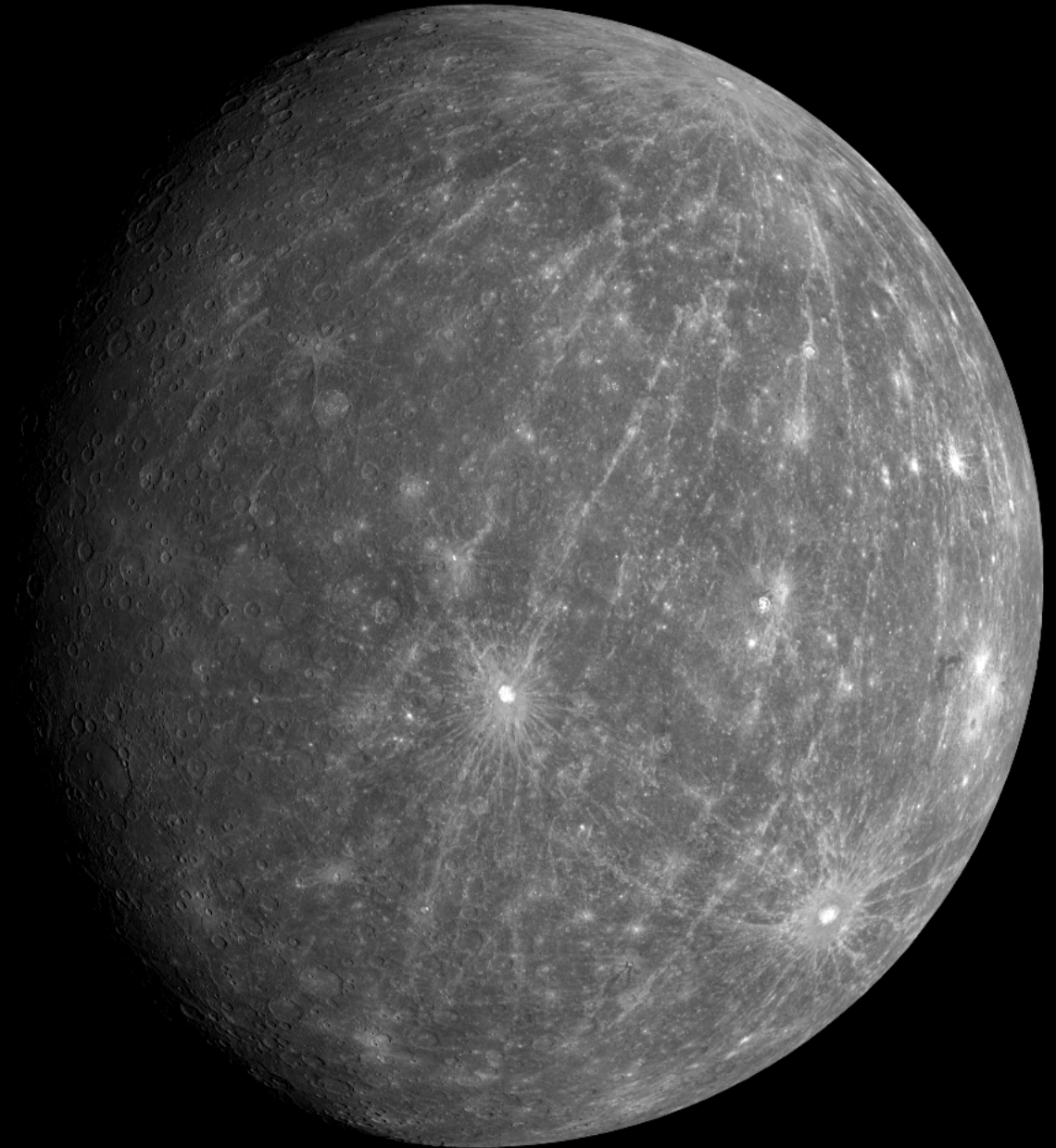
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USA

MERCURY

This image was
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and large image
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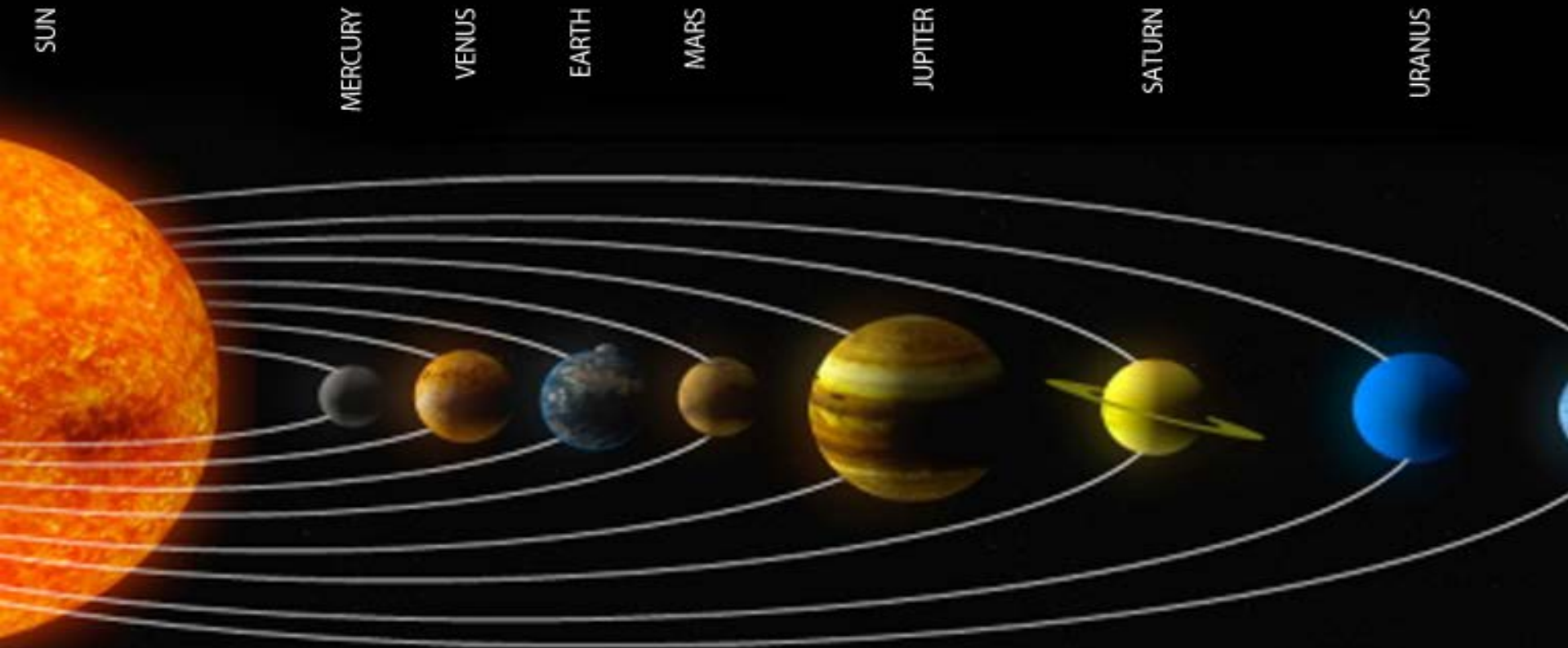
Getting to know the planet Mercury

Mercury is one of the 8 planets in our solar system. It is the smallest of the eight planets. It is also the closest to the sun. Mercury goes around the sun the fastest of all the planets. Mercury has no moons. Source: source: www.nasa.gov)



Making Friends with Mercury Rx

Below is the position of the planets. You will see that Mercury is the closest planet to the Sun



How Did Mercury Get Its Name?

In ancient Greek and Roman times it was more common than it is today to believe that gods were directly involved with celestial and human events.

Mercury is named after the messenger of the gods.

Mercury moves quickly around the Sun and can move relatively fast against the background of the fixed stars, just like the god Mercury (known as Hermes in ancient Greece) who has wings on his helmet and shoes to help him quickly deliver messages. Source: www.nasa.gov

What do we see in the sky when Mercury is retrograde?

If you go outside every night and notice where the planets are in relationship to the fixed stars, you will see that usually all of them move in the same direction. However, for about 3 weeks 3 times a year Mercury moves in the opposite direction. These are the times when Mercury is retrograde. Mercury does not actually change direction; the change in direction is known as an APPARENT change in direction based on our point of view of looking at Mercury from our planet Earth.

An Observation

Here is an experience that many people have had and perhaps you have had it too: You are in a train that is moving very slowly forward. You look at the window and everything outside appears to be moving backwards. It can be a very strange feeling to see everything moving backwards! However, it is a kind of optical illusion because actually the train you are in is moving forward but it is moving so slowly and quietly that you don't realize that it is moving. Because you think that you are stationary but you are actually moving, everything else appears to be moving backwards. This is exactly why Mercury appears to move retrograde. Our planet Earth is moving very fast but we do not feel it and we see the motions of celestial objects relative to our own motion rather than seeing how fast they actually move.

WHEN IS MERCURY Retrograde?

There are two different ways that Mercury can be conjunct the Sun. They are:

- Mercury is closer to the Earth than the Sun (inferior conjunction)
- Mercury is farther from the Earth than the Sun (superior conjunction)

WHEN IS MERCURY Retrograde?

- At **inferior conjunction**, Mercury and Earth are moving in about the same direction and Mercury appears to be going backwards.
- At **superior conjunction**, Mercury and Earth are moving in about opposite directions and Mercury appears to be moving very fast.
- When Mercury is conjunct the Sun, it is either Rx or moving very fast (about 2 degrees per day). Note that this is the apparent motion, the speed that Mercury appears to be moving from the point of view of someone living on Earth, and not the actual speed of Mercury

WHEN IS MERCURY Retrograde in 2013?

The table below of ♀ Rx and direct times was produced by Sirius 1.3. Times are GMT:

Date	# of Days	Time	Rx or Direct
Feb 23, 2013	22 days	09:41 AM	♀ Rx
Mar 17, 2013		08:03 PM	♀ Direct
Jun 26, 2013	24 days	01:08 PM	♀ Rx
July 20, 2013		06:22 PM	♀ Direct
Oct 21, 2013	20 days	10:29 AM	♀ Rx
Nov 10, 2013		09:12 PM	♀ Direct

When is Mercury Retrograde in 2013?

We can see from this table that Mercury turns Rx on Feb 23, 2013 at 9:41 AM GMT, and it stays retrograde until Mar 17, 2013 at 8:03 PM GMT. The number of days of each of these retrograde periods in 2013 varies from 20 days to 24 days.

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When is Mercury Retrograde in 2013?

Also interesting is that the maximum speed which Mercury reaches in its retrograde motion varies.

To understand this, imagine that your car is parked behind another car, you start your car and you put the car in reverse to back up, which is equivalent to retrograde motion. You might take your foot off the accelerator and go very slowly in reverse, or you could accelerate in reverse direction and go very fast in your retrograde motion.

When is Mercury Retrograde in 2013?

In the table below we see how many days Mercury is retrograde and what its maximum retrograde speed is. The maximum retrograde speed was easily obtained by using the text ephemeris feature of Sirius 1.3 and selecting the option to display speed.

☿ Rx Time Period year 2013	Number of days ☿ Rx	Maximum Rx Speed
Feb 23, 2013	22 days	1 deg 02 min Rx
Jun 26, 2013	24 days	38 min Rx
Oct 21, 2013	20 days	1 deg 18 min Rx

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The table above shows something very interesting! In the 3rd retrograde time period from Oct 21 to Nov 10 Mercury goes in retrograde motion more than twice as fast (1 deg 18 min Rx) as it did in the second time period of June 26 to July 20 (38 min Rx). During the third time Rx time period Mercury is Rx for only 20 days but goes Rx very quickly. **This is similar to someone putting the car in reverse, pressing the foot down on the accelerator to go in reverse direction very quickly and then putting the foot on the brake pedal to stop the car after 20 seconds (analogous to 20 days).**

When is Mercury Retrograde in 2013?

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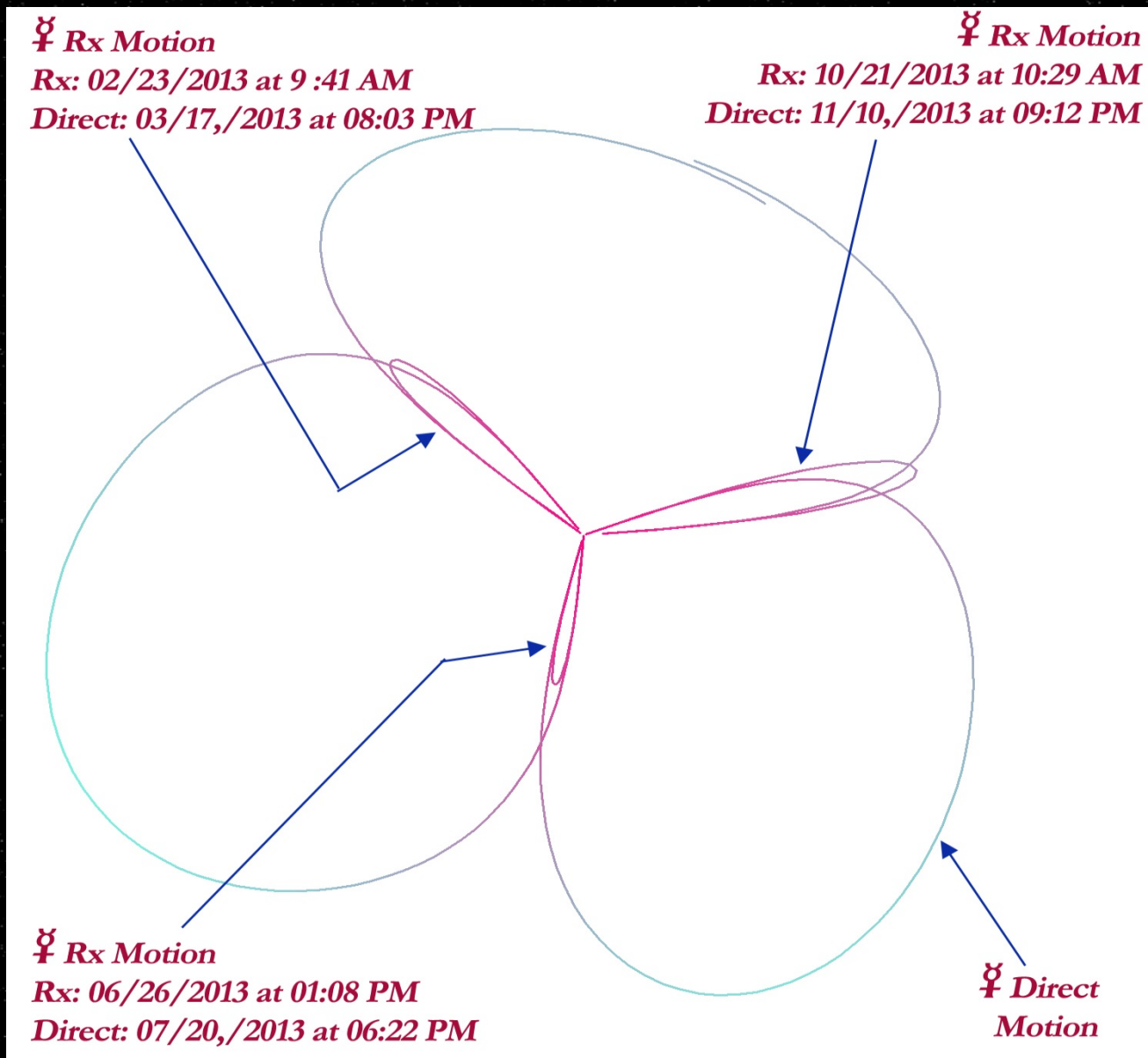
In the second time period the person puts the car in reverse direction, one might say, more gently and does not go so rapidly in the reverse direction and stays in the reverse direction for 24 seconds (analogous to 24 days). The second retrograde period is longer and more “gentle” than the 3rd retrograde period, which is more abrupt and extreme. We might expect that the effects of Mercury Rx will be more extreme during the third retrograde period of 2013! More research is needed to confirm this however.

Visualization of Mercury Rx Periods

Amazingly, we can also obtain a visualization of these retrograde periods. I used Sirius 1.3 to produce a planet mandala which gives a visual image of these retrograde periods.

The Planet Mandala shows the motion of Mercury moving around the zodiac.

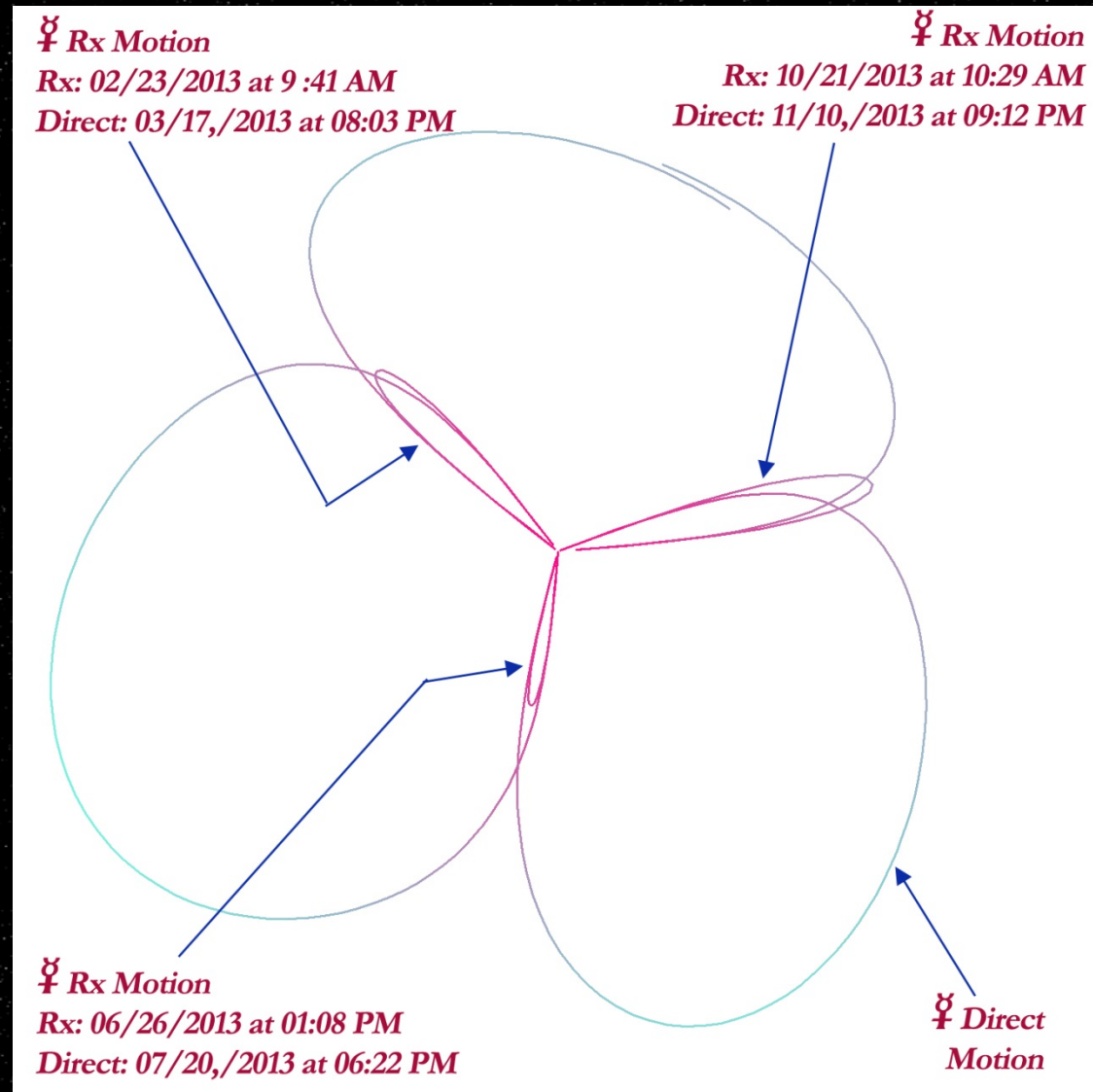
Planet Mandala



Planet Mandala

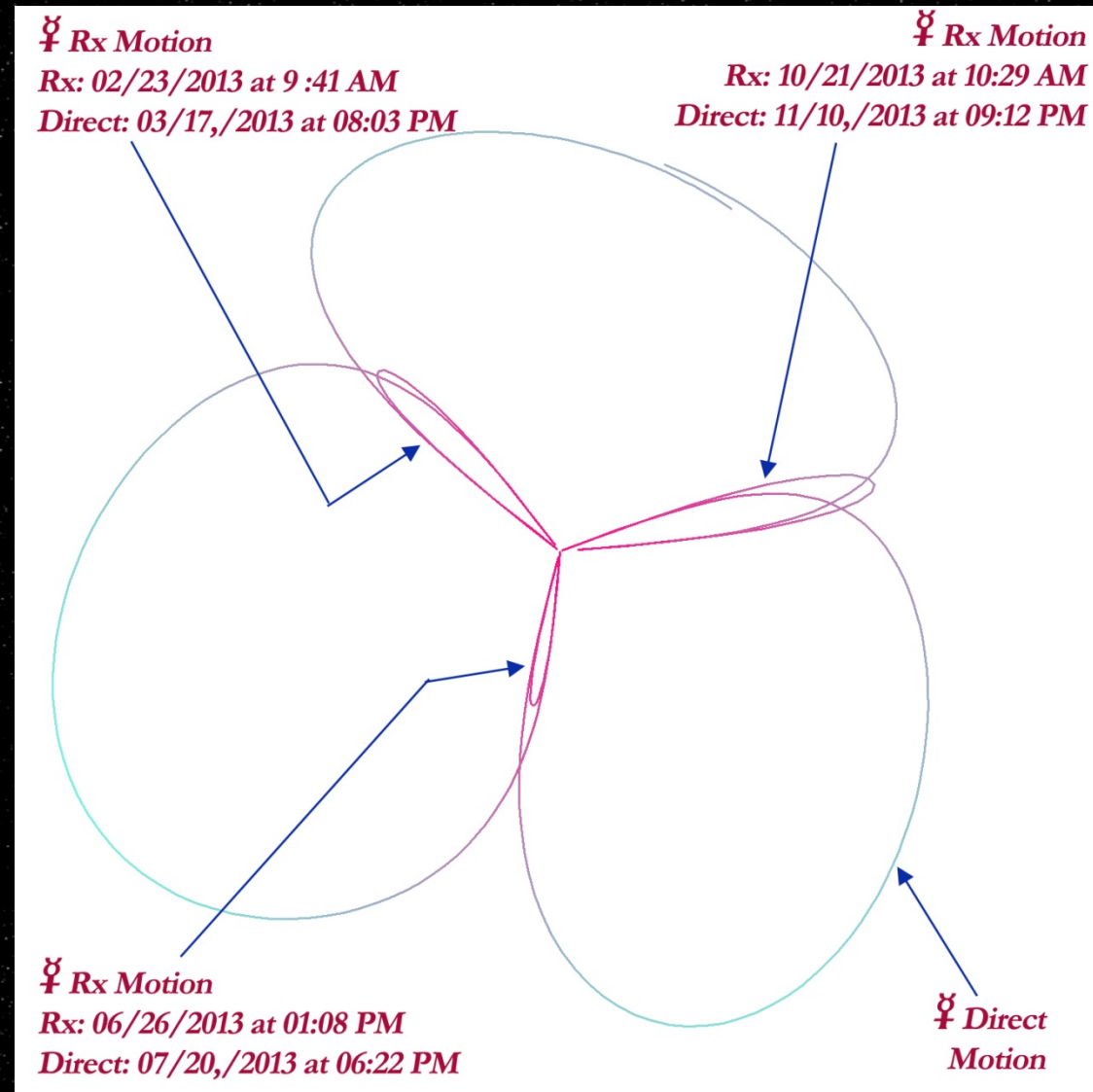
When Mercury is stationary, it is placed at the center of the mandala.

The faster Mercury goes, the further out it appears in the planet mandala, which you can imagine as a kind of centrifugal force. The planet is pulled farther and farther away from the center of the mandala as its speed increases.



Planet Mandala

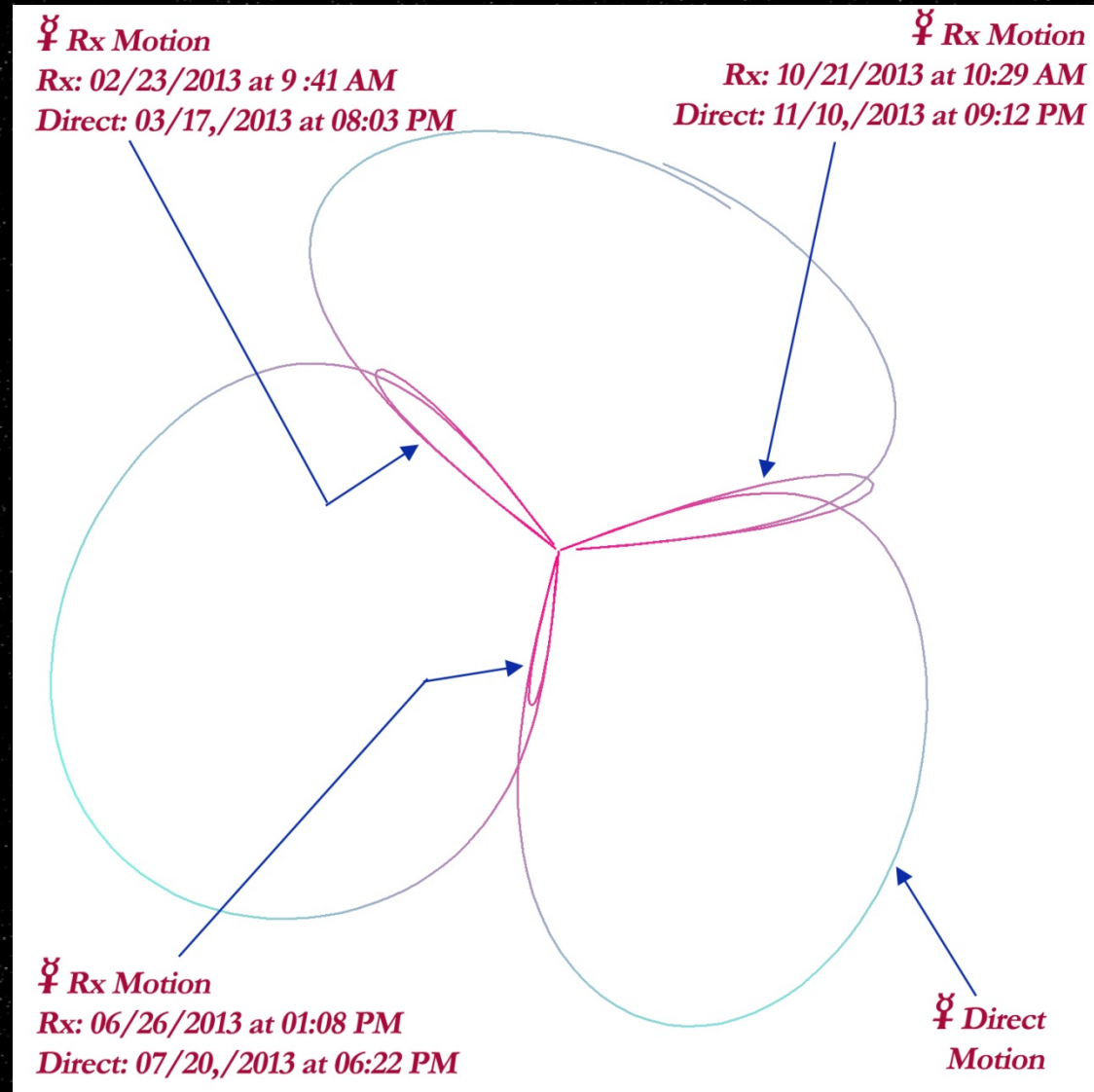
- If the speed is retrograde or slow, the color is reddish, and becomes increasingly red for the retrograde motion.
- As Mercury travels faster in direct motion its color becomes more blue.



Planet Mandala

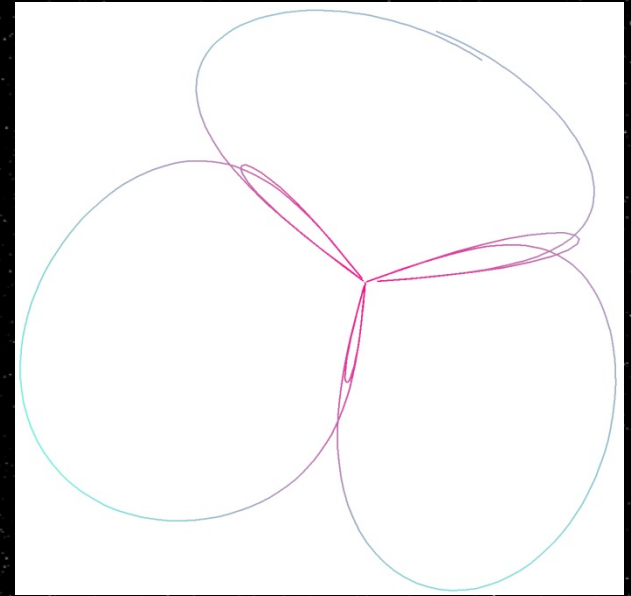
Notice the large red petal in the upper right for the October – November Mercury retrograde period.

The petal is big because Mercury goes very fast in the retrograde motion, reaching 1 deg 18 minutes at the farthest edge of this small red petal. The red petal towards the bottom of the mandala is much smaller because this is the June-July Mercury retrograde period where Mercury reaches a maximum retrograde speed of only 38 minutes Rx.



Planet Mandala

- The top image of the Mercury Rx motion looks like a clover leaf. The beauty of the image and its similarity to the beauty in nature is stunning.
- By concentrating on this image, you can really appreciate the movement and messages of Mercury.



HOW TO HANDLE MERCURY RETROGRADE TIME PERIODS

When Mercury is retrograde, some astrologers are reluctant to travel, purchase anything, sign contracts or make agreements, apply for anything, or make any decisions. Mercury is retrograde for about 3 weeks about 3 times a year. One can wonder if there is anything that is favorable to do when Mercury is retrograde.

- **YES THERE IS!**

HOW TO HANDLE MERCURY RETROGRADE TIME PERIODS

After many years of carefully observing the effects of Mercury retrograde, I have found that some activities are very good during Mercury retrograde periods.

- **Keywords for Mercury are:**
Speech, Writing, Thought, Awareness,
Logic, Messages.

How To Handle Mercury Rx Time Periods

- **Finding Errors, Editing, Debugging, Making Corrections to Contracts, Papers, and Other Communications.**



When Mercury is retrograde, it generally does not CAUSE things to fail so much as it reveals the weaknesses that are already there. Our thinking becomes more focused, more introverted, more internalized, everything slows down, and we can see what problems are there beneath the surface.

How To Handle Mercury Rx Time Periods

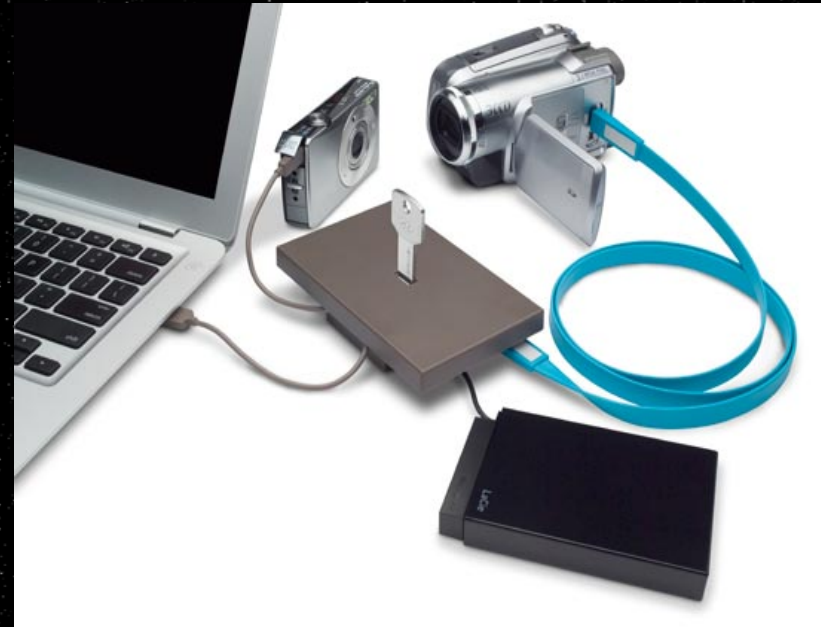
We find the spelling and grammatical errors, the software bugs, and the poor way in which a paper is written. We may also find that the paper, book, lecture, or contract is good but it can be edited to make it much clearer.



It can be improved to express our feelings or the logic more clearly. We can dig deeper, we can focus better, and we can take the time to see the details better.

How To Handle Mercury Rx Time Periods

In our modern age of electronic gadgets and ubiquitous technology, Mercury retrograde is especially helpful for sorting out all the problems. Yes, it can be frustrating to find these problems but it will be more frustrating in the long run if the problems continue to go undetected.



Also, our electronic gadgets will break or malfunction over time. It is true that the problem may appear when Mercury is retrograde, and also sometimes the problem was there before but now the effects or results of that problem become more serious.



How To Handle Mercury Rx Time Periods

- If you have something in the house that needs fixing, now is the time to look into it.
- When Mercury is retrograde, you will notice that you will be able to understand what is needed to be done to fix it.



How To Handle Mercury R x Time Periods

■ Organizing Your Life

Mercury retrograde time periods are also an excellent time to organize your files and put them in order. This is a great time to clean your drawers of old and useless things and remove the clutter. This may not seem like a very important part of your life, but if a time comes when you cannot find something you need, you will be glad that you removed what is unnecessary and put things in proper order.



Better yet, this is a perfect time to take some time off to clear your house of unnecessary clutter.

How To Handle Mercury R x Time Periods



■ Organizing Your Life

If you have not taken the time off to exercise or inhale fresh air, etc. to take care of your body because of your busy schedule, now is the time.

How To Handle Mercury R x Time Periods



▪ Improving Personal Communications

On a personal level, when Mercury is retrograde, it is the best time to re-evaluate our communication problem with friends and family. During the Mercury retrograde everyone, including yourself, is a little more receptive to focusing on problem areas. This is a good time to call someone that you are having communication problems with and resolve the issue. Write a letter, send an email, etc. You are likely to find that the other person is less aggressive and you are better able to avoid emotional outbursts or losing your temper.

How To Handle Mercury Rx Time Periods



▪ **Improving Personal Communications**

In my many years of traveling and working with software development, I have found that Mercury Rx is not a time to avoid doing things.

In fact, during the Mercury Rx, it is the most productive time to take care of things such as resolving issues that require special attention.

How To Handle Mercury R x Time Periods



▪ Improving Personal Communications

When Mercury is retrograde, it is also the best time to connect with your family and friends that you have not been in touch with for a long time.

This is a time when everyone is more reflective, calm, and inclined to think about things more deeply. You may find that good old memories are brought to the surface and everyone feels happy by being able to re-connect to happy and important times in their lives.

How To Handle Mercury R x Time Periods



▪ Improving Personal Communications

Remember, Mercury is the messenger god. He brings good and bad news, but always connects us to the news we need to hear and helps us stay bonded to one another.

How To Handle Mercury R x Time Periods



▪ Travel

Many people avoid travel when Mercury is retrograde. Ironically, when Mercury is retrograde it can be the best time to travel, especially if the travel typically tends to be hectic. For example, flying by airplane can be hectic as you have to make connecting flights, airplane repairs or weather problems can arise, baggage can get lost, etc.

How To Handle Mercury Rx Time Periods



■ Travel

In my many years of travel, I sometimes do not have a choice but travel on specific dates but when I do have a choice I do not shy away from times when Mercury is retrograde.

Traveling during Mercury Rx can be more fun because it tends to be less stressful.

Passengers seem more inclined to compromise, avoid stress, and just go with the flow.

How To Handle Mercury Rx Time Periods



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How To Handle Mercury R x Time Periods



▪ Travel

When Mercury is direct, the hustle and bustle is more intense, anxiety levels tend to be higher, and an announcement of a flight delay is much more likely to elicit some loud responses of frustration and disappointment.

If you travel often, see what observations you make when you compare Mercury retrograde and Mercury direct time periods. I think you will be able to confirm my observations.

How To Handle Mercury R x Time Periods



- **Shopping:** Contrary to what some astrologers suggest, I often go shopping when Mercury is retrograde. I often find what I am looking for at a discounted price or a buy-one-and-take-one-free offer.

Mercury retrograde seems to slow down the pace, remove a lot of the tension and stress in the stores, and instead of feeling pushed and pulled by a crowd of impatient people, I find myself quietly moving towards some particular store that has what I am looking for and at the best price I am likely to ever find it.

How To Handle Mercury R x Time Periods



■ Shopping:

Most of us are on a budget and often a tight budget so this can be very helpful. On the other hand, I don't gamble on purchasing something that I have some doubts about. Gambling tends not to work well when Mercury is retrograde. However, very often the slower pace, more peaceful and pleasant atmosphere.

The care and attention that people seem to give to situations and their relaxed way of dealing with situations seems to act like a magnet that can draw you to very good sales that are just right for you and help you find the things that you really need.



**SO.....FOLKS.....
ARE YOU NOW FRIENDS
WITH MERCURY RETROGRADE?**

THANK YOU!

Presenter:

Fei Cochrane, President

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