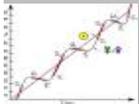


The Relative Speed of the Planets

Presented at UAC 2008

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#14 in the Learning with Lee Series

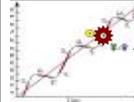
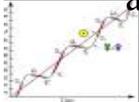


Superior Planets

- ✿ Appear as evening stars at opposition
- ✿ Disappear from the evening sky as they approach conjunction
- ✿ Go retrograde as they approach opposition to the Sun
- ✿ Are brightest at opposition to the Sun
- ✿ Enter the evening sky in the East

Thesis

- ✿ Speed cannot be understood without an understanding of planetary cycles.
- ✿ The original development of the concept of cycles did not address speed directly, apart from the issue of retrogradation.
- ✿ Retrogradation is intrinsically linked to the issue of combustion, or visibility.
- ✿ Later speed itself was held to be a form of accidental dignity or debility.

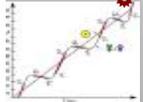


Inferior Planets

- ✿ Appear to oscillate around the Sun
- ✿ Are faster on the Earth's side of their orbit (i.e., at superior conjunction)
- ✿ Are slowest when the Sun is between the Earth and the planet (inferior conjunction)
- ✿ Move swiftly when they first appear in the morning sky, slowing down before leaving it
- ✿ Move slowly when they first appear in the evening sky, speeding up before leaving it
- ✿ Are brightest when conjunct the Sun

Visualizing Inferior Cycles

- ✿ If Mercury is Direct at the conjunction, then it's a superior conjunction
 - ✿ Mercury is speeding up approaching this conjunction
 - ✿ Mercury is slowing down after the conjunction
- ✿ If Mercury is Retrograde at the conjunction, then it's an inferior conjunction
 - ✿ If Mercury retrograde is ahead of the Sun zodiacally, it's before the conjunction
 - ✿ If Mercury retrograde is behind the Sun zodiacally, it's after the conjunction



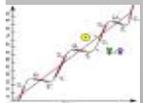
Babylonian Observations

- ✿ Class I: position of the planet in either the zodiac or relative to the fixed stars
- ✿ Class II: rising or setting times (i.e., angularity)
- ✿ Class III: last and first sightings of the planets (i.e., when they are going to or coming from combust)
- ✿ Class IV: stationary dates



Planetary Cycles as defined by the Babylonians

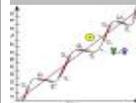
- ✿ Sidereal period: "the time it takes a celestial body to make one complete round in its orbit, measured by its recurrent alignment to a star."
- ✿ Synodic period: "the time it takes a celestial body to make one complete round in its orbit, measured from one conjunction to the Sun to the next."
- ✿ Both definitions from Larousse



Paulus Alexandrinus *Introductory Matters*

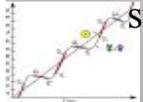
Planets are ineffective when:

- ✿ They are combust
- ✿ They are retrograde
- ✿ They are cadent
- ✿ In all these cases they are "ineffectual, unavailing, and insignificant" (page 30).



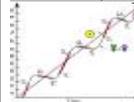
Combust vs. Retrograde?

- ✿ It's worth noting that, regarding superiors, combustion and retrogradation actually occur at “opposite” ends of the same synodic cycle
- ✿ Combustion occurs when a planet is near conjunction to the Sun
- ✿ Retrogradation occurs when a planet is near opposition to the Sun
- ✿ Thus, it is clear that these two concepts are linked, as they are part of the same, namely the synodic (i.e., solar) cycle



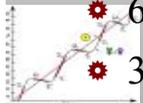
Guido Bonatti: Inner Planet Cycles

- ✿ Separated from the Sun and retrograde: oriental and weak
- ✿ Station point to angular separation of onset of last retrogradation: oriental and strong
- ✿ From there to Under beams: oriental and weak
- ✿ Under beams to conjunct: oriental combust
- ✿ Conjunction to combustion: occidental combust going towards appearing
- ✿ From appearance for 15°: occidental and strong



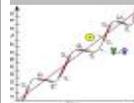
Guido Bonatti: Outer Planet Cycles

- ✿ Increased in strength when elongated from Sun by 30°; i.e. A sick man after a crisis
- ✿ 30-60°: oriental and strong
- ✿ 60-90°: oriental and going toward debility
- ✿ Oriental retrograde to opposition
- ✿ Occidental retrograde after opposition
- ✿ Station to 60° from Sun: occidental and strong
- ✿ 60-30°: occidental going toward debility
- ✿ 30° to combustion: occidental and weak



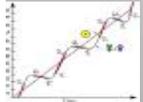
Guido Bonatti: Inner Planet Cycles

- ✿ From the midpoint of 15° after appearance to the last station point: occidental going toward debility
- ✿ From there to retrogradation: occidental and weak
- ✿ From retrogradation to combustion: occidental retrograde (most debilitated)
- ✿ Combust retrograde: occidental combust



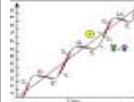
ibn Ezra Aphorisms (Chapter 8)

- ✿ "The planet which retrogrades denotes rebellion and the destruction of any project." [32]
- ✿ "The planet, which is in its first station, is like a man who does not know what he will do, and its result is bad; if it is in its second station, it is like a man who expects something and whose hope will not be in vain." [33]
- ✿ "If the planet is about to reverse its motion, it forecasts unsuccessful consultation, difficulty and destruction; if its motion becomes direct, it will better the luck in the matter, its strength, and its uprightness." [45]



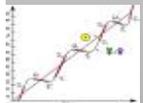
Lilly p 184, 186

- ✿ "In Judgment, when a Planet or Significator is in his own house, it represents a man in such a condition, as that he is Lord of his own house, estate and fortune; or a man wanting very little of the Goods of this world, or it tells you the man is in a very happy state or condition: this will be true, unless the significator be retrograde, or combust, or afflicted by any other malevolent Planet or aspect."



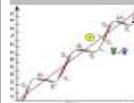
Lilly p 148

- ✿ "She [the Moon] is never Retrograde, but always direct; when she is slow in motion, and goeth lesse in 24 hours then 13° and 10 min. she is then equivalent to a Retrograde Planet."



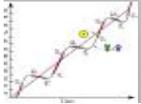
Lilly p 225, 248

- ✿ "...but if an infortune be in the 5th ill dignified, Combust, Retrograde, slow of motion, &c. the Querent will have no Children." [p 225]
- ✿ "When Saturn is Lord of the 6th house, and fixed in the Signe he is in, he extremely prolongs the Disease; if he be Retrograde or slow in motion, he performs the same; but if he be in a moveable Signe and in any of his Termes, or Swift in motion, he is not then much unfortunate, or will he greatly prolong the Disease..." [p 248]



Lilly p 257

- ✿ "If the Moon be with Saturn or Mars, without the assistance of some good aspect from Jupiter and Venus; and if Saturn be slow in motion, or is going Retrograde, it's so much the worse, and it's one argument the sick will dye at that time; if other testimonies concur, it's more certaine."



Gadbury Arguments of a Dull and Stupid Understanding (p 100)

- ✿ "If *Mercury* be Retrograde or Combust in Taurus or Capricorn, and in the 12th, 6th or 8th Houses, and in no aspect of *Luna*, or the Lord of the Ascendant, the Native is of a simple, raw and rude Understanding."
- ✿ "If *Mercury* be slow in motion, and in *Via Combusta*,... the Native hath poor Conception, is of a stuttering Speech, an impertinent and troublesome Wit; one given to meddle with niceties."



Lilly p 447

- ✿ "If the Lord of the 1st or 10th, or Moon commit their disposition to any Planet in an Angle (except he be in the 4th) and that Planet be slow in motion, he shall not be removed from his Office or place of trust, untill that Receiver become Retrograde or approach to Combustion, or goe out of the Signe wherein he is; for much about that time will be removed"



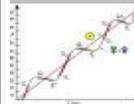
Partridge, p 113 (on nativities)

- ✿ "The Judgment of the Particular also, is taken from the Position and Quality of the Significators, whether good or evil, and that Significator is called good or benevolent, which is placed in the Dignities of a Benefick Star, although of his own Nature he is evil - when the benevolent Planets are Significators, and not afflicted with the Malignant Rays of Saturn or Mars, nor in conjunction with any violent fixed Stars, it shews the Native shall gain Riches by lawful means;- but if a Malevolent Star shall be Significator, and not indued with benevolent Rays, it shews the contrary; especially if it be one of the Superior Stars, and either Retrograde or Combust."



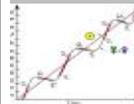
Partridge, p 116, on wealth

- ✿ "Likewise the Significator Oriental direct, swift in course, and in the Oriental Quadrants shews Riches to come in younger years; but if Retrograde, slow in motion, and Occidental, in the elder years, or old Age."



Is Speed about - Speed?

Year	Horse	Speed	Moon Speed	Ve Speed
1973	Secretariat	01:59.01	14:44	01:13
2001	Monarchos	01:59.97	13:57	00:30
1964	Northern Dancer	02:00.00	11:57	00:43
1985	Spend A Buck	02:00.20	15:08	00:20
1962	Decidedly	02:00.00	14:01	01:13
1967	Proud Clarion	02:00.00	11:47	01:08
2003	Funny Cide	02:01.19	11:53	01:12
2002	War Emblem	02:01.13	12:04	01:12
2000	Fusaichi Pegasus	02:01.01	14:42	01:13
1996	Grindstone	02:01.01	14:20	00:29
1965	Lucky Debonair	02:01.01	14:03	01:14
1978	Affirmed	02:01.20	11:50	01:12
1995	Thunder Gulch	02:01.20	12:14	01:12
1941	Whirlaway	02:01.01	12:58	01:13
1950	Middleground	02:01.01	13:52	01:05
1952	Hill Gail	02:01.01	12:00	01:13
1976	Bold Forbes	02:01.60	12:08	01:13
2008	Big Brown	02:01.82	12:24	01:07

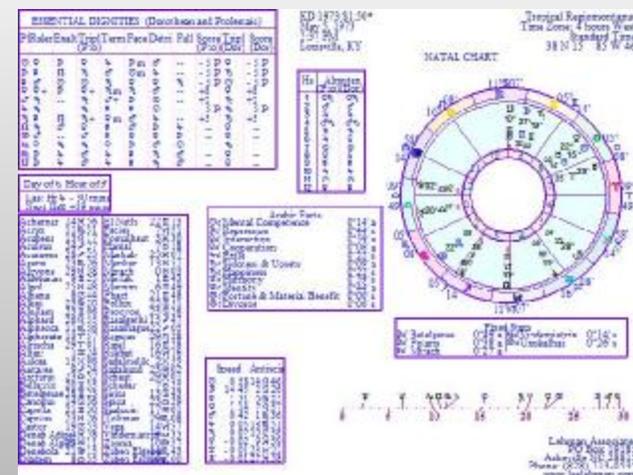


Sports Professionals and Mars

- ✿ It is extremely common for noted sports people to have a fast Mars
- ✿ The other good Mars stage is stationary-direct (e.g., Martina Navratilova)
- ✿ The really top players (e.g., Michael Jordan, Tiger Woods) don't seem to fit the pattern
- ✿ The fast Mars is near the Sun: this may have implications for the Gauquelin effect



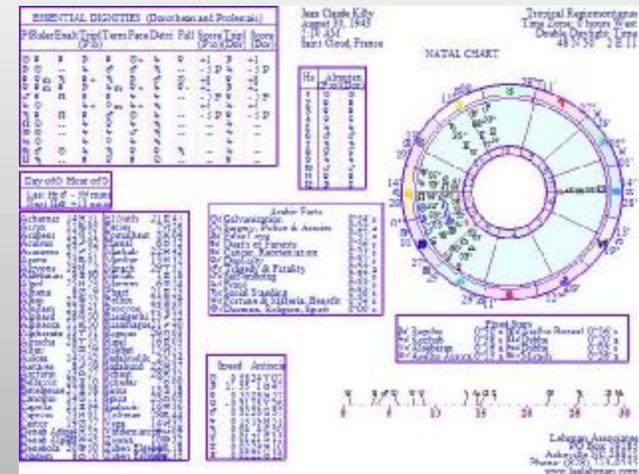
1973 Fastest KD: Secretariat



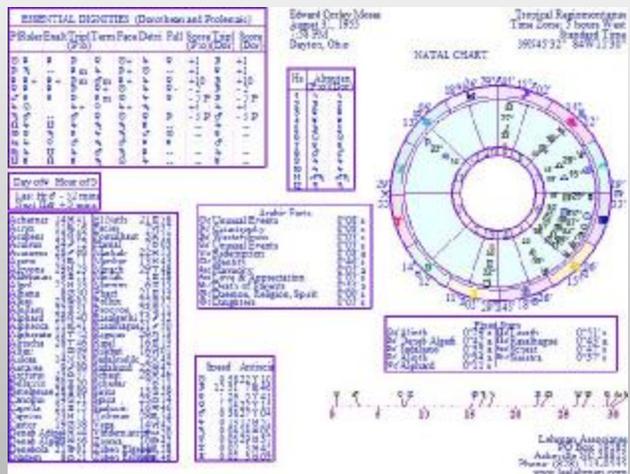
Buster Crabbe: Olympian Superman



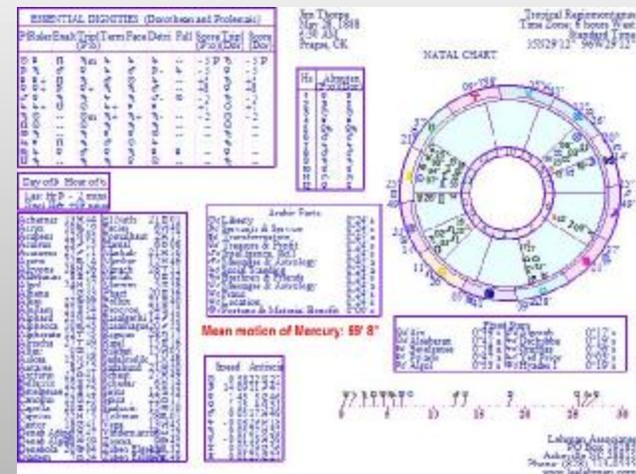
Olympic Skier Jean-Claude Killy



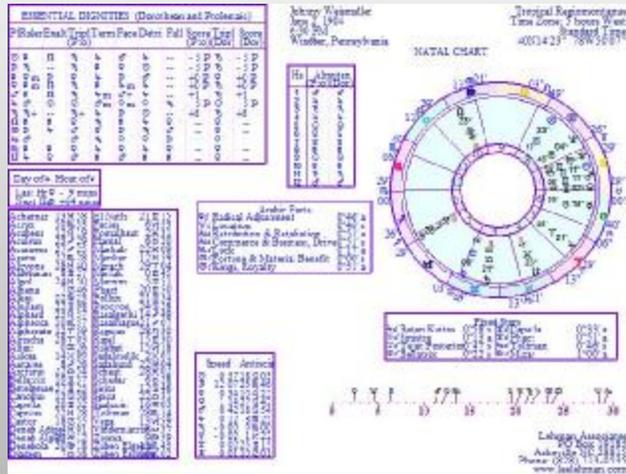
Olympic Hurdler Edward Moses



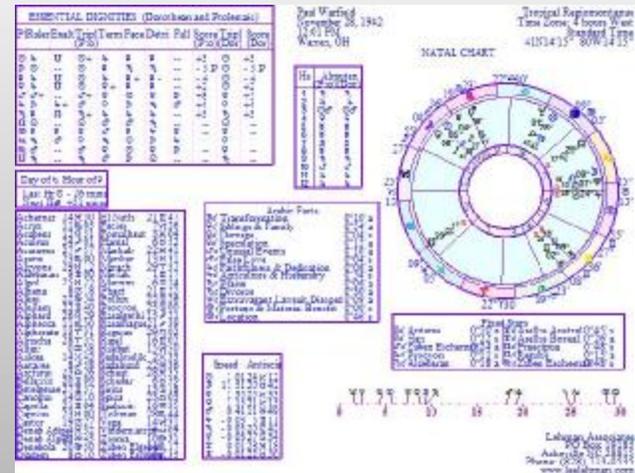
Olympic Track Star and Halfback Jim Thorpe



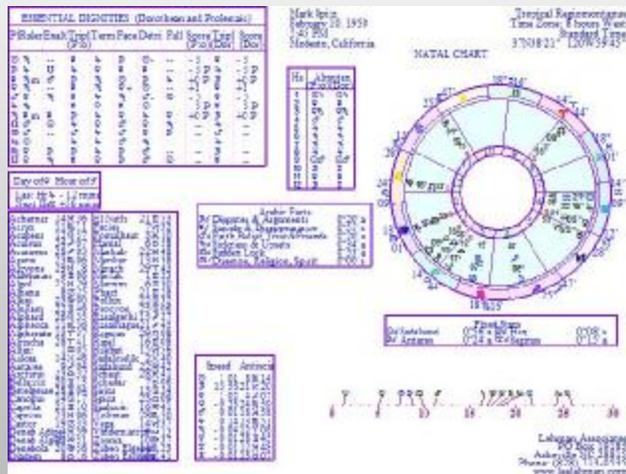
Olympic Swimmer and Tarzan Johnny Weismuller



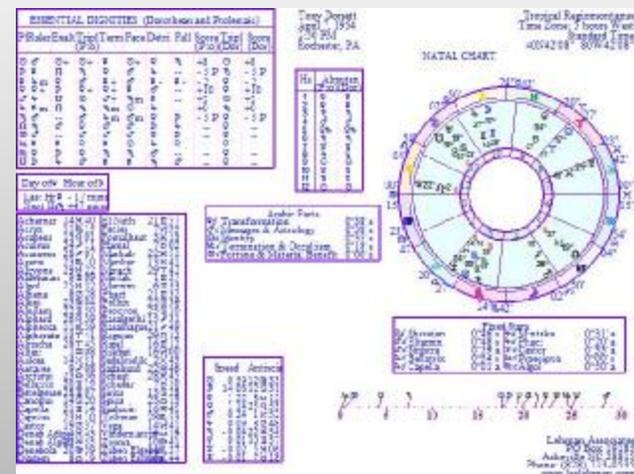
Wide Receiver Paul Warfield



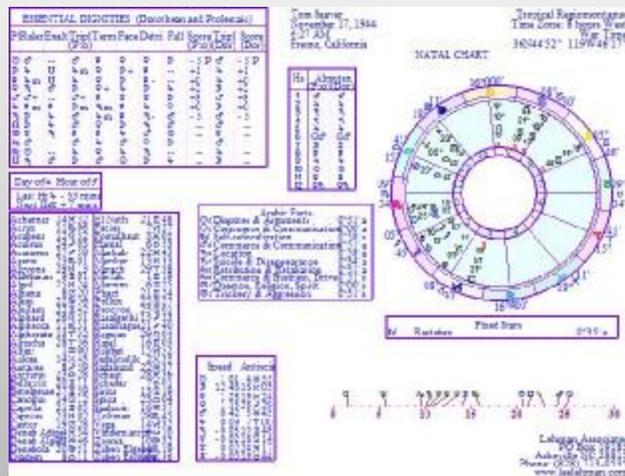
Olympic Swimmer Mark Spitz



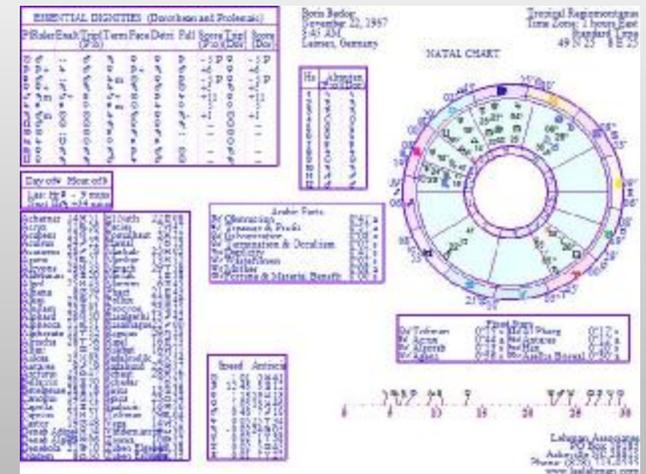
Running Back Tony Dorsett



Pitcher Tom Seaver



Tennis Star Boris Becker



What about Speed in general?

What about the Slow Mars?

- ✿ Patience is necessary for this Mars, but it can be relentless.
- ✿ Consider three US generals who had it: George Washington, U.S. Grant, and William Tecumseh Sherman
- ✿ The line from *Dune* about the slow blade penetrating the shield may be appropriate here.

What about Speed in General?

- ✿ Fast is not necessarily better, but different than slow!
- ✿ Present society favors speed.
- ✿ Speed is bright, but it can lose interest and be fleeting.
- ✿ Different professions favor speed or steadfastness differently.



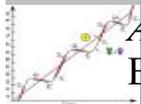
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