

Eudoxus of Cnidus

410 B.C. – 355 B.C.



Developed method of exhaustion, used multiple interconnected spheres to account for retrograde motion.

Aristotle

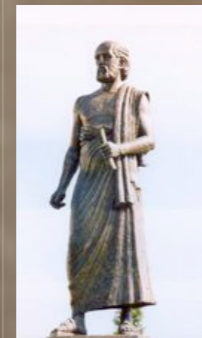
385 B.C. – 323 B.C.



Student of Plato who built philosophy based on observation, induction of general principles. Theory of causes determined motion and material of celestial objects.

Aristarchus of Samos

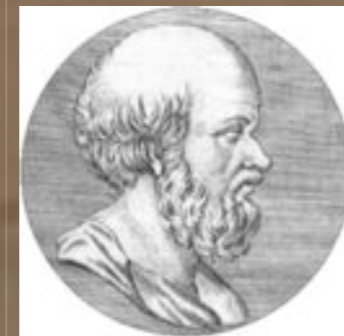
310 B.C. – 230 B.C.



Determined the distance from the earth to the moon and sun (correct method, incorrect results), and according to Archimedes, thought that the planets revolved around the sun.

Eratosthenes of Cyrene

276 B.C. – 195 B.C.



Created a system of latitude and longitude, calculated the circumference of the earth and tilt of earth's axis, attempted to calculate the distance to the Moon and Sun.

Hipparchus

190 B.C. – 120 B.C.



Described lunar and solar motions and eclipses, created a star catalogue and stellar magnitude system (still in use).

Claudius Ptolemy

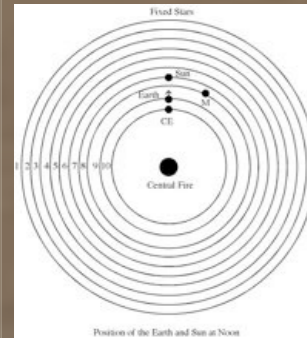
90 A.D. – 168 A.D.



Used geometric methods to create a calculatory model of planetary motions using epicycles and deferent circles that dominated western astronomy until Copernicus.

Philolaus of Croton

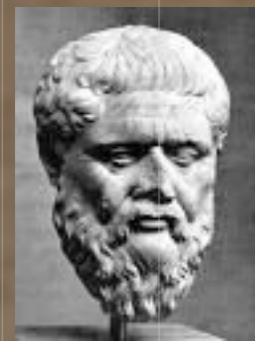
470 B.C. – 385 B.C.



Defined the universe in terms of discrete and continuous elements in proper proportions, and (following Pythagoras) proposed that the earth is not the center of the universe. <http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/philolaus/noon.jpg>

Plato

430 B.C. – 348 B.C.



Student of Socrates who recorded his conversations or dialogues. His dictum in the Timaeus requiring that all celestial objects move in uniform circles constrained astronomical models for nearly two millenia until Kepler showed that planets move in ellipses.

450 B.C.

400 B.C.

350 B.C.

300 B.C.

250 B.C.

200 B.C.

150 B.C.

100 B.C.

50 B.C.

1 A.D.

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Greek Theories on Motions o