Why Geocentric Cosmology Was Preferred Over Heliocentric Cosmology

• Surely, we would feel Earth’s motion…right?
• Earth-centered universe philosophically pleasing: Humans placed in a very *special* location.
• Plato (and Aristotle) said so.

• Parallax of stars not observed.

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Galileo’s Telescopic Discoveries

• Phases of Venus
• Jupiter’s moons
• Moon’s craters
• Sunspots
• Milky Way made up of “innumerable stars”

Galileo’s Contributions to Science and Mechanics

Mechanics: The study of motion and the action of forces on bodies.

• Emphasized absolute necessity of *experimentation*.

• Law of Inertia: Every body tends to continue doing what it is already doing -- being in a state of rest, or moving uniformly in a straight line -- unless it is compelled to change by an outside force.