

INTERNATIONAL ASTRONOMICAL UNION

SYMPOSIUM No. 45

THE MOTION, EVOLUTION OF ORBITS, AND ORIGIN OF COMETS

Edited by G. A. CHEBOTAREV, E. I. KAZIMIRCHAK-POLONSKAYA,
and B. G. MARSDEN



INTERNATIONAL ASTRONOMICAL UNION

D. REIDEL PUBLISHING COMPANY / DORDRECHT-HOLLAND

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This volume contains the proceedings of IAU Symposium No. 45, held in Leningrad, U.S.S.R., in August 1970. Eighty-five papers (a few of them as abstracts only) and much of the discussion following them are included. While the subject dates back many centuries the advent of computers has recently brought about a revival of interest and great progress towards the solution of many outstanding problems has been made. The principal topics covered in this volume include the development of analytical and numerical methods for the construction of accurate theories of the motions of comets and minor planets and the evolution of their orbits over intervals of many centuries, and in some cases millenia; investigation into the effects of non-gravitational forces on the motions of comets and into the physical nature of these forces; current research on the diffusion of the orbits of long-period comets; the form and dimensions of the Oort cloud of comets that surrounds the solar system; and the origin of comets. Other material presented includes the association of comets with meteor streams and possibly with some of the asteroids; attempts to determine the masses of the major planets from analyses of the observations of comets and asteroids; and the requirements for future inter-national cooperation in the observation and calculation of orbits and ephemerides of comets.

A large proportion of the papers are contributed by Soviet astronomers, and in many instances their work is presented here in English for the first time; and to round off the volume there are contributions from astronomers from the United States, South America, Australia, and Eastern and Western Europe.

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EDITED BY

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D. REIDEL PUBLISHING COMPANY

DORDRECHT-HOLLAND

1972

*Published on behalf of
the International Astronomical Union
by
D. Reidel Publishing Company, Dordrecht, Holland*

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Library of Congress Catalog Card Number 73-179895

ISBN 90 277 0207 1

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Printed in Great Britain

To the memory of

MIKHAIL FEDOROVICH SUBBOTIN

(1893–1966)

and

SAMUIL GDAL'EVICH MAKOVER

(1908–1970)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PREFACE	VII
INTRODUCTION BY E. I. KAZIMIRČHAK-POLONSKAYA	IX
LIST OF PARTICIPANTS	XIX

1. G. A. CHEBOTAREV / Evolution of Cometary Orbits on a Cosmogonic Time Scale 1

PART I / OBSERVATIONS AND EPHEMERIDES

2. S. K. VSEKHSVYATSKIJ / Cometary Observations and Variations in Cometary Brightness 9
3. D. A. ANDRIENKO, A. A. DEMENKO, I. M. DEMENKO, and I. D. ZOSIMOVICH / Cometary Brightness Variations and Conditions in Interplanetary Space 16
4. N. S. CHERNYKH / Observations of Comets at the Crimean Astrophysical Observatory 22
5. B. MILET / L'observation des comètes à l'astrographe de l'Observatoire de Nice 25
6. K. I. CHURYUMOV and S. I. GERASIMENKO / Physical Observations of the Short-Period Comet 1969 IV 27
7. M. P. CANDY / On Establishing an International Service for Cometary Observations and Ephemerides 35
8. B. G. MARSDEN / General Remarks on Orbit and Ephemeris Computation 36

PART II / GENERAL METHODS OF ORBIT THEORY

A. Analytical Methods

9. P. E. NACOZY / A Series-Solution Method for Cometary Orbits 43
10. V. I. SKRIPNICHENKO / On the Application of Hansen's Method of Partial Anomalies to the Calculation of Perturbations in Cometary Motions 52
11. E. RABE / Orbital Characteristics of Comets Passing Through the 1:1 Commensurability with Jupiter 55
12. A. T. SINCLAIR / The Motions of Bodies Close to Commensurabilities with Jupiter (Abstract) 61
13. V. M. CHEPUROVA / On the Motion of Short-Period Comets in the Neighbourhood of Jupiter 62
14. G. E. O. GIACAGLIA / Secular Perturbations on Periodic Comets 66

B. *Numerical Methods*

15. V. F. MYACHIN and O. A. SIZOVA / A Numerical Method of Integration by Means of Taylor-Steffensen Series and Its Possible Use in the Study of the Motions of Comets and Minor Planets 83
16. N. A. BOKHAN / A Library of Standard Programmes for Constructing Numerical Theories for Studying the Motion and Evolution of the Orbits of the Minor Bodies of the Solar System 86
17. N. A. BELYAEV / The Solution of Problems of Cometary Astronomy on Electronic Computers 90
18. E. I. KAZIMIRCHAK-POLONSKAYA / A Method of Integrating the Equations of Motion in Special Coordinates and the Elimination of a Discontinuity in the Theory of the Motion of Periodic Comet Wolf 95
19. V. A. IVAKIN / The Use of the Electronic Computer for the Urgent Publication of Astronomical Material 103

C. *Determination of Orbits*

20. G. SITARSKI / A Numerical Interpretation of the Homogenization of Observational Material for One-Apparition Comets 107
21. M. BIELICKI / The Problem of Elaboration and Classification of Observational Material for One-Apparition Comets 112
22. M. BIELICKI / The Influence of Properties of a Set of Observations on the Weights of Determination of the Orbital Elements of a One-Apparition Comet 118
23. P. HERGET / On the Differential Correction of Nearly Parabolic Orbits 123
24. L. E. NIKONOVA and N. A. BOKHAN / Standardization of the Calculation of Nearly Parabolic Cometary Orbits 124
25. H. DEBEHOGNE / Détermination d'orbites paraboliques à partir de N observations au moyen de l'ordinateur électronique 127

PART III / MOTIONS OF THE SHORT-PERIOD COMETS

A. *Planetary Perturbations and Nongravitational Effects*

26. B. G. MARSDEN / Nongravitational Effects on Comets: the Current Status 135
27. P. E. ZADUNAISKY / On the Determination of Nongravitational Forces Acting on Comets 144
28. F. L. WHIPPLE and S. E. HAMID / A Search for Encke's Comet in Ancient Chinese Records: A Progress Report 152
29. J. L. BRADY / The Motion of Halley's Comet from 837 to 1910 (Abstract) 155
30. P. STUMPF / A Numerical Analysis of the Motion of Periodic Comet Brooks 2 156
31. N. A. BELYAEV and F. B. KHANINA / Linkage of Seven Apparitions of Periodic Comet Faye 1925-1970 and Investigation of the Orbital Evolution During 1660-2060 167

32. YU. V. EVDOKIMOV / Investigation of the Motion of Periodic Comet Giacobini-Zinner and the Origin of the Draconid Meteor Showers of 1926, 1933 and 1946	173
33. D. K. YEOMANS / Nongravitational Forces and Periodic Comet Giacobini-Zinner	181
34. D. K. YEOMANS / A Non-Newtonian Orbit for Periodic Comet Borrelly	187
35. L. M. BELOUS / An Investigation of the Motion of Periodic Comet Borrelly from 1904 to 1967	190
36. P. HERGET and H. J. CARR / The Motion of Periodic Comet Pons-Brooks, 1812–1954	195
37. E. D. KONDRAT'eva / Periodic Comet Tempel-Tuttle and the Leonid Meteor Shower	200
38. M. YA. SHMAKOVA / Investigation of the Motion of Periodic Comet Stephan-Oterma	203

B. Determination of Planetary Masses

39. W. J. KLEPCZYNSKI / Determination of Planetary Masses from the Motions of Comets	209
40. E. I. KAZIMIRCHAK-POLONSKAYA / The Determination of Jupiter's Mass from Large Perturbations on Cometary Orbits in Jupiter's Sphere of Action	227
41. N. S. CHERNYKH / Determination of the Mass of Jupiter from Observations of 10 Hygiea During 1932–1969	233
42. B. G. MARSDEN / The Motion of Hidalgo and the Mass of Saturn	239
43. P. HERGET / On the Determination of Planetary Masses	244
44. K. A. SHTEJNS and I. E. ZAL'KALNE / The Influence of Minor Planets on the Motions of Comets	246

PART IV / PHYSICAL PROCESSES IN COMETS

45. A. Z. DOLGINOV / Physical Processes in Cometary Atmospheres	253
46. B. YU. LEVIN / Some Remarks on the Liberation of Gases from Cometary Nuclei	260
47. L. M. SHUL'MAN / The Chemical Composition of Cometary Nuclei	265
48. L. M. SHUL'MAN / The Evolution of Cometary Nuclei	271
49. V. P. KONOPLEVA and L. M. SHUL'MAN / On the Sizes of Cometary Nuclei	277
50. E. M. PITTICH / Splitting and Sudden Outbursts of Comets as Indicators of Nongravitational Effects	283
51. O. V. DOBROVOL'SKIY and M. Z. MARKOVICH / On Nongravitational Effects in Two Classes of Models for Cometary Nuclei	287
52. Z. SEKANINA / Rotation Effects in the Nongravitational Parameters of Comets	294
53. Z. SEKANINA / A Model for the Nucleus of Encke's Comet	301
54. E. A. KAJMAKOV and V. I. SHARKOV / Laboratory Simulation of Icy Cometary Nuclei	308

55. E. A. KAJMAKOV, V. I. SHARKOV, and S. S. ZHURAVLEV / A Nongravitational Effect in the Simulation of Cometary Phenomena 316

PART V / ORIGIN AND EVOLUTION OF COMETS

A. *Orbital Stability and Evolution*

56. V. S. SAFRONOV / Ejection of Bodies from the Solar System in the Course of the Accumulation of the Giant Planets and the Formation of the Cometary Cloud 329
57. E. M. NEZHINSKIY / On the Stability of the Oort Cloud 335
58. V. A. ANTONOV and I. N. LATYSHEV / Determination of the Form of the Oort Cometary Cloud as the Hill Surface in the Galactic Field 341
59. G. T. YANOVITSKAYA / On 'New' Comets and the Size of the Cometary Cloud (Abstract) 346
60. K. A. SHTEJNS / Diffusion of Comets from Parabolic into Nearly Parabolic Orbits 347
61. O. V. DOBROVOL'SKIY / New Estimates of Cometary Disintegration Times and the Implications for Diffusion Theory 352
62. S. K. VSEKHSVYATSKIY / Comets and Problems of Numerical Celestial Mechanics 356
63. E. EVERHART / The Effect of the Ellipticity of Jupiter's Orbit on the Capture of Comets to Short-Period Orbits 360
64. O. HAVNES / Evolution of Short-Period Cometary Orbits Due to Close Approaches to Jupiter 364
65. M. BIELICKI / A New Orbital Classification for Periodic Comets 370
66. E. I. KAZIMIRCHAK-POLONSKAYA / The Major Planets as Powerful Transformers of Cometary Orbits 373

B. *Theories of Cometary Origin*

67. F. L. WHIPPLE / The Origin of Comets 401
68. V. G. FESENKOV / On the Origin of Comets and Their Importance for the Cosmogony of the Solar System 409
69. S. K. VSEKHSVYATSKIY / The Origin and Evolution of the Comets and Other Small Bodies in the Solar System 413
70. J. M. WITKOWSKI / On the Problem of the Origin of Comets 419

PART VI / RELATIONSHIP WITH METEORS AND MINOR PLANETS

A. *Orbital Evolution of Meteors and Minor Planets*

71. G. A. CHEBOTAREV, N. A. BELYAEV, and R. P. EREMENKO / Investigation of the Orbital Stability of Minor Planets with Cometary Eccentricities 431

72. M. A. DIRIKIS / Evolution of the Orbits of Selected Minor Planets during an Interval of 1000 Years	437
73. I. V. GALIBINA / Secular Perturbations on the Minor Bodies of the Solar System	440
74. A. F. ZAUSAEV / The Use of the Halphen-Goryachev Method in the Study of the Evolution of the Orbits of the Quadrantid and δ Aquarid Meteor Streams	441
75. V. N. LEBEDINETS / On the Rate of Ejection of Dust by Long-Period Comets	442
76. J. DELCOURT / Évolution séculaire des orbites de particules météoriques	447
77. B. YU. LEVIN, A. N. SIMONENKO, and L. M. SHERBAUM / Deformation of a Meteor Stream Caused by an Approach to Jupiter	454
78. E. I. KAZIMIRCHAK-POLONSKAYA, N. A. BELYAEV, and A. K. TERENT'EVA / Orbital Evolution of the α Virginid and α Capricornid Meteor Streams	462
79. E. N. KRAMER / Theoretical Cometary Radiants and the Structure of Meteor Streams	472

B. Possibility of Common Origin

80. H. ALFVÉN / On the Relation between Comets and Meteoroids	485
81. J. TRULSEN / Formation of Comets in Meteor Streams	487
82. V. N. LEBEDINETS, V. N. KORPUSOV, and A. K. SOSNOVA / Statistics of the Orbits of Meteor Streams and Comets	491
83. L. A. KATASEV and N. V. KULIKOVA / On the Production of Meteor Streams by Cometary Nuclei	498
84. L. KRESÁK / On the Dividing Line between Cometary and Asteroidal Orbits	503
85. S. GAŠKA / On the Possible Common Origin of Minor Planets, Comets, and Meteors	515

CONCLUDING DISCUSSION	519
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