

EPICYCLE

Meaning: Epicycle: a small circle whose center moves around the circumference of a larger circle, used in ancient astronomy to describe the complex orbits of celestial bodies.

1. The concept of the epicycle was used in ancient astronomy to explain the complex movements of planets.
2. In his model, Ptolemy introduced the idea of epicycles to account for the retrograde motion of Mars.
3. The mathematician's calculations involved intricate diagrams of epicycles and deferents to predict celestial positions.
4. To better understand the motion of the moon, astronomers often referred to epicycles in their models.
5. The use of epicycles eventually gave way to the heliocentric theory, which simplified our view of planetary orbits.

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