

?

**Robert Hooke (1635-1703)**

*Arguably the greatest experimental natural philosopher of the 17<sup>th</sup> century*

# MICROGRAPHIA:

OR SOME  
*Physiological Descriptions*

## OF MINUTE BODIES

MADE BY  
MAGNIFYING GLASSES

WITH  
OBSERVATIONS and INQUIRIES thereupon.

By *R. HOOKE*, Fellow of the ROYAL SOCIETY.

*Non possit oculo quantum contendere Linceus,  
Non tamen Linceus contemnas Lippus eunghi.* Horat. Ep. lib. 1.



LONDON, Printed by *Jo. Martyn*, and *Ja. Allestry*, Printers to the  
ROYAL SOCIETY, and are to be sold at their Shop at the *Bell* in  
S. Paul's Church-yard. M DC LX V.

*Section of Cork in two different Sections. p. 10.*

Fig: 1.

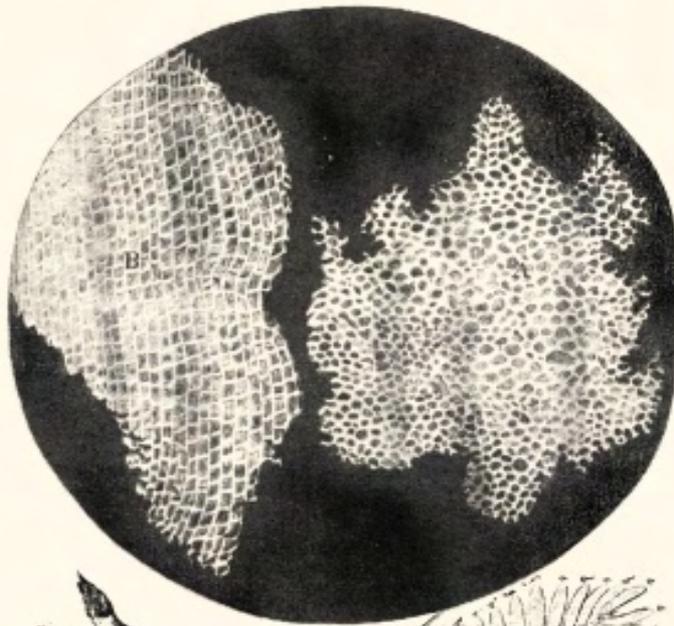
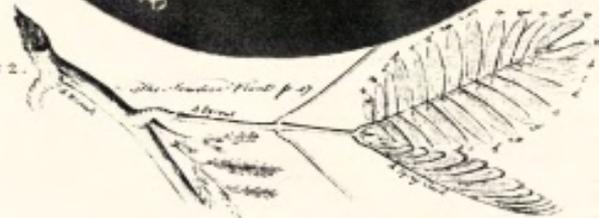


Fig: 2.



- His most famous work is *Micrographia*, in which he coined the term "cell" for a basic biological structure.

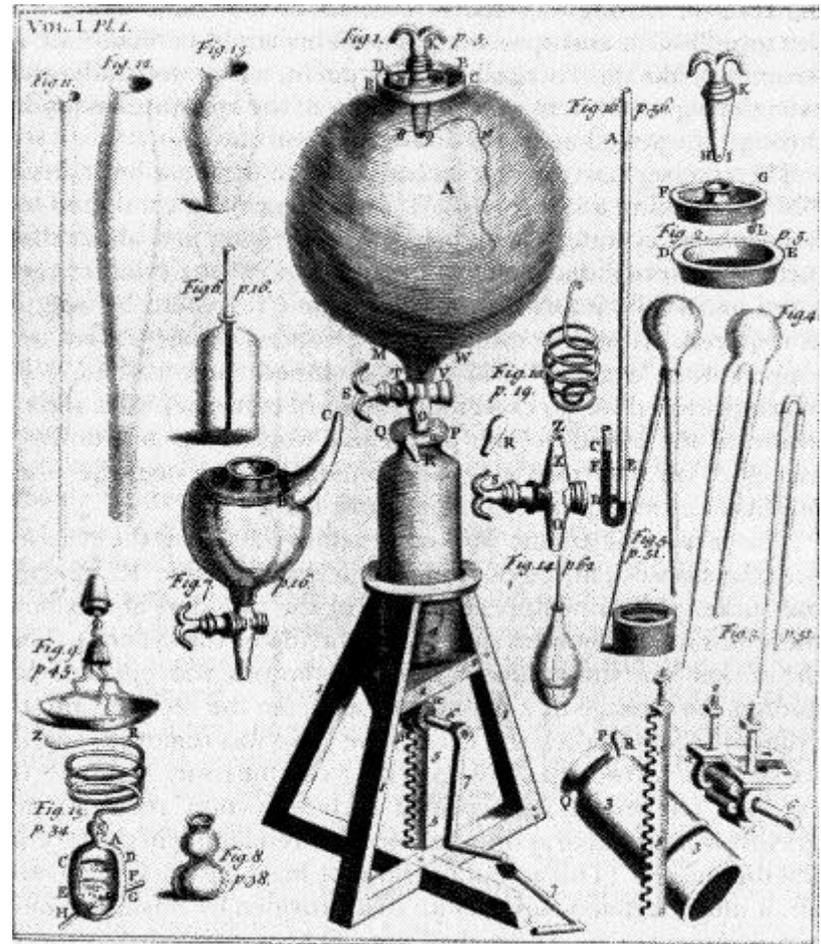
# Biography

- Robert Hooke, the son of a [clergyman](#) in Freshwater on the [Isle of Wight](#), was born on July 18, 1635.
- When he was 13, he left an orphan with a modest inheritance, and entered Westminster School.
- Later he earned his way
- as a chorister at Christ Church, [Oxford](#), and attended Westminster College, graduating with his master's degree in 1663.



# Biography

- Hooke remained at Oxford, where he became assistant to [Robert Boyle](#).
- Together they conducted many experiments on the effects of reduced air pressure, using an air pump that had been designed and constructed by Hooke.



# Biography...

- In 1662 Hooke became curator of the newly founded Royal Society, his duties being to produce three or four significant experimental demonstrations for each weekly meeting of the society.
- He was ideally suited for such work, and his career thereafter was immensely active and fertile.

Founded in 1660, the Royal Society is the independent scientific academy of the UK, dedicated to promoting excellence in science.





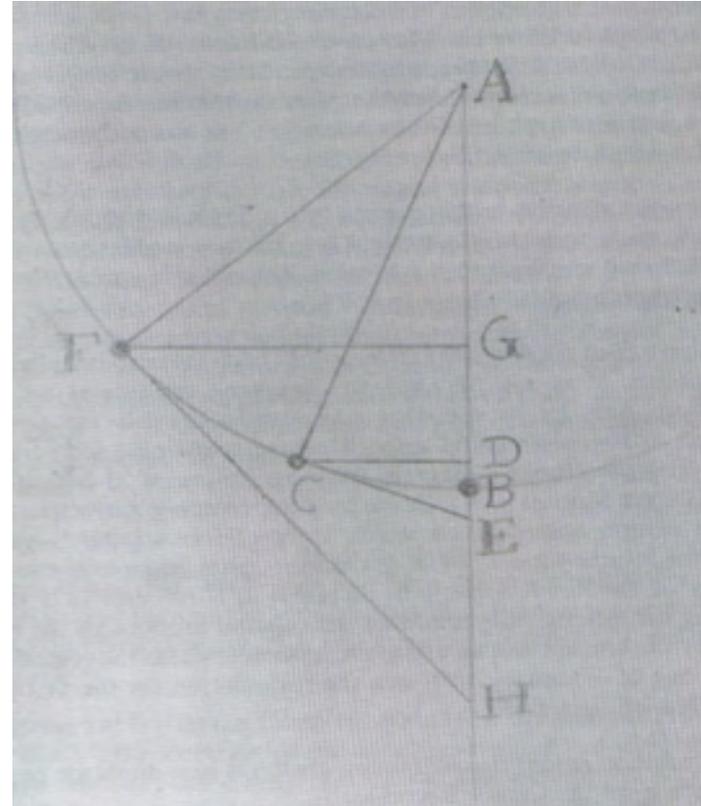
# Biography...

- 1665 he was appointed **Professor of Geometry** and carried out astronomical observations, and was also elected FRS. In 1677 he became the **Secretary to the Royal Society**.



# Hooke versus Newton

- In his *Attempt to Prove the Motion of the Earth* (1674), he offered a theory of planetary motion based on the correct principle of inertia and a balance between an outward centrifugal force and an inward gravitational attraction to the Sun.
- In 1679, in a letter to Newton, he finally suggested that this attraction would vary inversely as the square of the distance from the Sun.



- Hooke expressed the prophetic character of the **New Science** very succinctly in the Preface to *Micrographia* in 1665:

*And as at first, mankind fell by tasting of the forbidden Tree of Knowledge, so we, their Posterity, may be in part restor'd by the same way, not only by beholding and contemplating, but by tasting too those fruits of Natural Knowledge, that were never yet forbidden. [2]*

# Today

- Amazingly no authenticated portrait of Hooke exists today.
- A small memorial can be found in Westminster Abbey, installed in 2005, 302 years after he died.



# Today

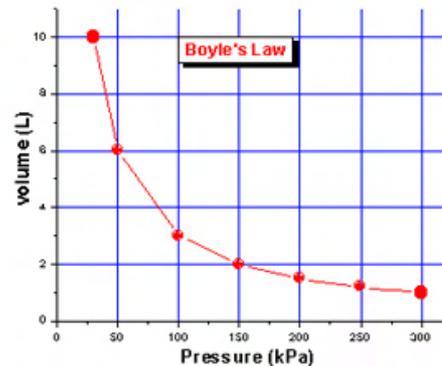
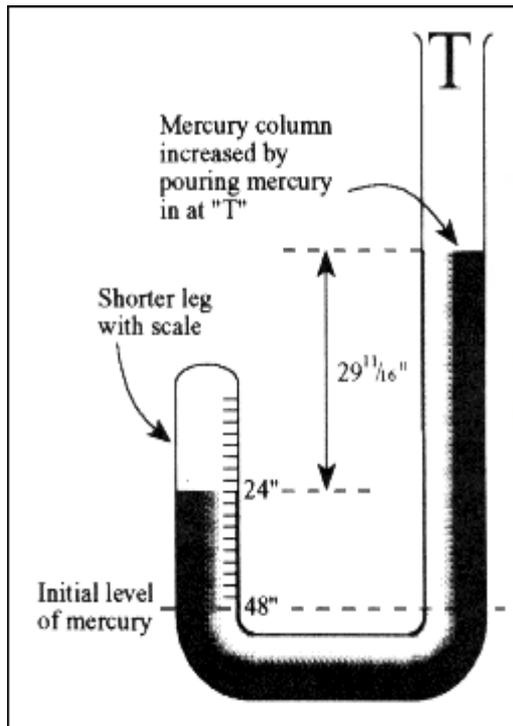
- The year 2003, the 300th anniversary of the death of Dr Robert Hooke FRS, saw a wonderful flowering of both scholarly and more popular interest in his life and scientific achievements.
- Conferences were held at the Royal Society (in conjunction with Gresham College, London, where Hooke had been Professor of Geometry between 1665 and 1703) and at
- Oxford University, where Hooke had studied and worked at Christ Church between 1653 and 1662.

# Video of Hooke's *Folio*

- <http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=251952904822976995&hl=en-GB>
- Rediscovering Robert Hooke: A video



# Boyle discovered his law with the help of Hooke



158

*A Defence of the Doctrines teaching the*

Part II.

*A table of the condensation of the air.*

A	B	C	D	E
48	11	00	29 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>16</sub>	35 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>16</sub>
46	11 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>16</sub>	01 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>16</sub>	30 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>16</sub>	33 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>16</sub>
44	11 <sup>2</sup> / <sub>16</sub>	02 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>16</sub>	31 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>16</sub>	31 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>16</sub>
42	10 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>16</sub>	04 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>16</sub>	33 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>16</sub>	33 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>16</sub>
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38	9 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>16</sub>	07 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>16</sub>	37	36 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>16</sub>
36	9	10 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>16</sub>	39 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>16</sub>	38 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>16</sub>
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28	7	21 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>16</sub>	50 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>16</sub>	50 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>16</sub>
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24	6	30 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>16</sub>	58 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>16</sub>	58 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>16</sub>
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20	5	39 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>16</sub>	64 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>16</sub>	63 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>16</sub>
18	4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>16</sub>	45 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>16</sub>	67 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>16</sub>	66 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>16</sub>
16	4	51 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>16</sub>	70 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>16</sub>	70 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>16</sub>
14	3 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>16</sub>	58 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>16</sub>	74 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>16</sub>	73 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>16</sub>
12	3	63 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>16</sub>	77 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>16</sub>	77 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>16</sub>
10	2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>16</sub>	71 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>16</sub>	82 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>16</sub>	82 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>16</sub>
8	2	81 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>16</sub>	87 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>16</sub>	87 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>16</sub>
6	1 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>16</sub>	93 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>16</sub>	93 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>16</sub>	93 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>16</sub>
4	1	100 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>16</sub>	100 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>16</sub>	100 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>16</sub>
3	1	107 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>16</sub>	107 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>16</sub>	107 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>16</sub>
2	1	117 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>16</sub>	117 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>16</sub>	117 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>16</sub>

Added to 31 inches

A. The number of equal spaces in the shorter leg, that contained the same parcel of air diversly extended.

B. The height of the mercurial cylinder in the longer leg, that compressed the air into those dimensions.

C. The height of the mercurial cylinder, that counter-balanced the pressure of the atmosphere.

D. The aggregate of the two last columns B and C, exhibiting the pressure sustained by the included air.

E. What that pressure should be according to the hypothesis, that supposes the pressures and expansions to be in reciprocal proportion.

For the better understanding of this experiment, it may not be amiss to take notice of the following particulars :

1. THAT the tube being so tall, that we could not conveniently make use of it in a chamber, we were fain to use it on a pair of stairs, which yet were very lightome, the robe being for preservation's sake by strings so suspended, that it did scarce touch the box presently to be mentioned.

2. THAT the lower and crooked part of the pipe was placed in a square wooden box, of a good largeness and depth, to prevent the loss of the quicksilver, that might fall aside in the transference from the vessel into the pipe, and to receive the whole quicksilver in case the tube should break.

3. THAT we were fain to make the observation together, the one to take notice at the bottom, how the quicksilver rose in the shorter cylinder, and the other to pour in at the top of the longer ; it being very hard and troublesome for one man alone to do both accurately.

4. THAT the quicksilver was poured in but by little and little, according to the direction of him that observed below ; it being far easier to pour in more, than to take out any, in case too much at once had been poured in.

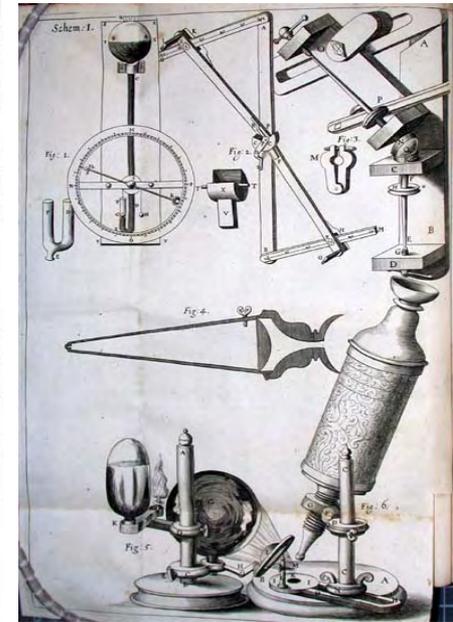
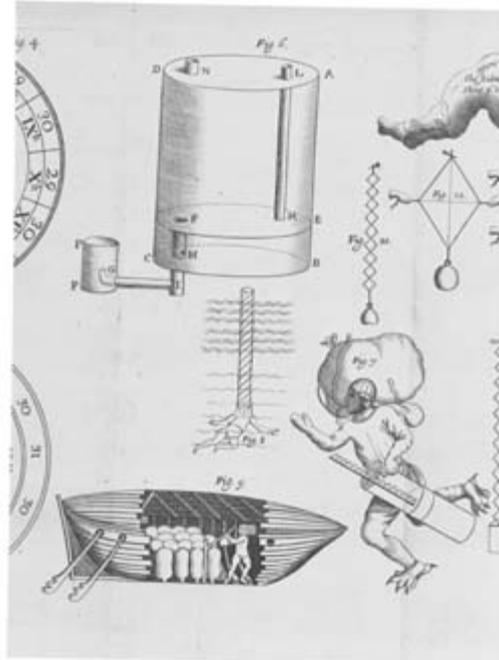
5. THAT

# Dr. Hooke, the physicist

A founding member of the **Royal Society** from 1663, Hooke was accomplished in **astronomy**, **biology**, **physics** and **architecture**.

His skill as an instrument maker gave him an edge over his contemporaries.

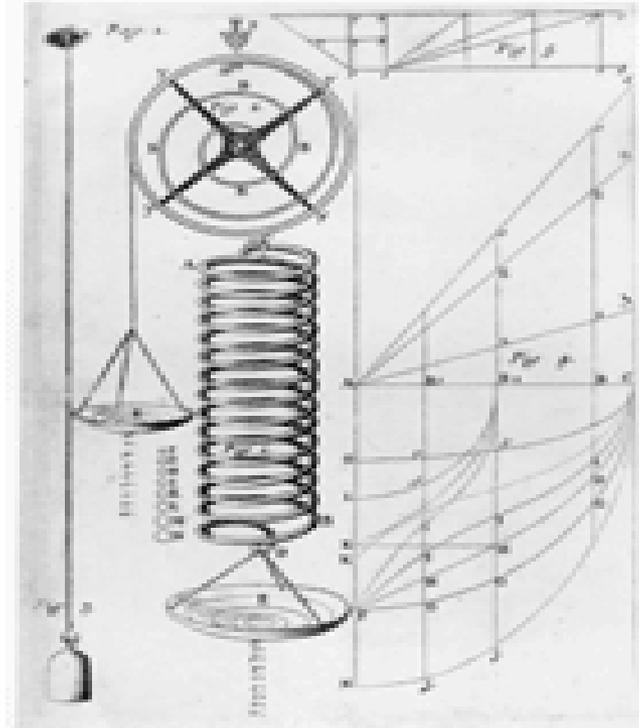
**Royal Society  
Building in London**



# Dr. Hooke's, the physicist

Hooke's studies of springs and elasticity led to his enunciation of "Hooke's Law" :

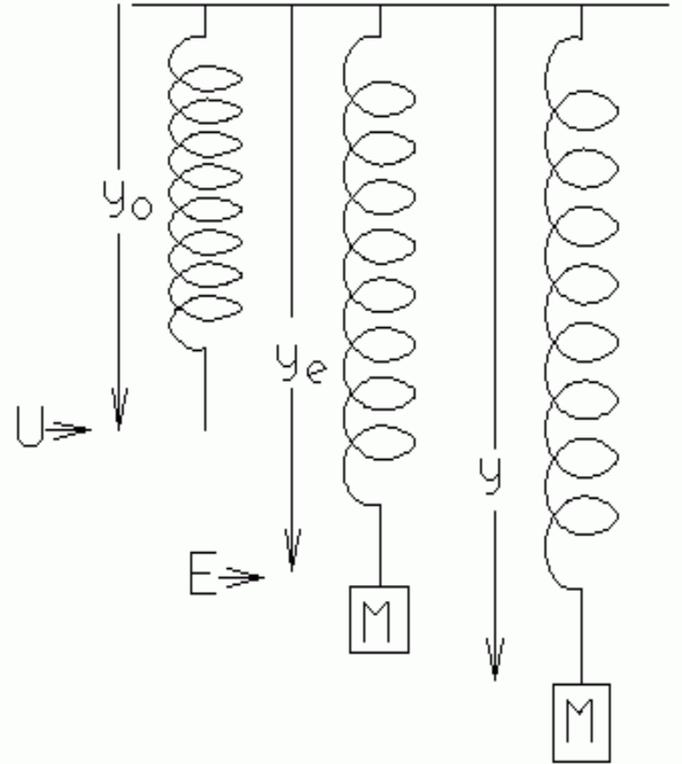
“Ut tensio sic vis.”



# Hooke's law

- Hooke's Law:

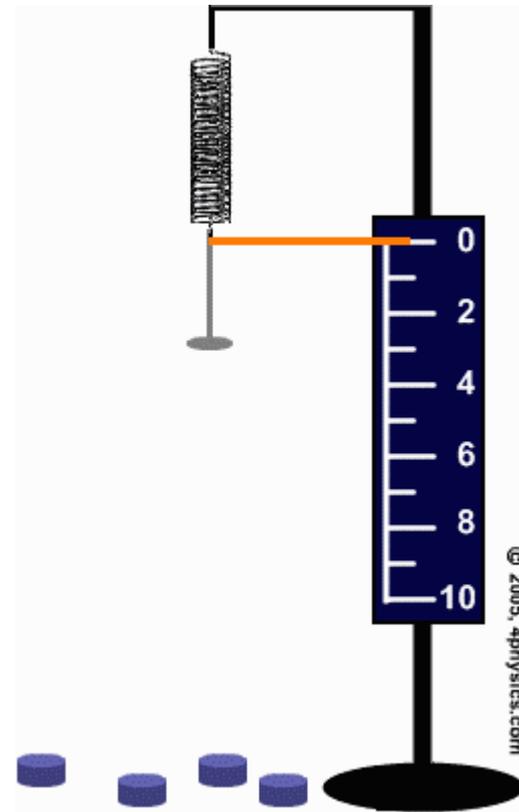
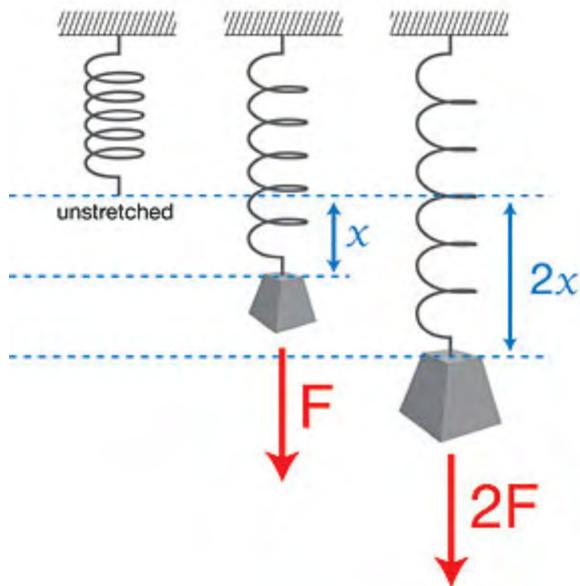
A spring's extension is proportional to the weight hanging from it.



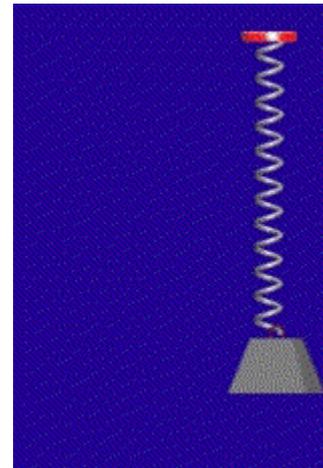
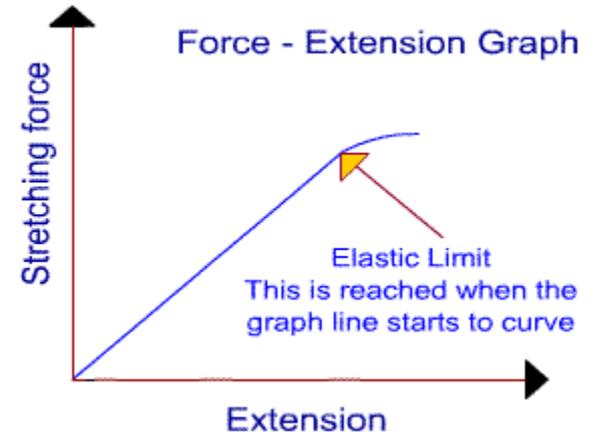
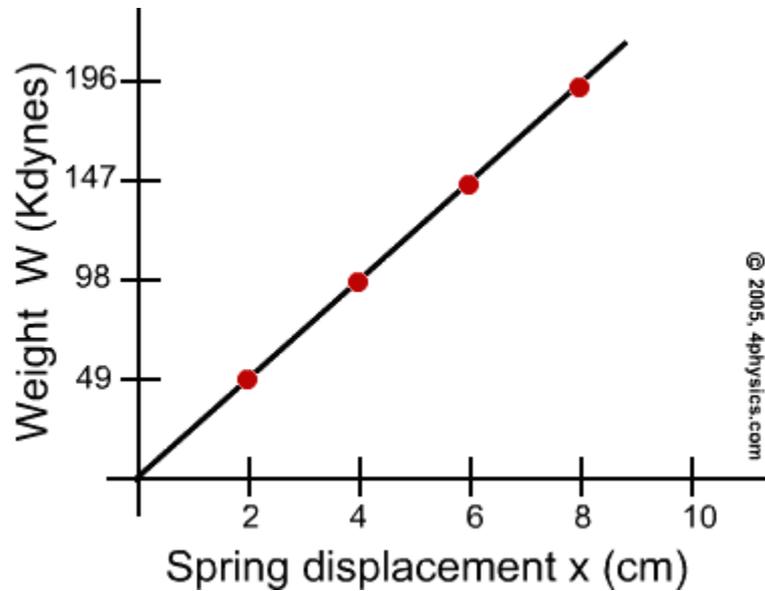
# A text book description of Hooke's law

## Hooke's Law

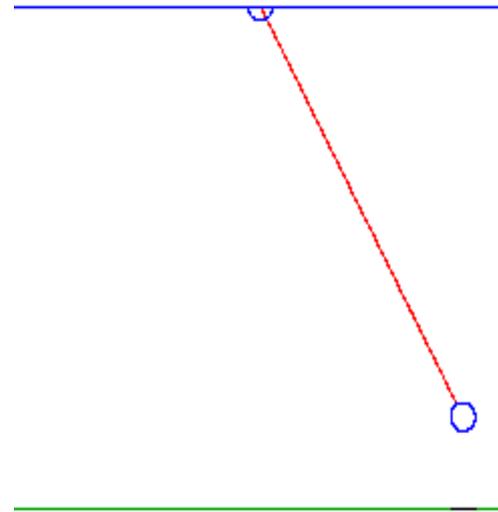
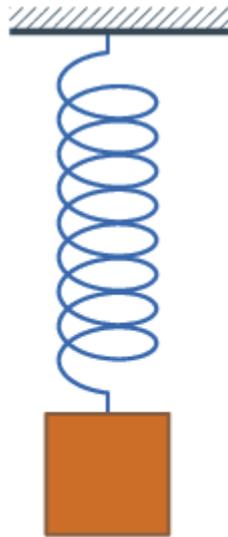
$$F_{\text{spring}} = -kx$$



# A text book description of Hooke's law



# Hooke's law and the motion of a pendulum

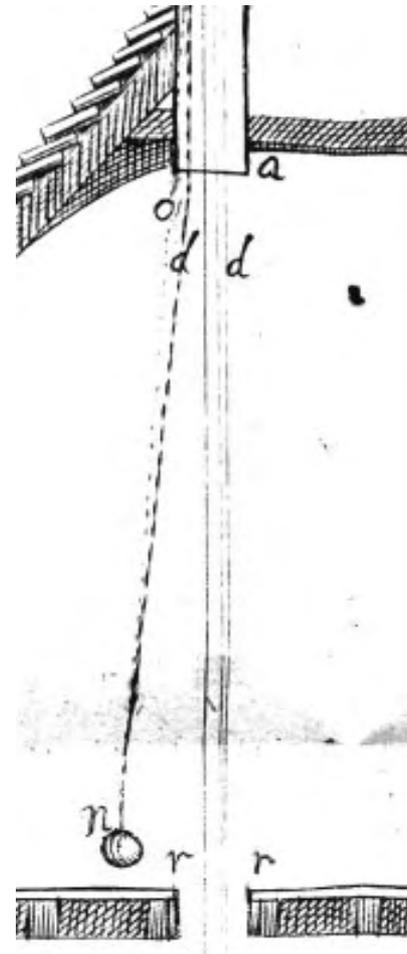


# Hooke's law and SHM

Hooke's law,  $F = -kx$  is the condition required for **simple harmonic motion (SHM)**:

The pendulum  
(small displacement),  
an oscillating spring,  
an object falling through  
a tunnel, all obey this law.

**Robert Hooke's attempt to prove the motion  
of the earth (London, 1674).**



# Hooke's gravity train



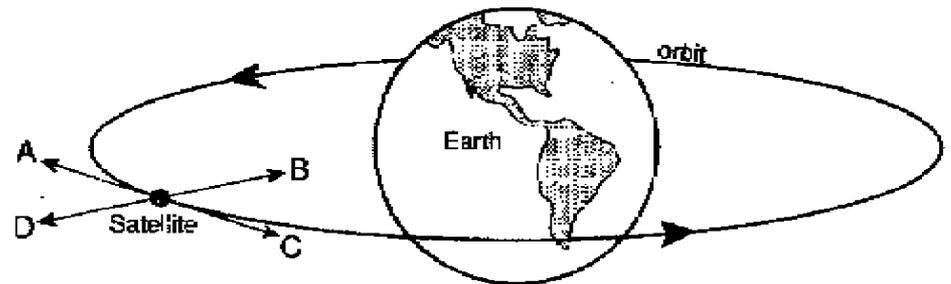
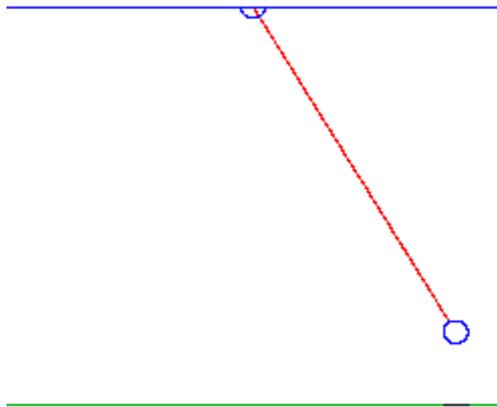
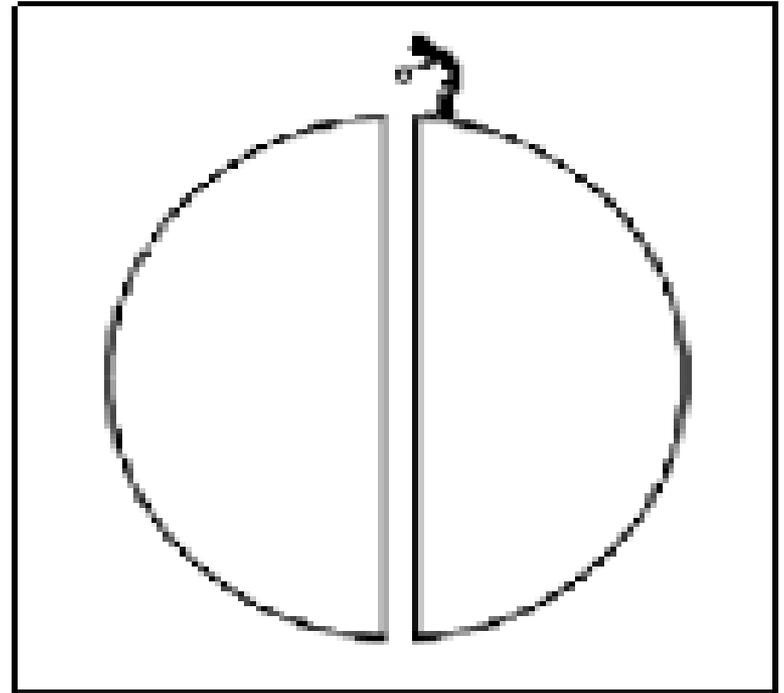
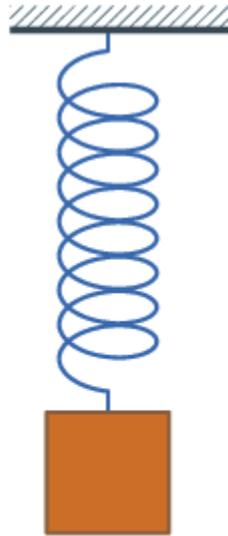
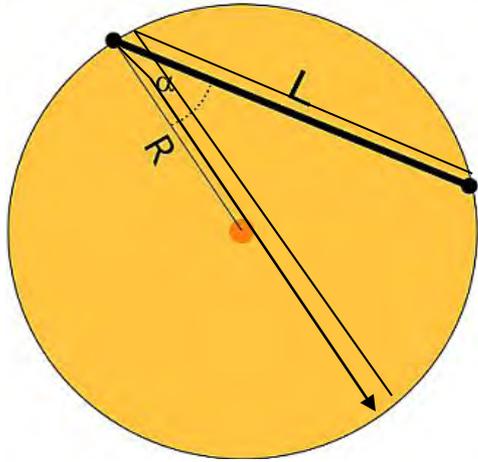
- Hooke's calculations showed that if the technology could be developed to bore holes through the Earth, a vehicle with sufficiently reduced friction could use such a tunnel to travel to another point anywhere on the Earth within three quarters of an hour, regardless of distance.

# A thought experiment that Hooke would have enjoyed

## A thought experiment:

An period of an object falling in a frictionless tunnel through the earth and returning, the period of a pendulum with a length of an **earth radius**, and the period of a satellite in a **circular orbit** (close to the surface of the earth) all would be about 86 minutes.

# Hooke's law and the gravity train



- Robert Hooke's researches over nearly 40 years covered a wide variety of Natural Philosophy.
- Hooke suggested a **wave theory** of light in his *Micrographia* (1665) comparing the spreading of light vibrations to that of waves in water. .



# Dr Hooke, the inventor and the instrument maker

- He is credited with inventing the **balance spring** that allowed for the making of small, accurate timepieces.
- He also invented a **reflecting microscope**, the **universal joint**, and a variety of **clocks**, **barometers** and **optical devices**.



# Dr. Hooke, the architect

- Although not a surveyor or architect by profession, Hooke was named London's Surveyor after the Great Fire of 1666 and, with **Christopher Wren**, given the task of rebuilding the city.

**Monument designed by Hooke to commemorate the 1666 Fire**



**Montague House. Designed by Hooke for private clients.**



## Dr. Hooke, the architect

- He worked as an architect with Sir Christopher Wren in designing the
- Royal Greenwich Observatory,
- Bethlem Royal Hospital and the reconstruction of today's St. Pauls Cathedral
- In fact, Hooke created the method of construction of the triple dome.

# Dr. Hooke, the architect

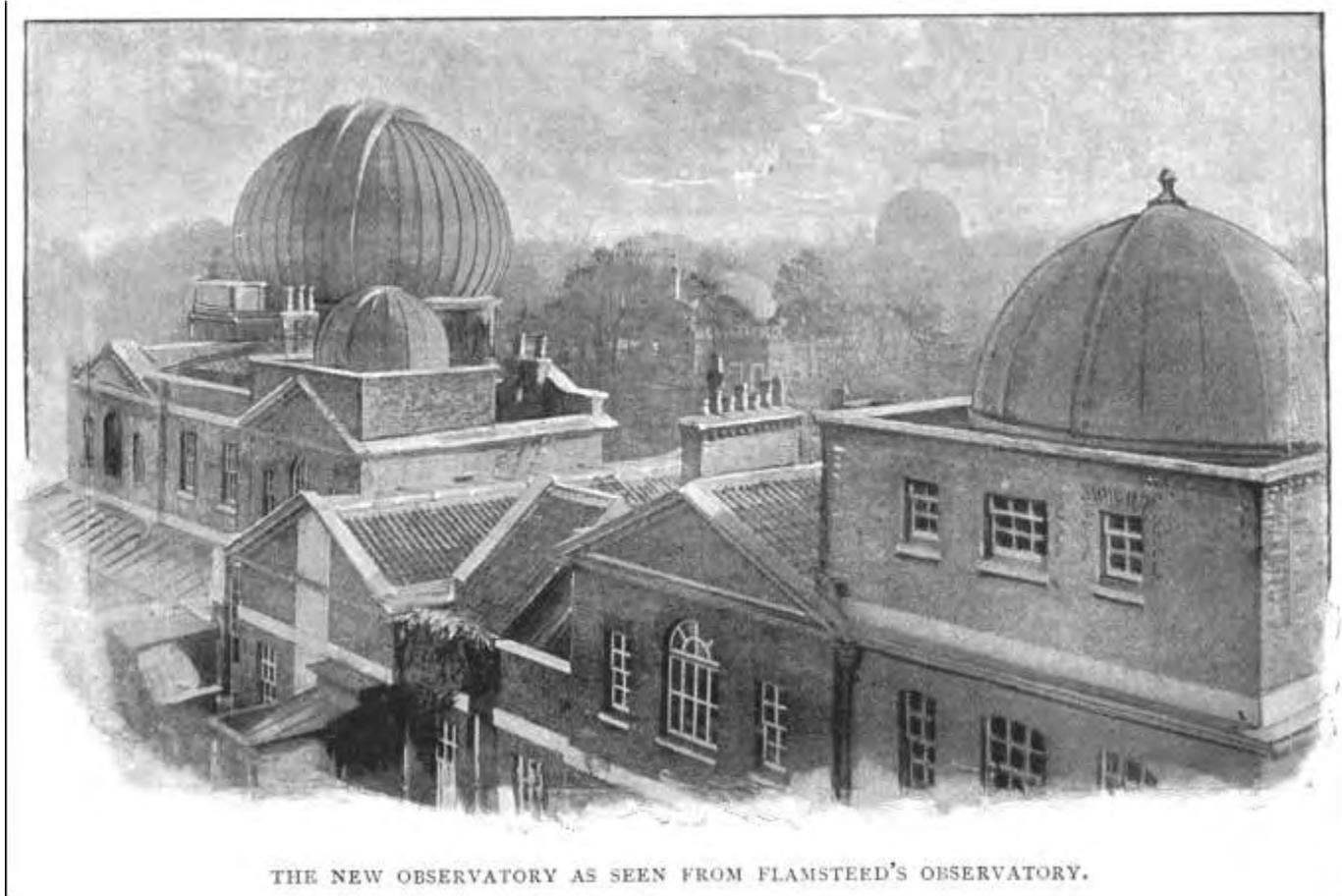
**Royal Greenwich Observatory**



**St Paul's cathedral**



# Dr. Hooke, the astronomer



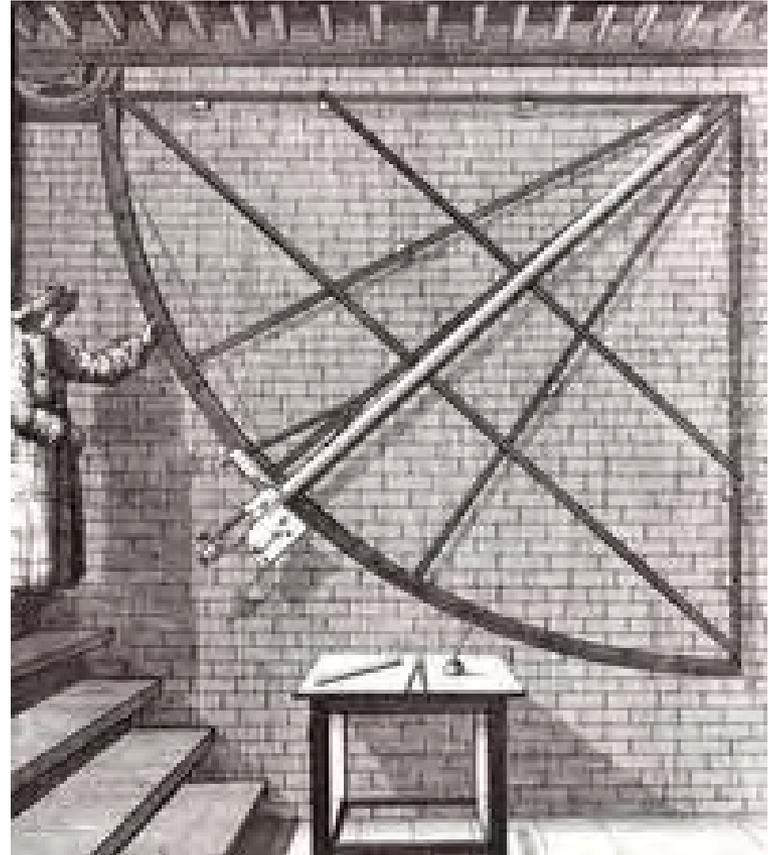
THE NEW OBSERVATORY AS SEEN FROM FLAMSTEED'S OBSERVATORY.

# Dr. Hooke, the astronomer

- *The whole vast system of celestial movements, which had long seemed to men irregular and uncontrolled, now fell, every one of them, into its place, as but the necessary manifestations of one grand, simple order.*

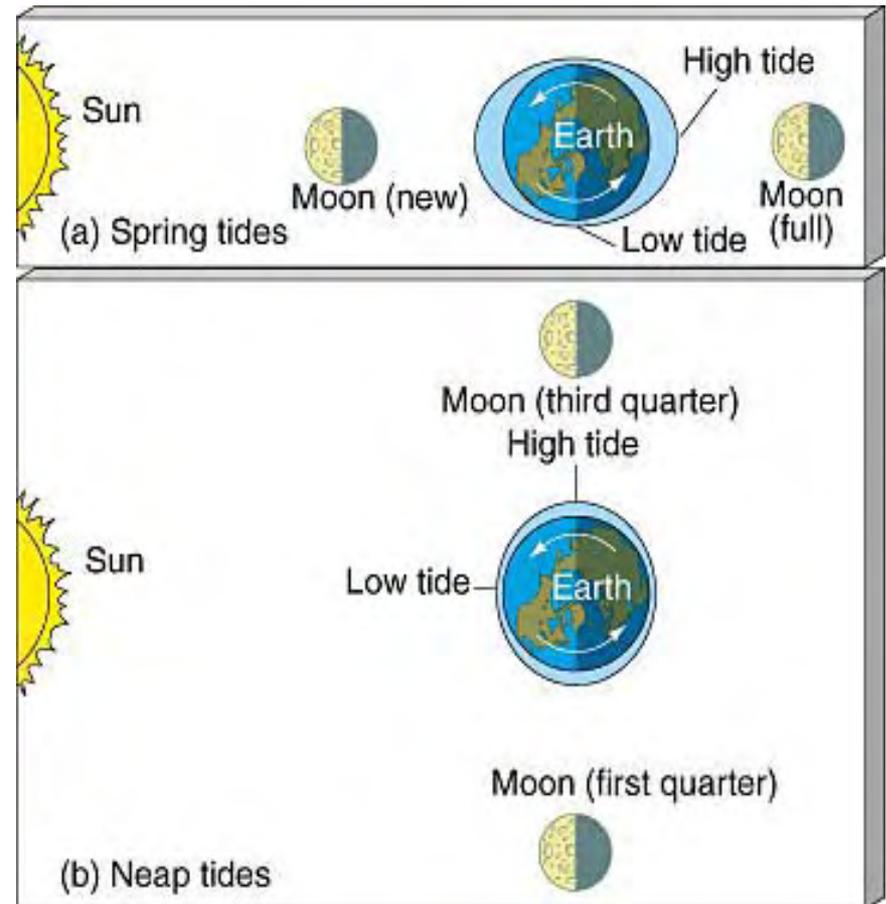
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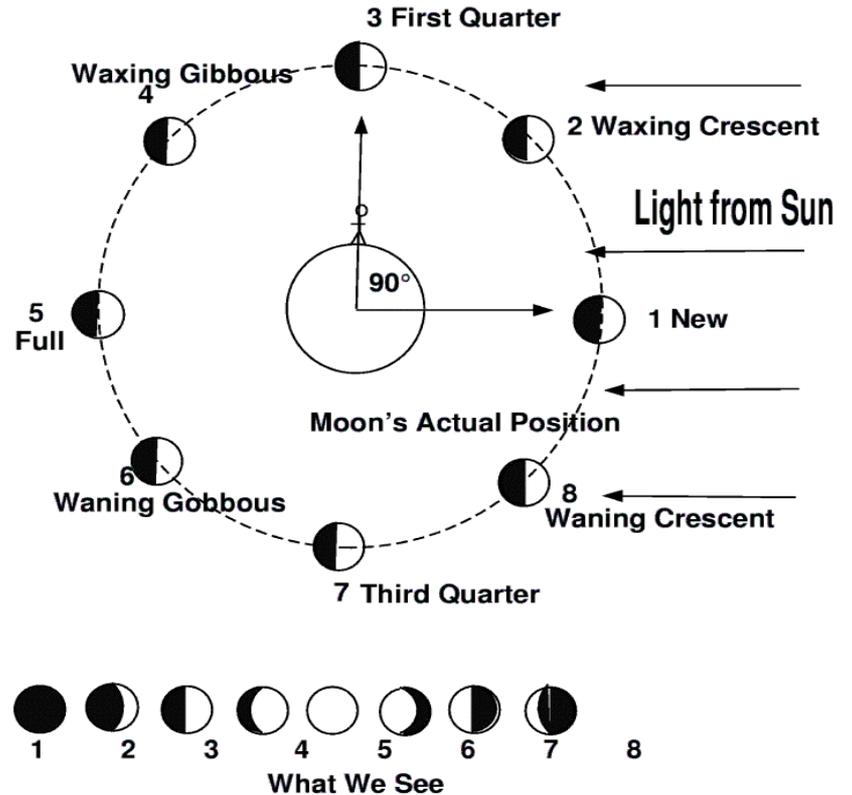
# Dr. Hooke, the astronomer

- Hooke showed that the ebb and flow of the tides was due to the attraction of both sun and moon.



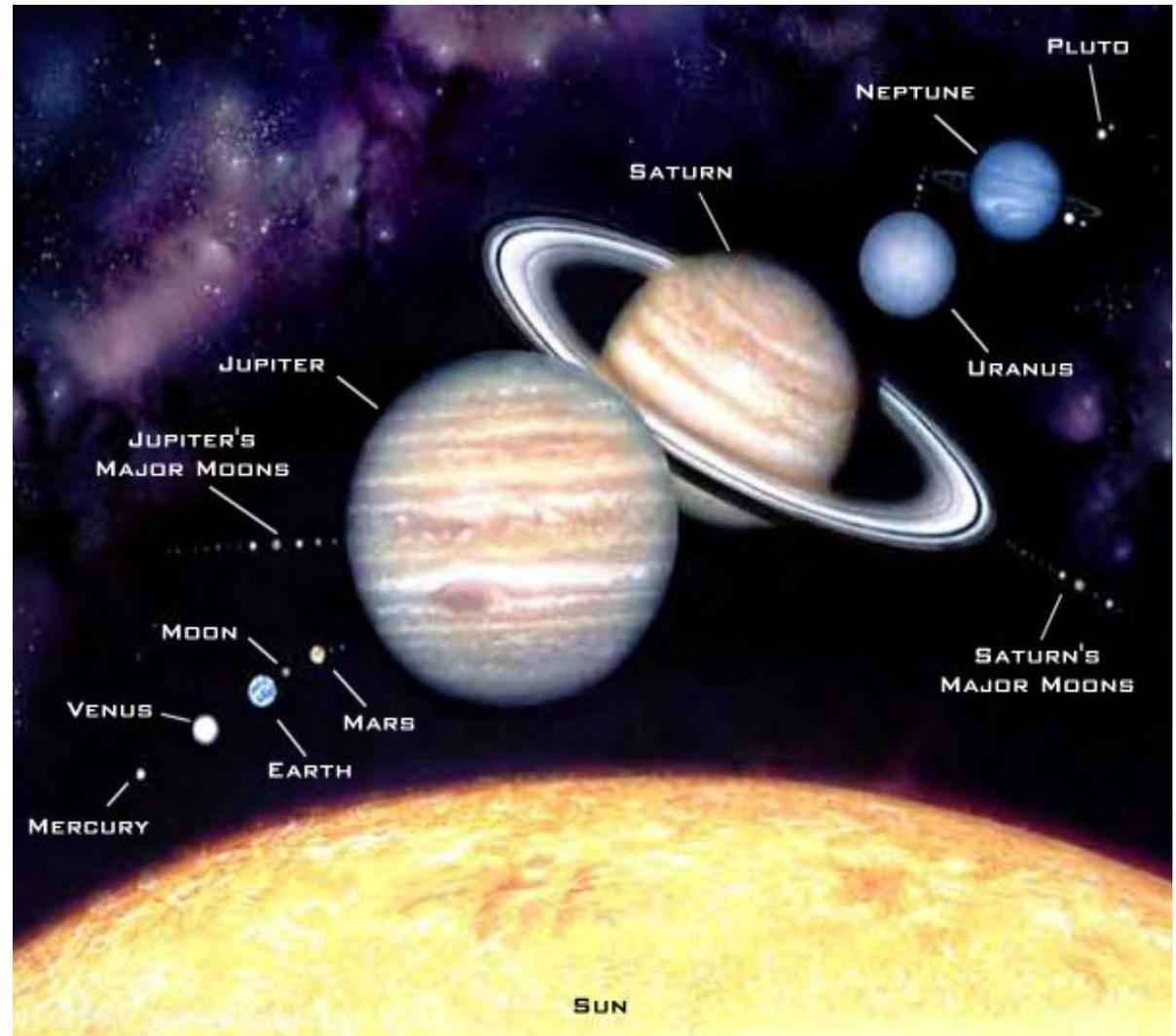
# Dr. Hooke, the astronomer

He pointed out certain irregularities which must take place in the motion of the moon, due to the influence of the sun upon it.



# Dr. Hooke, the astronomer

- *He deduced the relative weights of the earth, the sun, and of Jupiter and Saturn, the planets with satellites.*

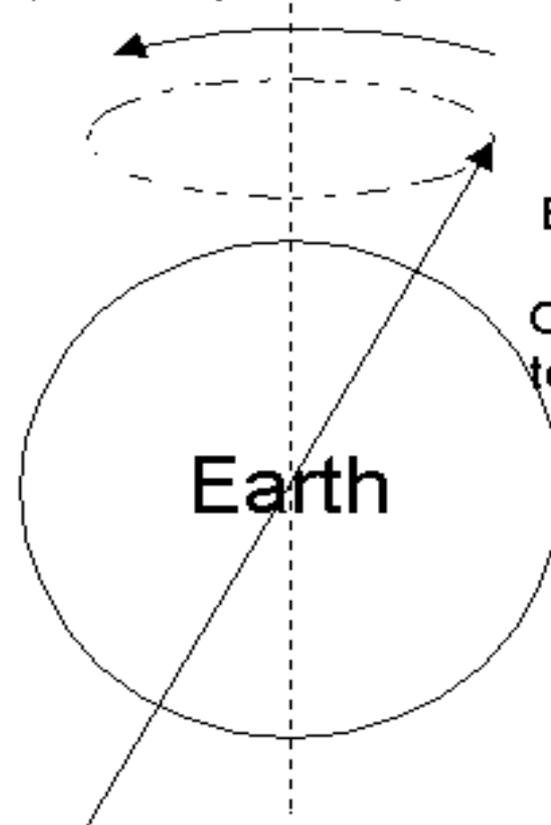


# Dr. Hooke, the astronomer

- *He showed, too, what was the cause of that swinging of the axis of the earth which gives rise to precession.*



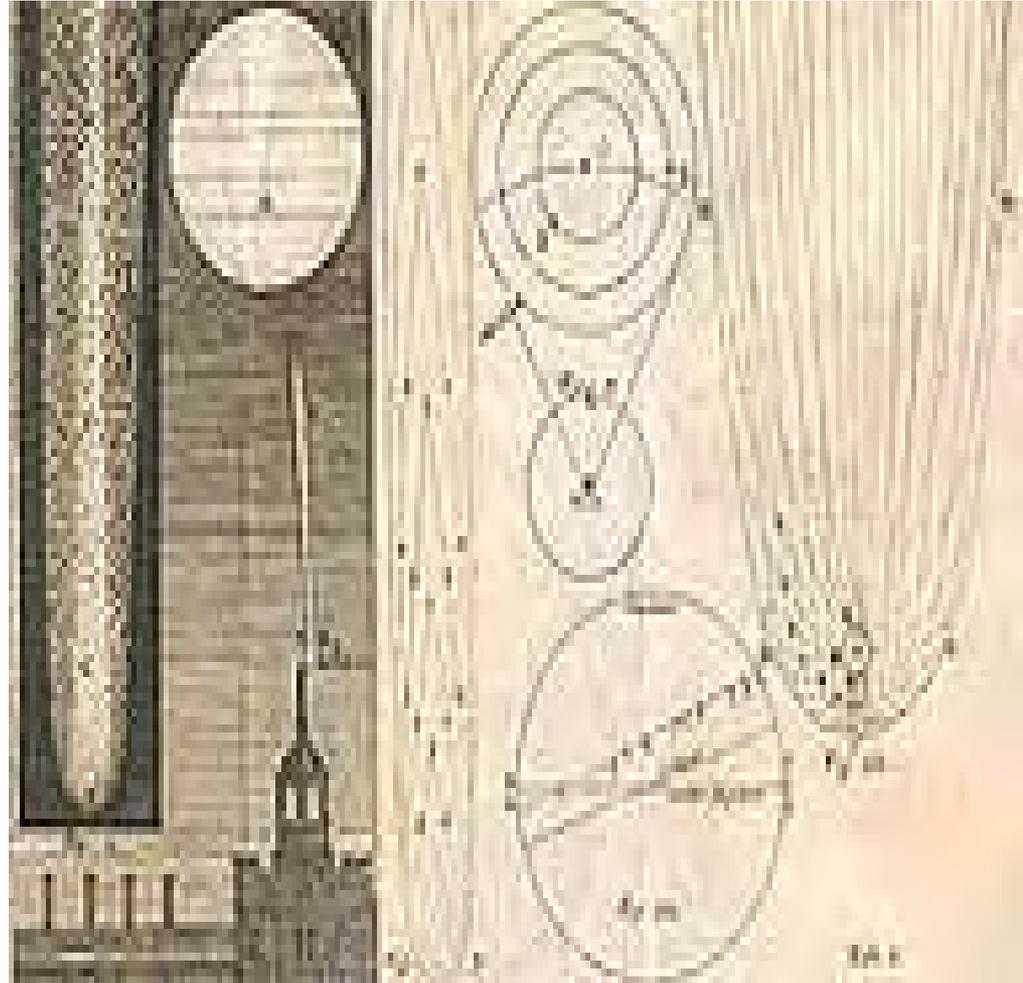
Earth's Axis of Rotation goes in a circle in space every 24,000 years



Earth's Axis of Rotation - it Currently points to the Pole Star

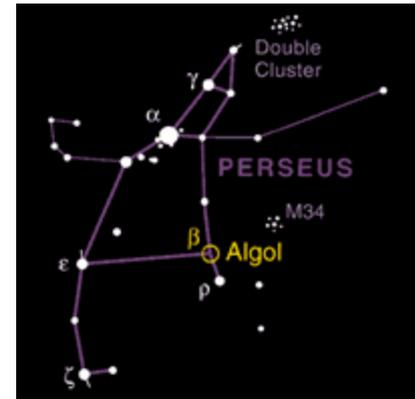
# Dr. Hooke, the astronomer

- *He argued also that comets, which had seemed hitherto to men as perfectly lawless wanderers, obeyed in their orbits the self-same law which governed the moon and planets.*



# Dr. Hooke, the astronomer

- Hooke discovered in 1664 that **Gamma Arietis** was a binary star...



- It was in a letter to Hooke that Isaac Newton wrote his famous line:

*If I have seen further it is by standing on the shoulders of giants.*

# Hooke, the adversary of Newton

- It was in a letter to Hooke that Isaac Newton wrote his famous line:

*If I have seen further it is by standing on the shoulders of giants.*

# Newton's unfair treatment of Hooke

When Newton became the president of the Royal Society in 1703, he destroyed all vestiges of Robert Hooke.

Recent historical research has shown that the famous remark made by Newton

*If I have seen further it is by standing on the shoulders of giants.*

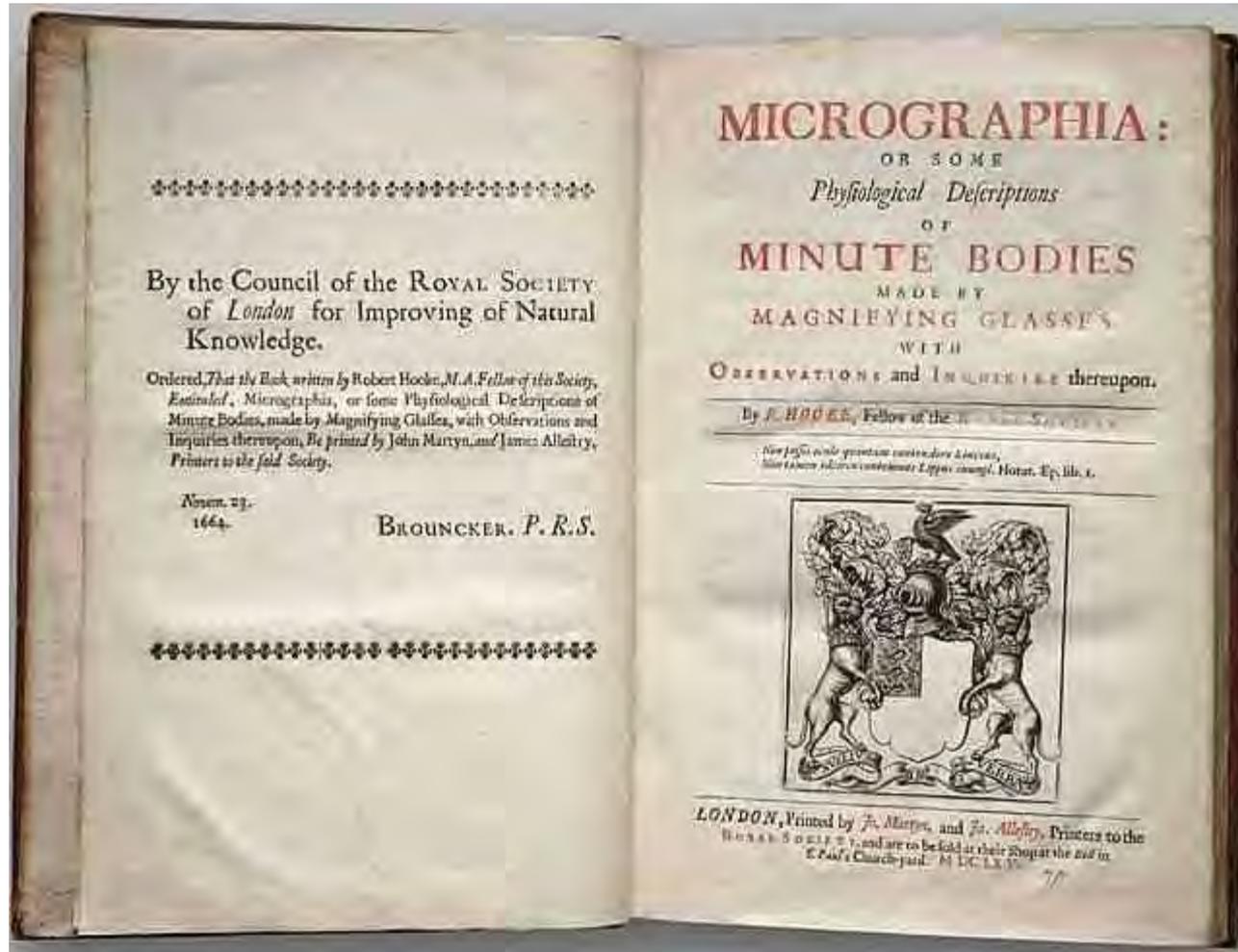
was an ironic one. In the past, it was thought that the remark showed the humility of a great thinker.

It turns out, rather, that it was an ironic remark made by an arrogant man.

# Pictures



# Pictures...



# Websites

- <http://home.clara.net/rod.beavon/leonardo.htm>  
Excellent detailed biography by Allan Chapman
- <http://galileo.rice.edu/Catalog/NewFiles/hooke.html> Excellent time line of Hooke
-