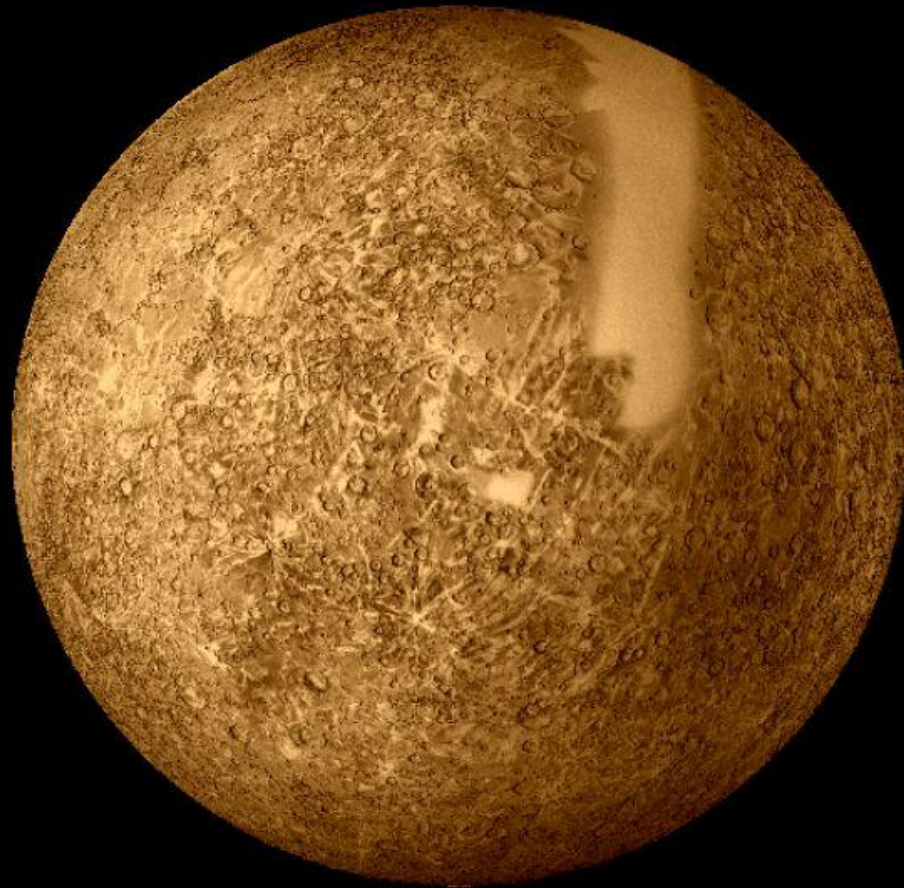
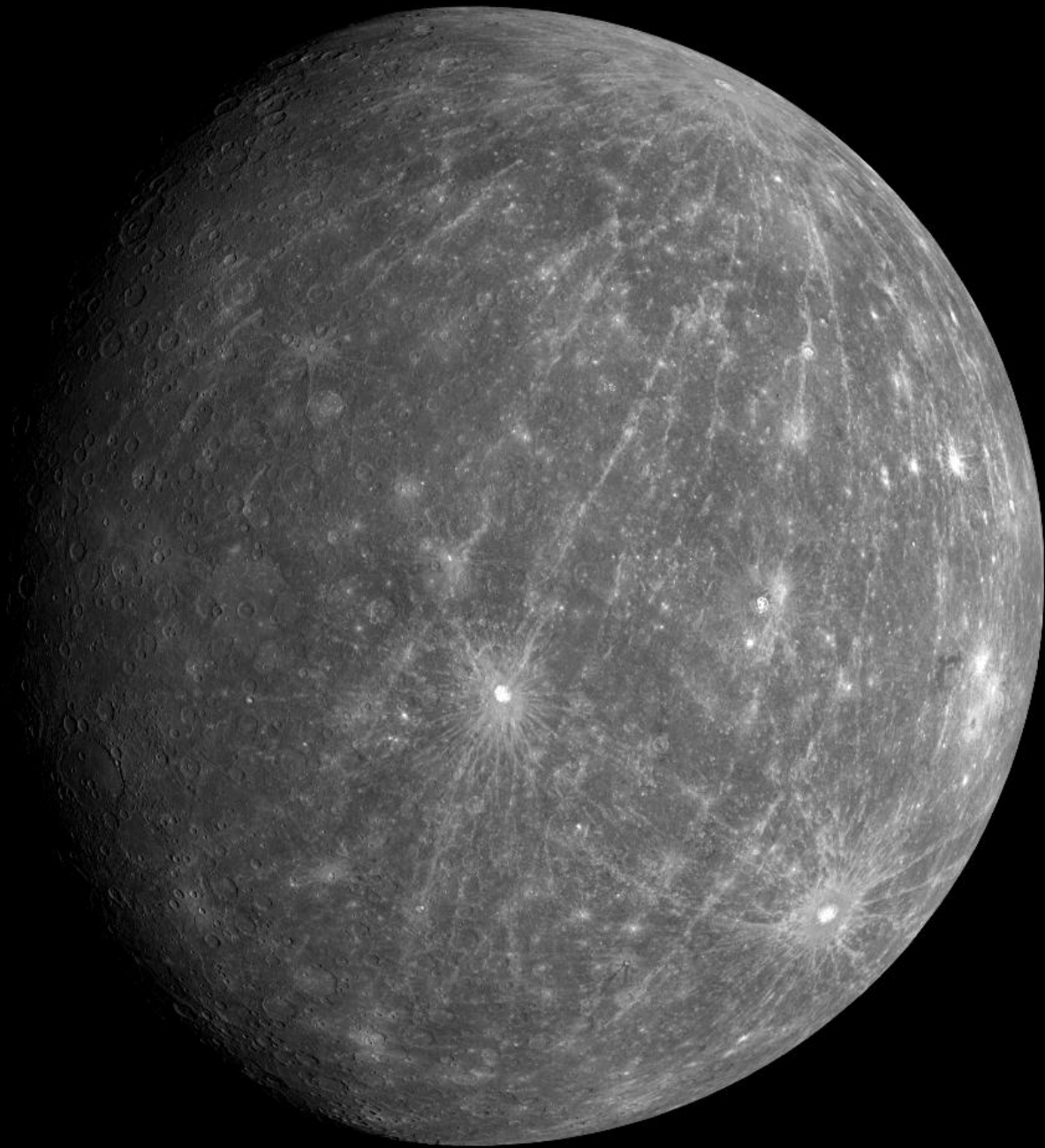


Orbit of Mercury



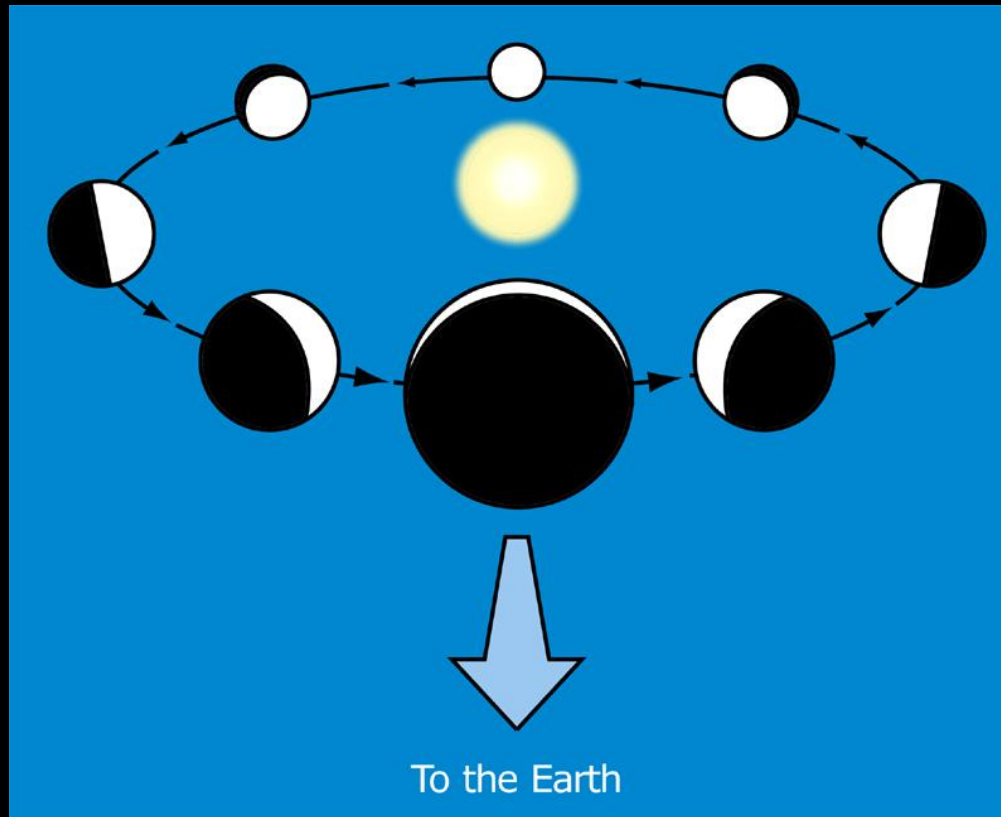




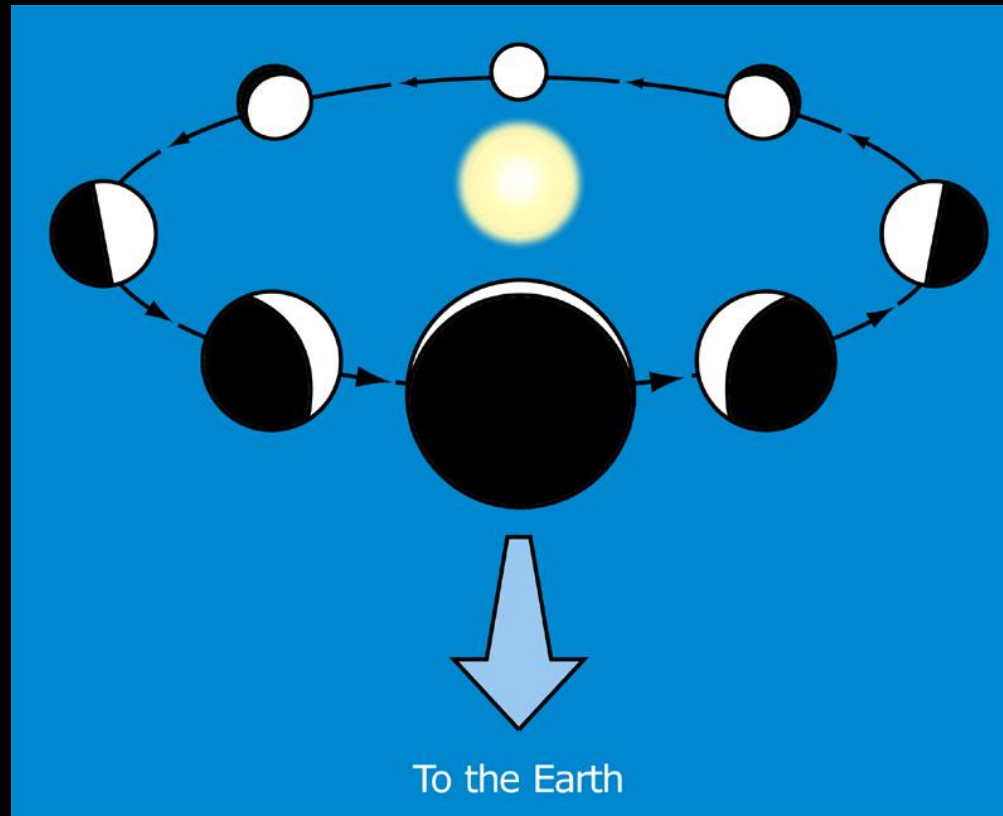
Inferior planets: Mercury, Venus



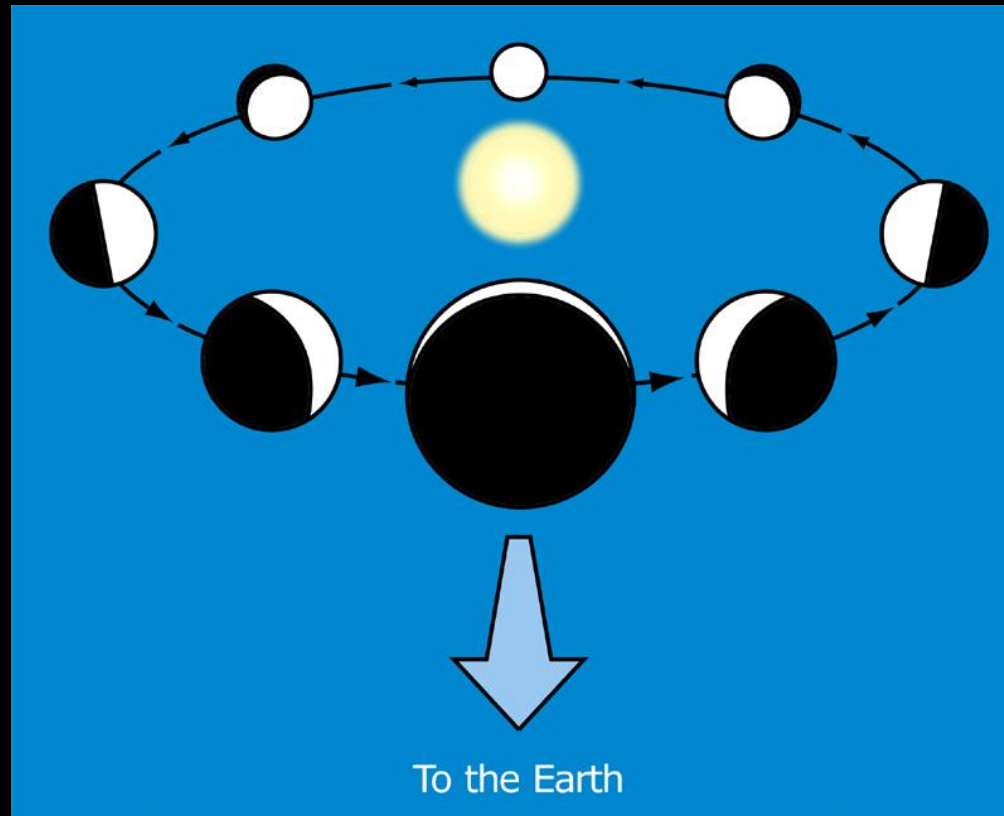
Superior planets: Mars, Jupiter, Saturn,
Uranus, Neptune...Pluto



Inferior planets show phases...



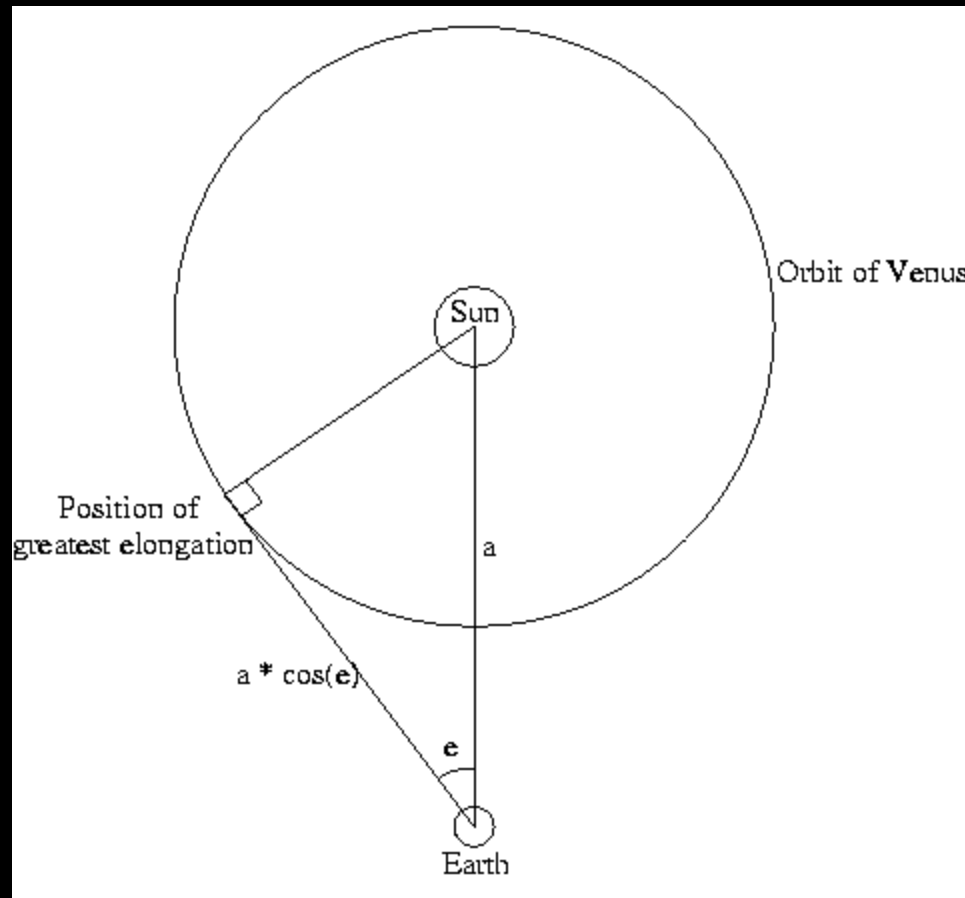
Inferior planets show phases...
And the phases change size!



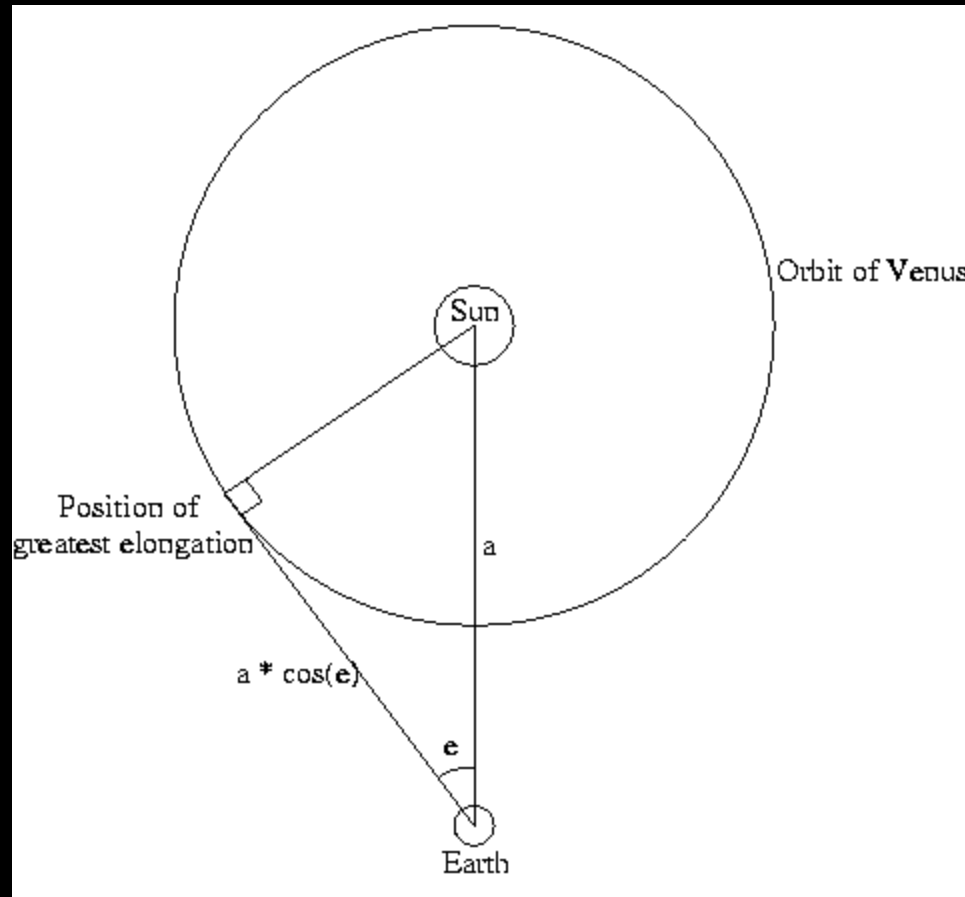
Gibbous: small angular separation
Quarter: large angular separation



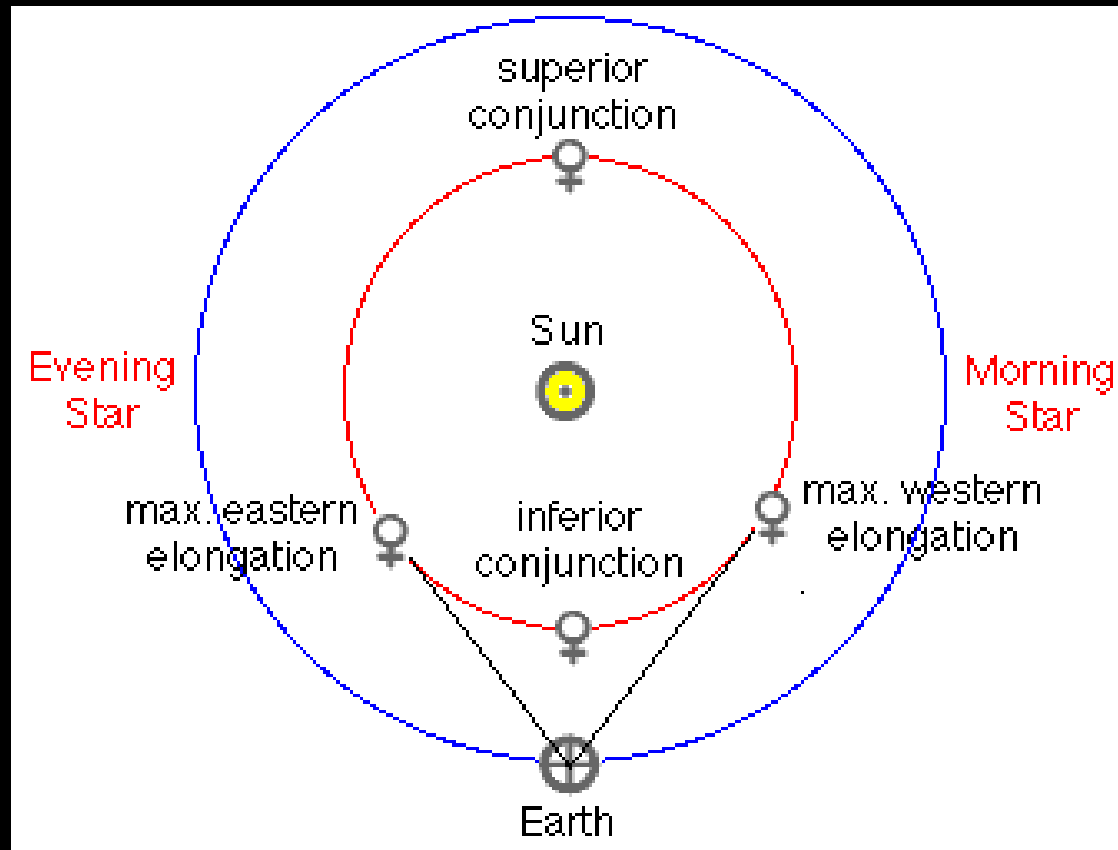
Angular separation
or
Elongation angle



"Greatest elongation angle"
means largest angular separation



Greatest elongations are cool because they tell us exactly where the planet is



More big words



10 minutes after sunset each day

Figuring out Mercury's orbit

- Mark Earth's position for the 13 dates
- "Degrees" column
- Number the positions
- Counter-clockwise!
- Angle is at the Sun

- Find Mercury's position for each date
- "Elongation Angle" column
- Number the positions
- EAST : LEFT WEST : RIGHT
- Angle is at the Earth
- USE CORRECT EARTH POSITION