

## Space and Time and Cycles

The future rises up like a camel's hump,  
A part of the beast like his ears or his feet.  
Who rides the present, wise man or dunce,  
Rides future and past, aha, all at once.  
Anonymous

There are four distinct meanings for both Space and Time.

### Space

1. Conceptual – primarily the space of abstract geometry. It has no existence of any kind except in the mind of the person who is creating it by thinking of it. It goes out of existence when its creator stops thinking of it.
2. Perceptual – primarily the space of a conscious being who is experiencing or recording sensations. We feel an object and our sense of touch suggests to us that it's a certain shape and size; with vision is the suggestion that objects stand in certain relations to one another. We can reconcile suggestions of our senses by imaging all objects in a three-fold order aggregate which we then call space. This space goes out of existence as soon as sensations cease. For a one-eyed man, perceptual space is two-dimensional.
3. Physical – this is the space of physics and astronomy. Conceptual and perceptual space are private to the thinker/percipient. Science finds the pattern of events in the outer world is consistent with and can be explained by the supposition that material objects are permanently located in and move about in a public space that is the same for all observers – public space.
4. Absolute – this space was introduced by Newton to form the basis of his mechanics and remained in general scientific use until Einstein. Newton thought that the remotest parts of the universe were occupied by vast masses which provided fixed points of reference from which to measure motion while themselves providing standards of absolute rest. Later, space was supposed to be filled with jelly-like ether. This was abolished by the Theory of Relativity.

### Time

1. Conceptual – the time of theoretical dynamics and all abstract attempts to study change and motion. Exists only in the mind of the thinker – usually one-dimensional.
2. Perceptual – this time records the flow of time for any single percipient. Thus, it is related to the consciousness of a particular individual and goes out of existence as soon as the individual loses consciousness. Acts of perception come one after another and lie in a singular linear series – thus, they are one-dimensional.
3. Physical – this is the time of the active world of physics and astronomy. Like physical space, it is public. Disregarding complications introduced by the Theory of Relativity; science finds that the pattern of events is consistent with the supposition that all events can be arranged uniquely in a singular linear sequence, the position on this sequence determining the time. We agree to select some motion that repeats itself regularly such as that of the Earth in its orbit to form a “clock” and let each repetition of this motion count as a unit of time – in this case, a year. Other, smaller units are based on the

oscillations of a pendulum or the vibrations of a crystal.

4. Absolute – this is the counterpart of absolute space. If light traveled with infinite speed, it would be simple to synchronize distant clocks. Newton disregarded the finite speed of the travel of light, assumed it could be done and that a universal time flows equably and without regard to anything external throughout the universe.

The first modern to discuss the nature of space and time was Nicholas of Cusa (1401-1464). He held that space and time are products of the mind and so inferior in reality to the mind which created them.

Giordano Bruno (1548-1600) discussed space and time in their astronomical aspects and argued that words 'above, below, at rest, and in motion' become meaningless in the world of eternally revolving suns and planets which know no fixed center. Thus all motion is relative as Einstein subsequently convinced the world and absolute space and time must be figments of the imagination.

Liebnitz (1646-1716) added that space is merely the arrangement of things that coexist and time the arrangement of things that succeed one another.

"All of our sense perceptions are limited by and attached to the conceptions of time and space. Kant, the most critical of all philosophers denies that time and space are the product of experience and speaks of them as categories – conceptions in which our minds clothe the sense perceptions. Modern physics has come to the same conclusion in the relativity theory, that absolute space and time have no existence but exist only as far as things or events fill them – that is, they are forms of perception." (Durant, p.217)

The physical Theory of Relativity suggests that physical space and physical time have no separate and independent existences – they seem more likely to be abstractions from something more complex – namely a blend of space and time which compromises both.

The world of modern science can be described through three distinct divisions:

1. a man-sized world in the center  
flanked by the
2. minute world of atomic physics on one side  
and the
3. vast-scaled world of astronomy on the other

The same laws of nature prevail in each but different aspects of them assume prominence. To discover the truth about nature – the pattern of events in the universe we inhabit – the only sound method is to go out into the world and question nature directly.

### The Structure of Cyclic Processes

Any cycle contains three significant and creative moments: beginning, middle, and end. The basic example is the cycle which we call our day – it is defined astronomically by the rotation of the Earth globe. In perceptual experience, it is characterized by the rise, culmination at noon, and setting of the

Sun and includes a fourth cardinal moment – midnight.

In astrology, the cycles of the day and of the year are divided into four periods. We have two equinoxes and two solstices and the four angles of a chart – these cycles in geocentric astrology refer to the cyclic motions of one factor – the apparent motion of the Sun in the sky. End and beginning apply only to the manifested first half of the cycle. Noon or the Summer Solstice is the apex of only the first hemicycle.

It's different with the Lunation Cycle – from new Moon to new Moon – because it is soli-lunar and refers to the relationship between the Moon and the Sun – a relationship whose character is constantly altered because the Sun and the Moon move at different speeds.

The Lunation Cycle is one of relationship and can be considered the archetype of all cycles involving the relationship of two celestial factors moving at different speeds. An aspect refers to one particular phase in the cyclic relationship of two bodies.

Culmination occurs at the midpoint of the whole cycle – in the Lunation Cycle, that is at the full Moon. The full cycle is divided into hemicycles but both refer to manifested existential activity.

The type of activity in the 1st or waxing hemicycle is very different from that in the 2nd or waning hemicycle. In each hemicycle, the relationship between the celestial bodies operates in a unique manner. The third factor in these cycles is the point from which they're observed – in our case, the Earth.

When an astrologer speaks of Jupiter opposite Saturn, it refers to a particular phase in the cycle of the relationship which began when these two planets were in conjunction. The opposition is the culmination of a process which began 10 years before as Jupiter is conjunct Saturn every 20 years and signifies a reorientation of the social and/or religious faculties. The last conjunction was in 2000 in late Taurus. Every aspect between two planets should be considered as phases in the entire cyclic process. The seed meaning of the Jupiter Saturn cycle lies in the conjunction that starts the cycle and where a new set of potentialities is released with respect to the Jupiter Saturn relationship. Theoretically, the opposition should bring culmination in objective manifestation. But if the process started at the conjunction failed to overcome the inertia of the past, it may be defeated and then the opposition brings full evidence of failure or divorce.

To consider a waxing and waning square the same is like saying the Summer Solstice and Winter Solstice have an identical meaning in the seasonal cycle of the year. Even visually, the Moon at the 1st and last quarters are oriented in different directions. The two critical turning points (squares) in any cyclic process cannot have the same meaning. They operate in a similar manner but at different levels. They mark two opposite stages in the relationship between the two celestial bodies being considered. The time factor dominates the waxing (1st) hemicycle and the space factor is mainly effective in terms of values related to the waning (2nd) hemicycle.

Every cycle of relationship begins in an act of mobilization of power generated by the union of two factors. This means that something new is released and that release means dynamic, concretely-focused

activity. Both energy and form are inherent in the process. An impulse to existence needs to be worked out and the unfolding of some structural idea or archetypal form seeking manifestation through the impulse. "In the beginning was the word...." (sound, vibration and meaning) – the 1st half of the cycle is essentially one of building activity. To materialize the new idea meets obstacles and other impulses, ideas, and feelings seeking actualization. Thus, the future struggles against the inertia of the past.

At the opposition, two possibilities exist – either fulfillment in concrete form or a definite realization of failure and estrangement of the two factors united at the time of the conjunction. Estrangement may mean physical separation, divorce, or gradual withering of the relationship which remains only as an increasingly empty shell.

If the first half of the cycle has been successful, at the opposition a new process starts which was prepared during the gibbous phase. There is a descent of spirit which induces a transformation of mind. In the 1st hemicycle, mind is subservient to life; at the opposition, mind can be born as the power of objectively realized consciousness. At the opposition, consciousness is focused in a fully manifested and incorporated sense – this is why the study of midpoints is so valid in interpreting the birth chart, for they focus the concrete operation of the spatial relation between the two planets and also the relation between the horizon and meridian. After the success and opposition, a new process of conscious unfolding begins.

The 1st hemicycle activity is mostly physically and biologically spontaneous and seeking personal limited self-expression. The 2nd hemicycle mental type activity pervades and seeks to dominate, guide or control the physical/biological functions.

Conjunction = seeding point for the cycle

Semi-sextile = self-focusing – descent of focal point of new relationship into physical

Sextile = focus in relationship

Square = working out tensions between individual self and interpersonal relations on the basis of social tradition

Trine = brings means and opportunities to integrate the self

Quincunx = means and opportunity for more specific focus – marks possibility of relating in and through work the various forms already experienced

Opposition = culmination of manifestation effort – success or failure is experienced

References:

Durant, Will. 1961. *The Story of Philosophy*. New York: Simon and Shuster.

Friedman, Norman. 1994. *Bridging Science and Spirit*. St. Louis, MO: Living Lake Books.

Jeans, James H. 1981. *Physics and Philosophy*. DE: Dover Publications.