

IAU MERCURIAN NOMENCLATURE

1. IAU Nomenclature Rules

Since its inception in Brussels in 1919 [1], the International Astronomical Union (IAU) has gradually developed a planetary nomenclature system that has evolved from a purely classically based system into a quite sophisticated attempt to broaden the cultural base of the names approved for planetary bodies and surface features. At present, name selection is guided by 11 rules (quoted verbatim below) in addition to conventions decided upon by nomenclature task groups for individual Solar System bodies. The general rules are as follows¹:

1. Nomenclature is a tool and the first consideration should be to make it simple, clear, and unambiguous.
2. In general, official names will not be given to features whose longest dimensions are less than 100 metres, although exceptions may be made for smaller features having exceptional scientific interest.
3. The number of names chosen for each body should be kept to a minimum. Features should be named only when they have special scientific interest, and when the naming of such features is useful to the scientific and cartographic communities at large.
4. Duplication of the same surface feature name on two or more bodies, and of the same name for satellites and minor planets, is discouraged. Duplications may be allowed when names are especially appropriate and the chances for confusion are very small.
5. Individual names chosen for each body should be expressed in the language of origin. Transliteration for various alphabets should be given, but there will be no translation from one language to another.
6. Where possible, the themes established in early solar system nomenclature should be used and expanded on.
7. Solar system nomenclature should be international in its choice of names. Recommendations submitted to the IAU national committees will be considered, but final selection of the names is the responsibility of the International Astronomical Union. The WGPSN strongly supports equitable selection of names from ethnic groups/countries on each map; however, a higher percentage of names from the country planning a landing is allowed on landing site maps.
8. No names having political, military or religious significance may be used, except for names of political figures prior to the nineteenth century.

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9. Commemoration of persons on planetary bodies should not normally be a goal in itself, but may be employed in special circumstances and is reserved for persons of high and enduring international standing. Persons being so honored must have been deceased for at least three years.
10. When more than one spelling of a name is extant, the spelling preferred by the person, or used in an authoritative reference, should be used. Diacritical marks are a necessary part of a name and will be used.
11. Ring and ring-gap nomenclature and names for newly discovered satellites are developed in joint deliberation between WGPSN and IAU Commission 20. Names will not be assigned to satellites until their orbital elements are reasonably well known or definite features have been identified on them.

2. Naming Conventions

In addition to these rules, individual task groups take the following guidelines into account²:

1. Names for all planetary features include a descriptor term, with a few exceptions. For craters, the descriptor term is implicit. Some features named on Io and Triton do not carry a descriptor term because they are ephemeral.
2. In general, the naming convention for a feature type remains the same regardless of its size. Exceptions to this rule are channels (valles) on Mars and craters on the Moon, Mars, and Venus; naming conventions for these features differ according to size. The categories for naming features on each planet or satellite (and the exceptions) are listed in Categories for Naming Features on Planets and Satellites. One feature classification, regio, was originally used on early maps of the Moon and Mercury (drawn from telescopic observations) to describe vague albedo features. It is now also used to delineate a broad geographic region.
3. Named features on bodies so small that coordinates have not yet been determined are identified on drawings or images of the body that are included in the IAU Transactions volume of the year when the names were adopted. Satellite rings and gaps in the rings are named for scientists who have studied these features; drawings that show these names are also included in the pertinent Transactions volume. Names for atmospheric features are informal at present; a formal system will be chosen in the future.
4. The boundaries of many large features (such as terrae, regiones, planitiae, and plana) are not topographically or geomorphically distinct; the coordinates of these features are identified from an arbitrarily chosen center point. Boundaries (and thus coordinates) may be determined more accurately from geochemical and geophysical data obtained by future missions.

²Reproduced with the kind permission of the IAU and the USGS Astrogeology Science Center (<http://planetarynames.wr.usgs.gov/Page/Rules>). Retrieved 2011 July 26.

5. During active missions, small surface features are often given informal names. These may include landing sites and small topographic features, such as craters, hills, and rocks. Such names will not be given official status by the IAU, except as provided for by Rule 2 above. As for the larger objects, official names for any such small features would have to conform to established IAU rules and categories.

When a satellite has been discovered through the efforts of a large scientific team, the list of individual team members may be too long to include all contributors. In such cases, credit for the discovery will go to the science team.

2.1. IAU Descriptor Terms

Seven types of descriptor terms (types of surface features) are used in Mercurian nomenclature: craters (circular depressions whose boundaries are marked by elevated ramparts), *dorsa* (ridges), *fossae* (long, narrow depressions), *montes* (mountains), *planitiae* (extensive low plains), *rupēs* (scarps) and *valles* (channels). Lowell [2,3,4,5] introduced over two dozen *regiones*, which he recorded as streak-like markings similar to those he thought that he saw on Mars. Since Lowell's *regiones* are spurious, they are mentioned here (and listed in the Gazetteer section) for completeness and historical interest only. Not included in the IAU nomenclature system, but nevertheless still very much a part of Mercurian cartography, are the *solitudines* ('deserts', denoting various light and dark albedo features on the Mercurian surface), introduced by Antoniadi [6].

2.2. IAU Categories

Under the IAU planetary nomenclature system each planet is allotted a set of themes ('categories') for the naming of its surface features. In the case of Mercury, the IAU naming conventions are listed in Table 1. Craters are named after distinguished deceased artists, musicians and writers who have been recognized for more than 50 years as having made significant contributions in their fields. Dorsa commemorate deceased scientists who have contributed work on Mercury. Fossae bear the names of culturally significant works of architecture. Planitiae are given names for Mercury in various languages. Rupēs are named after ships of discovery or vessels that have participated in scientific expeditions and valles after radio observatories.

Although not included in the USGS Gazetteer of Planetary Nomenclature, the *solitudines* ('deserts') are still employed (but modified in Dollfus's map; see Fig. 3).

3. How Names Are Approved

Anyone may suggest a name for a planetary surface feature for consideration by the relevant task group. Names that successfully meet TG criteria

are forwarded to the IAU's Working Group for Planetary System Nomenclature (WGPSN). Once the WGPSN has given its approval a name is entered into the U.S. Geological Survey Gazetteer of Planetary Nomenclature (which is the IAU's official planetary nomenclature database) and may be used in maps and publications produced by the scientific community. Themes (called 'categories' in the IAU nomenclature system) are considered by members of the WGPSN task group concerned as soon as new images of a planetary surface are received. Subsequently, planetary scientists and cartographers may continue to suggest new names for features as higher resolution images become available.

4. The Working Group for Planetary System Nomenclature (WGPSN)

The present membership of the Working Group for Planetary System Nomenclature is listed in Table 2.

5. The Task Group for Mercury Nomenclature

The current membership of the Task Group for Mercury Nomenclature is listed in Table 3.

6. IAU Codification Parameters

Most of the entries in the gazetteer section end with an IAU codification in the format $a : b : c : d : e : f : g : [h]$, . the parameter values being defined as follows:

- a*: a one-letter code for the parent planet (see Table 4)
- b*: a two-letter code for a satellite (see note below)
- c*: a two-letter code for feature type (Table 5)
- d*: a two-letter code for continent (Table 6)
- e*: a two-letter code for ethnicity (Table 7)
- f*: a one-digit numeral (1–7) for IAU status (see Table 8)
- g*: a four-digit year of acceptance by the IAU (before mid-September 2006); date in format YYYY Mon DD thereafter
- h*: a numbered bibliographic source in brackets

Notes

Parameter *b* does not apply to Mercury, which has no satellites, so this part of the code contains an en-dash.

Parameter *c* represents the **descriptor term**. A list of descriptor terms used for Mercurian nomenclature is given in Table 5.

Parameter *d* indicates the geographical origin of the name (by continent), as shown in Table 6.

Parameter e indicates either a country or ethnic group, as listed in Table 7. Note that the codes are not unique to a given country or ethnicity; ‘SY’, for example, applies to both Syria (Asia) and Scythia (Europe), so the continent code must always be given with the country/ethnicity code to avoid ambiguity.

Parameter f denotes the status of a name within the IAU nomenclature scheme. As many as seven levels of IAU approval have been used over time (see Table 8). Note that levels 1–4 are not currently used. Prior to mid-September 2006 only the year of approval (parameter *g*) is listed by the USGS Gazetteer of Planetary Nomenclature.³ From mid-September 2006 onwards the full date of approval is listed in that website in the format YYYY-MM-DD; however, in this work we use the convention YYYY-Mon-DD in order to avoid possible confusion of months and days for DD < 12. For example, ‘2010-03-03’ in the USGS website is listed in this gazetteer as ‘2010 Mar 03’.

A **question mark** following a parameter indicates a possible error in the USGS data base.

7. Mercurian Nomenclature Update [7]

This edition of the gazetteer is complete up to 2012 December 19. Since then the following additions and modifications have been made to the USGS data base:

- i. On Friday, 2013 March 15, new names were approved for the following nine craters: *Alver*, *Donetaitis*, *Flaiano*, *Hurley*, *L’Engle*, *Lovecraft*, *Pahinui*, *Petöfi* and *Roerich*.
- ii. On Tuesday, 2013, March 26, the WGPSN approved the following changes to the Mercurian nomenclature system:
 - a. *Arecibo Vallis*, *Goldstone Vallis*, *Haystack Vallis* have been changed to *Arecibo Catena*, *Goldstone Catena* and *Haystack Catena*, respectively.
 - b. The name *Simeiz Vallis* has been dropped.
 - c. For Mercury, *catenae* now commemorate radio telescope facilities, and *valles* are now the theme for abandoned settlements, towns and cities in antiquity.
- iii. On Tuesday, 2013 April 30, new names were approved for the following valles: *Angkor Vallis*, *Cahokia Vallis*, *Caral Vallis*, *Paestum Vallis* and *Timgad Vallis*.
- iv. On Monday, 2013 June 3, the following new *rupēs* were approved for Mercury: *Alvin Rupes*, *Belgica Rupes*, *Calypso Rupes*, *Carnegie*

³<http://planetarynames.wr.usgs.gov/>

Rupes, Duyfken Rupes, Eltanin Rupes, Enterprise Rupes, Nautilus Rupes, Palmer Rupes and Terror Rupes.

- v. On Thursday, 2013 June 13, the new crater name *Duccio* was approved.
- vi. On Monday, 2013 June 17, the following nine new crater names were approved: *Bechet, Damer, David, Erté, Larrocha, Laxness, Monk, Rikyū* and *Varma*.
- vii. On Tuesday, 2013 June 25, the new crater name *Fuller* was approved.

Full coverage of these and any future additions to the USGS data base must wait until the next edition of this volume.

Table 1. CATEGORIES PERTINENT TO MERCURY

<i>Descriptor term</i>	<i>Description</i>
Craters	Deceased artists, musicians and writers of established reputation who have made significant contributions in their fields and whose importance has been recognized for at least 50 years
Dorsa	Deceased scientists who have contributed to the study of Mercury
Fossae	Culturally significant works of architecture
Montes	The word for ‘hot’ in various languages
Planitiae	Names for the god or planet Mercury in various languages
Regiones	Occasionally used to denote vague albedo features
Rupēs	Ships that have made voyages of discovery or which have formed part of a scientific expedition
Solitudines ^a	Albedo features
Valles	Radio observatories

^aNot a recognized IAU descriptor term but still used in cartography.

Table 2. CURRENT MEMBERSHIP OF THE WGPSN^a

<i>Position</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Country represented</i>
Chair	R. Schulz	Netherlands
Member	K. Aksnes	Norway
Member	J. Blue	USA
Member	G. A. Burba	Russia
Member	G. Consolmagno	Vatican City State
IAU Commission 16 representative	M. Lemmon	USA
Member	R. Lopes	UK
Member	P. Masson	France
Member	B. A. Smith	USA
IAU Division F representative	G. Valsecchi	Italy
Minor Planet Center and IAU Small Bodies Nomenclature representative	G. Williams	USA
Member	C. Wood	USA

^a<http://planetarynames.wr.usgs.gov/Page/Members>, retrieved 2013 August 29.

Table 3. CURRENT MEMBERSHIP OF THE TASK GROUP FOR MERCURY NOMENCLATURE^a

<i>Position</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Country represented</i>
Chair	P. Masson	France
Member	D. B. Campbell	USA
Member	A. C. Cook	UK
Member	K. Kuramoto	Japan
Member	J. Rodionova	Russia
Member	R. Ziethe	Netherlands

^a<http://planetarynames.wr.usgs.gov/Page/Members>, retrieved 2013 August 29.

Table 4. IAU CODES FOR PRIMARY PLANETS AND ASTEROIDS

<i>Code</i>	<i>Body</i>	<i>Code</i>	<i>Body</i>
A	asteroid	N	Neptune
E	Earth	S	Saturn
H	Mercury (Hermes)	U	Uranus
J	Jupiter	V	Venus
M	Mars		

Table 5. IAU DESCRIPTOR TERM CODES FOR MERCURY

<i>Code</i>	<i>Descriptor term</i>	<i>Code</i>	<i>Descriptor term</i>
AL	albedo feature	PL	planitia
AA	crater	RE	regio
DO	dorsum	RU	rupes
FO	fossa	VA	vallis
MO	mons		

Table 6. IAU CONTINENT CODES

<i>Code</i>	<i>Continent</i>	<i>Code</i>	<i>Continent</i>
AF	Africa feature	NA	North America
AN	Antarctica	OC	Oceania
AS	Asia	SA	South & Central America
EU	Europe		

Table 7.: IAU COUNTRY AND ETHNIC GROUP CODES

Africa (AF)

<i>Code</i>	<i>Ethnicity</i>	<i>Code</i>	<i>Ethnicity</i>	<i>Code</i>	<i>Ethnicity</i>
-	unknown	GH	Ghana	NM	Namibia
AL	Algeria	GU	Guinea	PY	Pygmy
AN	Angola	HO	Hottentot	RW	Rwanda
BA	Bantu	IC	Ivory Coast	SA	South Africa
BE	Benin	KY	Kenya	SE	Semitic
BF	Burkina Faso (Upper Volta)	LB	Libya	SL	Sierra Leone
BH	Bushongo	LE	Lesotho	SN	Senegal
BR	Burundi	LI	Liberia	SO	Somalia
BT	Botswana	MA	Mauritius	SU	Sudan
BU	Bushman	MB	Mbundu	SW	Swaziland
CH	Rep. Chad	MD	Madagascar	SY	Rep. Seychelles
CI	Canary Is.	ME	Mende	TA	Tanzania
CR	Cameroon	ML	Mali	TN	Tunisia
DH	Dahomean	MN	Mande	TO	Togo
EG	Egypt	MR	Morocco	UG	Uganda
ET	Ethiopia	MU	Mauritania	YA	Yao
GA	Gambia	MW	Malawi	ZA	Zaire
GB	Gabon	MZ	Mozambique	ZI	Zimbabwe
GC	Gold Coast	NG	Niger	ZM	Zamba
		NI	Nigeria	ZU	Zulu

Table 7.: IAU COUNTRY AND ETHNIC GROUP CODES

<i>Antarctica (AN)</i>					
<i>Code</i>	<i>Ethnicity</i>	<i>Code</i>	<i>Ethnicity</i>	<i>Code</i>	<i>Ethnicity</i>
–	unknown	AM	America (Antarctica)	FR	France (Antarctica)
<i>Asia (AS)</i>					
<i>Code</i>	<i>Ethnicity</i>	<i>Code</i>	<i>Ethnicity</i>	<i>Code</i>	<i>Ethnicity</i>
–	unknown	IR	Iran	PE	Persian
AB	Assyro–Babylonian	IS	Israel	PH	Philippines
AF	Afghanistan	IT	Itelmen	PK	Pakistan
AK	Akkadian (Accadian)	JA	Japan	PO	Phoenician
AL	Altai	JO	Jordan	SA	Sanskrit
AM	Armenian	JW	Jewish	SB	Saudi Arabia
AR	Arabian	KA	Kashmir	SC	Scythian
AY	Assyrian	KR	Korea	SE	Semitic
AZ	Azerbaijan	KT	Ket	SI	Siberia
BA	Bangladesh	KU	Kuwait	SR	Sri Lanka
BH	Bhutan	KY	Kyrgyzstan	SU	Sumerian
BR	Buriat	KZ	Kazakhstan	SY	Syria
BU	Burma	LA	Laos	TB	Tibet
BY	Babylon	LE	Lebanon	TH	Thailand
CH	China	MA	Malaysia	TJ	Tajik
CM	Cambodia	ME	Mesopotamian	TK	Turkmenistan
CU	Chukchi	MG	Monguor	TN	Tungu
EL	Elamite	MO	Mongolia	TU	Turkey
EV	Evenki	MS	Mansi	TV	Tuva
GE	Georgia	NA	Nanai	TW	Taiwan
HE	Hebrew	MY	Minyong	UL	Ulci
HI	Hindu	NE	Nepal	UR	Urartu
ID	Indonesian	NG	Neghidhian	UZ	Uzbekistan
IN	India	NS	Nganasan	VT	Vietnam
IQ	Iraq	OM	Oman	YE	Yemen
		OS	Ostyak	YK	Yakutian

Table 7.: IAU COUNTRY AND ETHNIC GROUP CODES

Europe (EU)

<i>Code</i>	<i>Ethnicity</i>	<i>Code</i>	<i>Ethnicity</i>	<i>Code</i>	<i>Ethnicity</i>
–	unknown	GB	Great Britain	NS	Norse
AL	Albania	GE	Germany	OG	Ostrogoth
AN	Andorra	GL	Greenland	OS	Oscan
AS	Austria	GR	Greek	PG	Portugal
BE	Belgium	GY	Gypsy	PO	Poland
BH	Bosnia-Herzegovina	HU	Hungary	RM	Roman
BL	Belarus	IC	Iceland	RO	Romania
BS	Bashkir	IR	Ireland	RU	Russia
BU	Bulgaria	IT	Italy	SC	Scotland
BZ	Byzantine	KA	Karelia	SD	Scandinavia
CC	Caucasus	KL	Kalmyk	SI	Slovenia
CE	Celtic	KO	Komi	SL	Slavic
CH	Chuvash	LA	Latin	SM	San Marino
CR	Croatia	LE	Liechtenstein	SO	Soviet
CY	Cyprus	LI	Lithuania	SP	Spain
CZ	Czechoslovakia	LP	Lapp	SV	Slovakia
DE	Denmark	LU	Luxembourg	SW	Sweden
DU	Netherlands (Dutch)	LV	Latvia	SY	Scythia
EK	Eskimo (Greenland)	MA	Macedonia	SZ	Switzerland
EN	England	MD	Moldova	TT	Tartar
ES	Estonia	ML	Malta	TU	Teutonic
FI	Finland	MO	Mordvinian	UD	Udmurtian
FL	Flemish	MR	Mari	UK	Ukraine
FR	France	NO	Norway	WA	Wales
				YU	Yugoslavia

North America (NA)

<i>Code</i>	<i>Ethnicity</i>	<i>Code</i>	<i>Ethnicity</i>	<i>Code</i>	<i>Ethnicity</i>
–	unknown	CR	Creek	OS	Osage
DA	Dakota	CU	Chumash	PE	Pequot
AB	Aruba	CY	Cheyenne	PO	Polawatomi
AL	Algonquin	DA	Dakota	PU	Pueblo
AM	American	DO	Dominica	PW	Pawnee
AR	Arkara	ES	Eskimo	SA	Salish
AU	Aleutian	HO	Hopi	SE	Seneca
BL	Blackfoot	IR	Iroquois	SH	Shoshoni
CA	Canada	KL	Klamath	SX	Sioux
CE	Cherokee	LA	Lakota	TL	Tingit
CH	Chickasaw	MA	Mandan	US	United States
CI	Chinook	ME	Mexico	ZU	Zuni
CO	Choktaw	NV	Navajo		

Table 7.: IAU COUNTRY AND ETHNIC GROUP CODES

<i>Oceania (OC)</i>					
<i>Code</i>	<i>Ethnicity</i>	<i>Code</i>	<i>Ethnicity</i>	<i>Code</i>	<i>Ethnicity</i>
–	unknown	MA	Marquesas Is.	PA	Rep. Palau
AU	Australia	MC	Micronesia	PN	Papua New Guinea
CI	Caroline Is.	ME	Melanesia	PO	Polynesia
CO	Cook Is.	MI	Marshall Is.	SA	Samoa
FJ	Fiji	NA	Nauru	SI	Society Is.
GM	Guam	NB	New Britain	TO	Tonga
GU	New Guinea	NC	New Caledonia	TU	Toamotu
HA	Hawaii	NZ	New Zealand	VA	Vanuatu

<i>South and Central America (SA)</i>					
<i>Code</i>	<i>Ethnicity</i>	<i>Code</i>	<i>Ethnicity</i>	<i>Code</i>	<i>Ethnicity</i>
–	unknown	DR	Dominican Rep.	NI	Nicaragua
AC	Auracanian	EC	Ecuador	PA	Paraguay
AR	Argentina	ES	El Salvador	PE	Peru
AZ	Aztec	FG	French Guiana	PM	Panama
BB	Barbados	FI	Falkland Is.	PR	Puerto Rico
BO	Bolivia	GR	Grenada	RR	Bororo
BR	Brazil	GU	Guatemala	SU	Suriname
CH	Chile	GY	Guyana	UR	Uruguay
CI	Chimalateco	HA	Haiti	VE	Venezuela
CO	Colombia	HO	Honduras	VI	Virgin Is.
CR	Costa Rica	IN	Inca		
CU	Cuba	JM	Jamaica		
DA	Netherland (Dutch) Antilles	MY	Mayan		
		NA	Nahuatl		

Source: <http://planetarynames.wr.usgs.gov/Page/Specifics>. Retrieved 1 August, 2011.

Table 8. LEVELS OF IAU APPROVAL

<i>Code</i>	<i>Approval Level</i>
1	Proposed
2	Approved by Task Group
3	Approved by the Working Group for Planetary System Nomenclature
4	Approved by the IAU's Executive Committee
5	Adopted by the IAU
6	Dropped, no longer in use
7	Never approved by the IAU

APPENDIX 2

NON-ROMAN ALPHABETS

ARABIC

Letter				Name	Transliteration (DIN)
Isolated	Initial	Medial	Final		
ا			ا	الف (alif)	ā
ب	ب	ب	ب	باء (bā')	b
ت	ت	ت	ت	تاء (tā')	t
ث	ث	ث	ث	ثاء (ṯā')	ṯ
ج	ج	ج	ج	جيم (jīm)	ǧ
ح	ح	ح	ح	حاء (ḥā')	ḥ
خ	خ	خ	خ	خاء (kā')	ḫ
د			د	دال (dāl)	d
ذ			ذ	ذال (ḏāl)	ḏ
ر			ر	راء (rā')	r
ز			ز	زاء (zā')	z
س	س	س	س	سين (sīn)	s
ش	ش	ش	ش	شين (šīn)	š
ص	ص	ص	ص	صاد (ṣād)	ṣ
ض	ض	ض	ض	ضاد (ḏād)	ḏ
ط	ط	ط	ط	طاء (ṭā')	ṭ
ظ	ظ	ظ	ظ	ظاء (ẓā')	ẓ
ع	ع	ع	ع	عين ('ayn)	‘
غ	غ	غ	غ	غين (ḡayn)	ḡ
ف	ف	ف	ف	فاء (fā')	f
ق	ق	ق	ق	قاف (qāf)	q
ك	ك	ك	ك	كاف (kāf)	k
ل	ل	ل	ل	لام (lām)	l
م	م	م	م	ميم (mīm)	m
ن	ن	ن	ن	نون (nūn)	n
ه	ه	ه	ه	هاء (hā')	h
و			و	واو (wāw)	w, ū
ي	ي	ي	ي	ياء (yā')	y, ī

Notes. — 1. All Arabic names in this gazetteer are given unvocalized; i.e. the three short vowels (*a*, *i* and *u*) are not shown in the Arabic spelling, as is the

norm in Modern Standard Arabic (MSA) printing (e.g. Schulz, Krahl & Reuschel 2000).

2. Long vowels are always indicated in unvocalized script. The long vowels of MSA are: 'alif (ا), 'alif maqṣūrah (أ), wāw (و) and yā' (ي). The short vowels that would accompany these letters in vocalized text are implied when unvocalized.

3. *Gemination (consonant doubling)*: The doubling of consonants is represented by the *šaddah* (ّ), a 'w'-shaped placed over the consonant to be doubled.

4. *The hamzah*: This symbol (ء) represents a glottal stop, an important phoneme in Arabic, and can be written either alone (rarely) or (more usually) acting as a diacritic symbol when combined with another letter:

- ْ and ِ: above or under an 'alif to represent the glottal stop (preceding an initial short *a* or *i* respectively);

- ُ: above a *wāw*; or

- َ: above a dotless *yā'* (the *yā'* *hamzah*).

5. Three of the standard letters are modified to produce the following common variants:

- 'alif *maddah* (transliterated 'ā): ٲ (independent), ٲ (initial), ٲ (medial), ٲ (final);

- *tā' marbūtah* (transliterated *a*): ٲ (independent), ٲ (final)—always at the end of a word; and

- 'alif *maqṣūrah* (transliterated ā or *y*): ٲ (independent), ٲ (final).

6. *Ligatures*: In Arabic script, there are a number of combinations of letters that are joined to form so-called *ligatures*, the only compulsory one being ٲ + ٲ to produce ٲ (independent), ٲ (intermediate and final).

ATTIC GREEK

Letter	Name	Transliteration	Letter	Name	Transliteration
A	α alpha	a	N	ν nu	n
B	β beta	b	Ξ	ξ xi	x
Γ	γ gamma	g	O	ο omicron	o
Δ	δ delta	d	Π	π pi	p
E	ε epsilon	e	P	ρ rho	rh
Z	ζ zeta	z	Σ	σ,ς sigma	s
H	η eta	ē	T	τ tau	t
Θ	θ theta	th	Υ	υ upsilon	u
I	ι iota	i	Φ	φ phi	ph
K	κ kappa	k	X	χ chi	kh
Λ	λ lambda	l	Ψ	ψ psi	ps
M	μ mu	m	Ω	ω omega	ō

Notes. — 1. Initial vowels may be either aspirated or unaspirated. Aspiration is denoted by the symbol ^ˆ above a lower case vowel (before a capital) and unaspirated vowels carry the symbol [˚] above (if lower case) or before it (if capital). 2. The supposed aspiration of the consonants theta, rho, phi and chi are respected in the transliterations of this gazetteer, as are the distinctions between long/short eta/epsilon and omega/omicron.

THE DEVANAGARI SYLLABARY
VOWELS

Letter	Name	Transliteration	Letter	Name	Transliteration
अ	<i>a</i>	a	ऋ	<i>r̄</i>	r̄
आ	<i>ā</i>	ā	ऌ	<i>l̄</i>	l̄
इ	<i>i</i>	i	ॠ	<i>ī</i>	ī
ई	<i>ī</i>	ī	ए	<i>e</i>	e
उ	<i>u</i>	u	ऐ	<i>ai</i>	ai
ऊ	<i>ū</i>	ū	ओ	<i>o</i>	o
ऋ	<i>r̄</i>	r̄	औ	<i>au</i>	au

CONSONANTS

Letter	Name	Transliteration	Letter	Name	Transliteration
क	<i>ka</i>	ka	फ	<i>pha</i>	pha
ख	<i>kha</i>	kha	ब	<i>ba</i>	ba
ग	<i>ga</i>	ga	भ	<i>bha</i>	bha
घ	<i>gha</i>	gha	म	<i>ma</i>	ma
ङ्	<i>ṅa</i>	ṅa	य	<i>ya</i>	ya
च	<i>ca</i>	ca	र	<i>ra</i>	ra
छ	<i>cha</i>	cha	ल	<i>la</i>	la
ज	<i>ja</i>	ja	व	<i>va</i>	va
झ	<i>jha</i>	jha	श	<i>śa</i>	śa
ञ	<i>ña</i>	ña	ष	<i>ṣa</i>	ṣa
ट	<i>ṭa</i>	ṭa	स	<i>sa</i>	sa
ठ	<i>ṭha</i>	ṭha	ह	<i>ha</i>	ha
ड	<i>ḍa</i>	ḍa	क़	<i>qa</i>	qa
ढ	<i>ḍha</i>	ḍha	ख़	<i>kha</i>	kha
ण	<i>ṇa</i>	ṇa	ग़	<i>ga</i>	ga
त	<i>ta</i>	ta	ज़	<i>za</i>	za
थ	<i>tha</i>	tha	ड़	<i>ṛa</i>	ṛa
द	<i>da</i>	da	ढ़	<i>ṛha</i>	ṛha
ध	<i>dha</i>	dha	फ़	<i>fa</i>	fa
न	<i>na</i>	na	ळ	<i>la</i>	la
प	<i>pa</i>	pa			

CONJUNCT CONSONANTS

क	kka	क़	ccha	त्	ttva	त	pta	श्च	ścya
कख	kkha	क़ख़	cchra	त्थ	ttha	त्थ	ptya	श्च	śna
कच	kca	क़	cña	त	tna	त	pna	श्च	śya
कण	kṇa	क़	cma	तन्	tnya	प	ppa	श्च	śra
क	кта	क़	cya	त्प	tpa	प	pma	श्च	śrya
कय	kyta	क़	chya	त्प्र	tpra	प	pya	श्च	śla
कृ	ktra	क़	chra	त्त	tma	प्र	pra	श्च	śva
कृत्य	ktrya	क़	jja	त्त्य	tmya	प्र	pla	श्च	śvya
क्त	ktva	क़	jjha	त्व	tva	प	pva	श्च	śśa
क	kna	क़	jña	त्स	tsa	प	psa	श्च	śṭa
क्य	knya	क़	jñya	त्स	tsna	प	psva	श्च	śṭya
कम	kma	क़	jma	त्सन्	tsnya	व	bgha	श्च	śṭra
कय	kya	क़	jya	थ	thya	व	bja	श्च	śṭrya
क	kra	क़	jra	द	dga	व	bda	श्च	śṭva
कय	krya	क़	jva	द	dgra	व	bdha	श्च	śṭha
क	kla	क़	ñca	द	dgha	व	bna	श्च	śna
क	kva	क़	ñcma	द	dghra	व	bbba	श्च	ñya
क्य	kvyta	क़	ñcya	द	dda	भ	bha	श्च	śpa
कष	kṣa	क़	ñcha	द	ddya	व	bbhya	श्च	śpra
कश्म	kṣma	क़	ñja	द	ddha	व	bya	श्च	śma
कश्य	kṣya	क़	ñjya	द	ddhya	व	bra	श्च	śya
कश्व	kṣva	क़	ṭṭa	द	dna	व	bva	श्च	śva
क्य	khya	क़	ṭya	द	dba	भ	bhna	श्च	śka
क्य	khra	क़	ṭhya	द	dbha	भ	bhya	श्च	śkha
क्य	gya	क़	ṭhra	द	dbhya	भ	bhra	श्च	śta
क्य	gra	क़	ḍga	द	dma	भ	bhva	श्च	śtya
क्य	grya	क़	ḍgya	द	dya	म	mna	श्च	śtra
क्य	ghna	क़	ḍgha	द	dra	म	mpa	श्च	śtva
क्य	ghnya	क़	ḍghra	द	drya	म	mpra	श्च	śtha
क्य	ghma	क़	ḍḍha	द	dva	म	mba	श्च	śna
क्य	ghya	क़	ḍma	द	dvya	म	mbha	श्च	śnya
क्य	ghra	क़	ḍya	द	dhna	म	mma	श्च	śpa
क्य	ṅka	क़	ḍhya	द	dhnya	म	mya	श्च	śpha
क्य	ṅkta	क़	ḍhra	द	dhma	म	mra	श्च	śma
क्य	ṅktya	क़	ṅṭa	द	dhya	म	mḷa	श्च	śmya
क्य	ṅkya	क़	ṅṭha	द	dhra	म	mva	श्च	śya
क्य	ṅkṣa	क़	ṅṇa	द	dhrya	य	yya	श्च	śra
क्य	ṅkṣva	क़	ṅṇya	द	dhva	य	yva	श्च	śva
क्य	ṅkha	क़	ṅṇra	द	nta	ल	lka	श्च	śsa
क्य	ṅkhya	क़	ṅṇrya	द	ntyta	ल	lpa	श्च	śṇa
क्य	ṅga	क़	ṅṇḍha	द	ntra	ल	lma	श्च	śṇa
क्य	ṅgya	क़	ṅṇa	द	nda	ल	lya	श्च	śṇa
क्य	ṅgha	क़	ṅṇma	द	ndra	ल	lla	श्च	śṇa
क्य	ṅghya	क़	ṅṇya	द	nna	ल	lva	श्च	śṇa
क्य	ṅghra	क़	ṅṇva	द	npa	ल	lha	श्च	śṇa
क्य	ṅṇa	क़	ṅṇka	द	npra	व	vna	श्च	śṇa
क्य	ṅṇa	क़	ṅṇkra	द	nma	व	vya	श्च	śṇa
क्य	ṅṇma	क़	ṅṇtta	द	nya	व	vra	श्च	śṇa
क्य	ṅṇya	क़	ṅṇtya	द	nra	व	vva	श्च	śṇa
क्य	cca	क़	ṅṇtra	द	nsa	व	śca	श्च	śca

HEBREW AND YIDDISH

<i>Letter</i>	<i>Final</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Transliteration</i>	<i>Letter</i>	<i>Final</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Transliteration</i>
א		<i>alef</i>	'	כ		<i>kaf</i>	k, kk
ב		<i>bet</i>	v	ל		<i>lamed</i>	l, ll
בּ		<i>bet</i>	b, bb	מ	ם	<i>mem</i>	m, mm
ג		<i>gimel</i>	g, gg	נ	ן	<i>nun</i>	n, nn
גּ		<i>gimel</i>	g, gg	ס		<i>samekh</i>	m, mm
ד		<i>dalet</i>	d, dd	ע		<i>ayin</i>	'
דּ		<i>dalet</i>	d, dd	פ	פּ	<i>pe</i>	p
ה		<i>hei</i>	h	פּ	פּ	<i>fe</i>	f
הּ		<i>hei</i>	h	צ	צ	<i>tsadi</i>	ts
ו		<i>vav</i>	v, vv	ק		<i>qof</i>	q
ז		<i>zayin</i>	z, zz	ר		<i>resh</i>	r
ח		<i>het</i>	h̄	ש		<i>sin</i>	s
ט		<i>tet</i>	t, tt	שׂ		<i>shin</i>	sh
י		<i>yod</i>	y, yy	ת		<i>tav</i>	p
יּ	ך	<i>khaf</i>	kh	תּ		<i>tav</i>	p

MODERN GREEK

<i>Letter</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Transliteration</i>		<i>Letter</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Transliteration</i>	
A	α	alfa	a	N	ν	ni	n
B	β	vita	v	Ξ	ξ	xi	x
Γ	γ	gama	g/y	O	ο	omicron	o
Δ	δ	delta	ð	Π	π	pi	p
E	ε	epsilon	e	P	ρ	ro	r
Z	ζ	zita	z	Σ	σ,ζ	sigma	s
H	η	ita	i	T	τ	taf	t
Θ	θ	thita	th	Υ	υ	ipsilon	i
I	ι	yiota	i	Φ	φ	phi	f
K	κ	kapa	k	X	χ	hi	h
Λ	λ	lambda	l	Ψ	ψ	psi	ps
M	μ	mi	m	Ω	ω	omega	o

DOUBLE CONSONANTS

Written	Transliterated		Written	Transliterated
μπ (initial)	b		γκ (medial)	ng
μπ (medial)	mb		γγ	ng
ντ (initial)	d		τσ	ts
ντ (medial)	nd		τζ	tz
γκ (initial)	g			

DIPHTHONGS

Written	Transliterated		Written	Transliterated
αι	ai		ευ	ev
αυ	av		ευ	ef
οι	oi		οι	oi
ει	ei		ου	ou

Notes. — 1. αι is pronounced /ε/, and ει and οι are both pronounced /i/; however, in the transliterations it is the original spelling rather than the pronunciation that is respected. 2. The diphthong αυ is transliterated (and pronounced) /af/ before θ, κ, ξ, π, σ, τ, φ, χ and ψ; in all other cases it is transliterated (and pronounced) as /av/. 3. The preceding rule also applies to the transliteration of ευ (with respective pronunciations /ef/ and /εv/).

OTTOMAN TURKISH

Letter				Name	Modern Turkish
Isolated	Initial	Medial	Final		
ا			ا	<i>elif</i>	a, e
ء				<i>hemze</i>	
ب	ب	ب	ب	<i>be</i>	b
پ	پ	پ	پ	<i>pe</i>	p
ت	ت	ت	ت	<i>te</i>	t
ث	ث	ث	ث	<i>se</i>	s
ج	ج	ج	ج	<i>cim</i>	c
چ	چ	چ	چ	<i>çim</i>	ç
ح	ح	ح	ح	<i>ha</i>	h
خ	خ	خ	خ	<i>hı</i>	h
د			د	<i>dal</i>	d
ذ			ذ	<i>zel</i>	z
ر			ر	<i>re</i>	r
ز			ز	<i>ze</i>	z
ژ	ژ	ژ	ژ	<i>je</i>	j
س	س	س	س	<i>sin</i>	s
ش	ش	ش	ش	<i>şin</i>	ş
ص	ص	ص	ص	<i>sad</i>	s
ض	ض	ض	ض	<i>dad</i>	d, z
ط	ط	ط	ط	<i>tı</i>	t
ظ	ظ	ظ	ظ	<i>zı</i>	z
ع	ع	ع	ع	<i>ayn</i>	’, h (or omitted)
غ	غ	غ	غ	<i>gayn</i>	g, ğ
ف	ف	ف	ف	<i>fe</i>	f
ق	ق	ق	ق	<i>kaf</i>	k
ک	ک	ک	ک	<i>kef</i>	k, g, ğ, n
گ	گ	گ	گ	<i>gef</i>	g, ğ
ڭ			ڭ	<i>nef, sağır kef</i>	n
ل	ل	ل	ل	<i>lam</i>	l
م	م	م	م	<i>mim</i>	m
ن	ن	ن	ن	<i>nun</i>	n
و			و	<i>(vav)</i>	v, o, ö, u, ü
ه	ه	ه	ه	<i>he</i>	h, e, a
ی	ی	ی	ی	<i>ye</i>	y, ı, i

PERSIAN

Letter				Name	Transliteration
Isolated	Initial	Medial	Final		
ا		ا	ا	(alef)	a
ب	ب	ب	ب	(be)	b
پ	پ	پ	پ	(pe)	p
ت	ت	ت	ت	(te)	t
ث	ث	ث	ث	(se)	s
ج	ج	ج	ج	(jīm)	j
چ	چ	چ	چ	(ce)	c
ح	ح	ح	ح	(he-jimi)	h
خ	خ	خ	خ	(xe)	x
د			د	(dāl)	d
ذ			ذ	(zāl)	z
ر			ر	(re)	r
ز			ز	(ze)	z
ژ			ژ	(ġe)	ġ
س	س	س	س	(sin)	s
ش	ش	ش	ش	(sīn)	š
ص	ص	ص	ص	(sād)	s
ض	ض	ض	ض	(zād)	z
ط	ط	ط	ط	(tā)	t
ظ	ظ	ظ	ظ	(zā)	z
ع	ع	ع	ع	(ein)	‘
غ	غ	غ	غ	(qein)	q
ف	ف	ف	ف	(fe)	f
ق	ق	ق	ق	(qāf)	q
ک	ک	ک	ک	(kāf)	k
گ	گ	گ	گ	(gāf)	g
ل	ل	ل	ل	(lām)	l
م	م	م	م	(mim)	m
ن	ن	ن	ن	(nun)	n
و			و	(vāv)	v
ه	ه	ه	ه	(he-do-ceśm)	h
ی	ی	ی	ی	(ye)	y

Notes. — 1. Geminaton (doubling) of a consonant is effected by use of the *taśdid*, a w-shaped script placed above the consonant to be doubled.

2. The final *he-do-ceśm* (ه) is also used to denote a final *a* (rare) or *e*.

RUSSIAN

<i>Letter</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Transliteration</i>	
А (<i>A</i>)	а (<i>a</i>)	а (a)	a
Б (<i>B</i>)	б (<i>b</i>)	бэ (be)	b
В (<i>B</i>)	в (<i>v</i>)	вэ (ve)	v
Г (<i>G</i>)	г (<i>g</i>)	гэ (ge)	g
Д (<i>D</i>)	д (<i>d</i>)	дэ (de)	d
Е (<i>E</i>)	е (<i>e</i>)	е (йэ) (ye)	(y)e
Ё (<i>Ë</i>)	ё (<i>ë</i>)	ё (йо) (yo)	yo
Ж (<i>Ж</i>)	ж (<i>ж</i>)	жэ (zhe)	zh
З (<i>Z</i>)	з (<i>z</i>)	зэ (ze)	z
И (<i>I</i>)	и (<i>i</i>)	и (i)	i
Й (<i>Ï</i>)	й (<i>ÿ</i>)	й (и краткое) (short i)	y
К (<i>K</i>)	к (<i>k</i>)	ка (ka)	k
Л (<i>L</i>)	л (<i>l</i>)	эл (el)	l
М (<i>M</i>)	м (<i>m</i>)	эм (em)	m
Н (<i>N</i>)	н (<i>n</i>)	эн (en)	n
О (<i>O</i>)	о (<i>o</i>)	о (o)	o
П (<i>P</i>)	п (<i>p</i>)	пэ (pe)	p
Р (<i>P</i>)	р (<i>p</i>)	эр (er)	r
С (<i>C</i>)	с (<i>c</i>)	эс (es)	s
Т (<i>T</i>)	т (<i>t</i>)	тэ (te)	t
У (<i>U</i>)	у (<i>y</i>)	у (u)	u
Ф (<i>F</i>)	ф (<i>f</i>)	эф (ef)	f
Х (<i>X</i>)	х (<i>x</i>)	ха (kha)	kh
Ц (<i>C</i>)	ц (<i>ç</i>)	цэ (tse)	ts
Ч (<i>C</i>)	ч (<i>ç</i>)	чэ (che)	ch
Ш (<i>Ш</i>)	ш (<i>sh</i>)	ша (sha)	sh
Щ (<i>Щ</i>)	щ (<i>sch</i>)	ща (shcha)	shch
Ъ (<i>Ъ</i>)	ъ (<i>ʼ</i>)	твёрдый знак (hard sign)	—
Ы (<i>Ы</i>)	ы (<i>y</i>)	ы (y)	y
Ь (<i>Ь</i>)	ь (<i>ʼ</i>)	мягкий знак (soft sign)	ʼ
Э (<i>Э</i>)	э (<i>e</i>)	э (e)	e
Ю (<i>Ю</i>)	ю (<i>y</i>)	ю (йу) (yu)	yu
Я (<i>Я</i>)	я (<i>y</i>)	я (йа) (ya)	ya

UKRAINIAN

<i>Letter</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Transliteration</i>
А	а а (a)	a
Б	б бе (be)	b
В	в ве (ve)	v
Г	г ге (he)	h
Д	д де (de)	d
Е	е е (e)	e
Є	є є (ye)	ye
Ж	ж же (zhe)	zh
З	з зе (ze)	z
И	и и (i)	i
І	і і (i)	ī
Ї	ї ї (yi)	yī
Й	й йот (yot)	y
К	к ка (ka)	k
Л	л ел (el)	l
М	м ем (em)	m
Н	н ен (en)	n
О	о о (o)	o
П	п пе (pe)	p
Р	р ер (er)	r
С	с ес (es)	s
Т	т те (te)	t
У	у у (u)	u
Ф	ф еф (ef)	f
Х	х ха (kha)	kh
Ц	ц це (tse)	ts
Ч	ч ча (cha)	ch
Ш	ш ша (sha)	sh
Щ	щ ща (shcha)	shch
Ь	ь м'який знак (soft sign)	'
Ю	ю ю (yu)	yu
Я	я я (ya)	ya

APPENDIX 3

MERCURY DATA

OBSERVATIONAL PARAMETERS [1]

Minimum distance from Earth	77.3×10^6 km
Maximum distance from Earth	221.9×10^6 km
Apparent maximum diameter from Earth	13 arcsec
Apparent minimum diameter from Earth	4.5 arcsec
Maximum visual magnitude	-1.9
Mean distance from Earth at inferior conjunction	91.0×10^6 km
Mean apparent diameter at inferior conjunction	11.0 arcsec

BULK PARAMETERS [1]

Equatorial radius	2439.7 km
	$0.383r_{\oplus}$
Polar radius	2439.7 km
	$0.384r_{\oplus}$
Volumetric mean radius	2439.7 km
	$0.383\langle r_{\oplus} \rangle$
Oblateness	0
Volume	6.083×10^{10} km ³
	$0.0562r_{\oplus}^3$
Mass	3.302×10^{23} kg
	$0.0553M_{\oplus}$
Mean density	5427 kg m ⁻³
	$0.984\rho_{\oplus}$
Surface gravity (equator)	3.70 m s ⁻²
	$0.378g_{\oplus}$
Surface acceleration (equator)	3.70 m s ⁻²
	$0.378g_{\oplus}$
Escape velocity	4.3 km s ⁻¹
	$0.384v_{\text{esc},\oplus}$
GM	0.02203×10^6 km ³ s ⁻²
	$0.0553(GM)_{\oplus}$
Albedo	0.068 (Bond)
	0.142 (visual geometric)
Visual magnitude $V(1,0)$	-0.42
Solar irradiance	$9,126.6$ W m ⁻²
	$6.673f_{\oplus}$
Blackbody temperature	440.1 K
Moment of inertia ($I/(MR^2)$)	0.33
	$0.998(I/(MR^2))_{\oplus}$
$J_2 \times 10^{-6}$	60

Note.—The suffix ‘ \oplus ’ denotes ‘Earth’.

Mercury Data

ORBITAL PARAMETERS [1]

Semi-major axis	57 909 100 km 0.387098 AU
Sidereal orbital period	87.9691 day (0.240846 year)
Tropical orbital period	87.968 day 0.241 year
Perihelion	46 001,200 km 0.307499 AU
Aphelion	69 816 900 km 0.466697 AU
Synodic period	115.88 day
Mean orbital velocity	47.87 km s ⁻¹ 1.607⟨ <i>v</i> _{orb,⊕} ⟩
Maximum orbital velocity	58.98 km s ⁻¹ 1.947 <i>v</i> _{orb max,⊕}
Minimum orbital velocity	38.86 km s ⁻¹ 1.327 <i>v</i> _{orb min,⊕}
Inclination of orbital plane	7.00°
Orbital eccentricity	0.2056 12.311 <i>e</i> _⊕
Sidereal rotation period	1407.6 h (58.785 day)
Length of day	4222.6 h (175.942 day) (0.5 Mercurian solar day)
Obliquity to orbit	~0°
Spin-orbit resonance	3:2
Satellites	none
Ring systems	none

Note.—The suffix ‘⊕’ denotes ‘Earth’.

MEAN ORBITAL ELEMENTS (J2000) [1]

Semimajor axis	0.38709893 AU
Orbital eccentricity	0.20563069
Orbital inclination	7.00487°
Longitude of ascending node	48.33167°
Longitude of perihelion	77.45645°
Mean longitude	252.25084°

MAGNETOSPHERE [1]

Field strength at equator	~300 nT
Dipole tilt of rotational axis	169°
Longitude of tilt ^a	285°
Longitude of tilt ^b	115°

^aFrom *MESSENGER* flyby I.

^bFrom *MESSENGER* flyby III.

APPENDIX 4

MERCURY TRANSITS

The table of transits of Mercury and the formula for calculating local visibility of transits are taken from the public-domain document ‘Transits of Mercury’, authored by Fred Espinak [1], and are available on NASA/Goddard Space Flight Center’s website.¹

Occurrence of Transits

The calculation of transits of Mercury is explained by McNally [2] and Meeus [3]. At the present time, the nodes of Mercury’s orbit fall between the Sun and the Earth in May (descending node) and November (ascending node). If Mercury happens to be close to a node when this happens a transit can occur. About two-thirds of transits take place when Mercury is at its ascending node (in November). Espinak [4] has catalogued 94 transits of Mercury between A.D. 1605 and A.D. 2295. Espinak’s catalogue is reproduced here with permission.

Transit Series

Consecutive transits occur at intervals of 3.5, 7, 9.5, 10 or 13 years. A fairly precise pattern of repetition of transits occurs every 46 years (representing 191 orbits of Mercury with an excess of a mere 0.34 days). May transit series last for 414 years, whereas November transit series endure approximately twice as long; hence, there are roughly twice as many November as May transits.

Visibility of Transits

In order to determine whether a transit will be visible from a certain location it is necessary to calculate the local hour angle, altitude and azimuth of the Sun at the time of transit. These quantities are found from the following formulae:

$$h_{\odot} = 15(\text{GST} + t - \alpha_{\odot}) + \lambda \quad (1)$$

$$a_{\odot} = \sin^{-1}(\sin \delta_{\odot} \sin \phi + \cos \delta_{\odot} \cos h_{\odot} \cos \phi) \quad (2)$$

$$A_{\odot} = \tan^{-1}\{-(\cos \delta_{\odot} \sin h_{\odot})/(\sin \delta_{\odot} \cos \phi - \cos \delta_{\odot} \cos h_{\odot} \sin \phi)\} \quad (3)$$

where

h_{\odot}	=	hour angle of the Sun (in degrees)
a_{\odot}	=	altitude of the Sun (in degrees)
A_{\odot}	=	azimuth of the Sun (in degrees)
GST	=	Greenwich Sidereal Time at 00:00 UT
t	=	Universal Time (UT)
α_{\odot}	=	right ascension of the Sun (in hours)
δ_{\odot}	=	declination of the Sun (in degrees)
λ	=	observer’s longitude (east +ve, west –ve)
ϕ	=	observer’s latitude (north +ve, south –ve)

¹<http://eclipse.gsfc.nasa.gov/transit/catalog/MercuryCatalog.html>

Date	Transit contact times (UT)					r_{\min} "	α_{\odot} h	δ_{\odot} deg	GST h	Series
	t_I h:m	t_{II} h:m	t_{\max} h:m	t_{III} h:m	t_{IV} h:m					
1605 Nov 01	18:43	18:47	20:02	21:18	21:21	855.9	14.471	-14.68	2.739	6
1615 May 03	06:41	06:44	10:09	13:33	13:36	468.4	2.666	15.61	14.725	5
1618 Nov 04	11:08	11:10	13:42	16:14	16:15	352.8	14.642	-15.49	2.909	4
1628 May 05	14:19	14:23	17:32	20:40	20:44	571.0	2.869	16.52	14.933	3
1631 Nov 07	04:38	04:39	07:20	10:01	10:03	146.4	14.814	-16.27	3.079	2
1644 Nov 09	22:53	22:55	00:57	02:58	03:00	641.1	14.987	-17.02	3.249	1
1651 Nov 03	23:07	23:09	00:52	02:35	02:38	750.7	14.540	-15.01	2.809	6
1661 May 03	13:05	13:08	16:54	20:40	20:43	263.2	2.740	15.94	14.800	5
1664 Nov 04	15:53	15:54	18:32	21:10	21:11	250.4	14.711	-15.81	2.979	4
1674 May 07	21:56	22:01	00:16	02:31	02:37	775.4	2.943	16.84	15.008	3
1677 Nov 07	09:32	09:33	12:11	14:48	14:50	248.7	14.884	-16.58	3.149	2
1690 Nov 10	03:57	03:59	05:43	07:27	07:29	742.1	15.057	-17.32	3.318	1
1697 Nov 03	03:58	03:40	05:42	07:43	07:45	647.1	14.610	-15.33	2.878	6
1707 May 05	19:34	19:37	23:32	03:27	03:30	64.5	2.813	16.27	14.875	5
1710 Nov 06	20:39	20:40	23:22	02:03	02:05	145.2	14.781	-16.12	3.048	4
1723 Nov 09	14:25	14:27	16:59	19:30	19:32	350.6	14.953	-16.87	3.218	2
1736 Nov 11	09:07	09:11	10:30	11:49	11:52	843.0	15.128	-17.59	3.388	1
1740 May 02	21:34	21:42	23:02	00:21	00:29	888.8	2.685	15.68	14.742	7
1743 Nov 05	08:12	08:15	10:30	12:45	12:47	542.4	14.679	-15.65	2.948	6
1753 May 06	02:16	02:19	06:13	10:06	10:09	138.6	2.888	16.59	14.949	5
1756 Nov 07	01:26	01:28	04:10	06:54	06:55	42.6	14.851	-16.42	3.118	4
1769 Nov 09	19:21	19:23	21:46	00:10	00:12	454.0	15.024	-17.17	3.288	2
1776 Nov 02	20:55	21:03	21:36	22:09	22:17	943.8	14.522	-14.91	2.793	8
1782 Nov 12	14:35	14:42	15:16	15:50	15:57	944.6	15.199	-17.88	3.457	1
1786 May 04	02:56	03:01	05:41	08:21	08:26	689.0	2.759	16.02	14.817	7
1789 Nov 05	12:51	12:53	15:19	17:44	17:46	439.9	14.748	-15.96	3.018	6
1799 May 07	09:07	09:10	12:50	16:31	16:34	339.5	2.961	16.90	15.024	5
1802 Nov 09	06:14	06:16	08:58	11:41	11:43	60.9	14.921	-16.73	3.188	4
1815 Nov 12	00:18	00:20	02:33	04:46	04:48	556.1	15.094	-17.45	3.357	2
1822 Nov 05	01:00	01:04	02:25	03:45	03:49	838.8	14.646	-15.50	2.917	8
1832 May 05	09:00	09:04	12:25	15:47	15:50	484.7	2.833	16.34	14.892	7
1835 Nov 07	17:33	17:35	20:08	22:41	22:43	336.4	14.817	-16.27	3.087	6
1845 May 08	16:20	16:24	19:37	22:49	22:53	547.2	3.037	17.21	15.099	5
1848 Nov 09	11:05	11:07	13:48	16:28	16:30	163.0	14.991	-17.02	3.257	4
1861 Nov 12	05:18	05:21	07:19	09:18	09:21	657.9	15.166	-17.74	3.427	2
1868 Nov 05	05:26	05:28	07:14	09:00	09:03	735.1	14.715	-15.81	2.987	8
1878 May 06	15:13	15:16	19:00	22:44	22:47	287.3	2.907	16.66	14.966	7
1881 Nov 08	22:17	22:19	00:57	03:36	03:38	231.8	14.888	-16.58	3.157	6
1891 May 10	23:57	23:57	02:22	04:47	04:47	753.6	3.112	17.52	15.174	5
1894 Nov 10	15:56	15:58	18:35	21:11	21:13	266.2	15.061	-17.31	3.327	4

Date	Transit contact times (UT)					r_{\min} "	α_{\odot} h	δ_{\odot} deg	GST h	Series
	t_I h:m	t_{II} h:m	t_{\max} h:m	t_{III} h:m	t_{IV} h:m					
1907 Nov 14	10:24	10:26	12:07	13:47	13:50	758.6	15.236	-18.01	3.496	2
1914 Nov 07	09:57	09:59	12:03	14.07	14.09	630.7	14.785	-16.12	3.056	8
1924 May 08	21:44	21:47	01:41	05:35	05:38	84.6	2.981	16.97	15.041	7
1927 Nov 10	03:02	03:04	05:46	08:27	08:29	128.7	14.958	-16.87	3.226	6
1937 May 11	08:53	-	08:59	-	09:06	955.5	3.187	17.81	15.248	5
1940 Nov 11	20:49	20:51	23:21	01:52	01:53	368.5	15.132	-17.59	3.396	4
1953 Nov 14	15:37	15:41	16:54	18:07	18:11	861.8	15.308	-18.28	3.566	2
1957 May 06	23:59	00:09	01:14	02:20	02:30	907.3	2.852	16.41	14.909	9
1960 Nov 07	14.34	14.36	16:53	19:10	19:12	527.9	14.855	-16.42	3.126	8
1970 May 09	04:19	04:22	08:16	12:10	12:13	114.1	3.056	17.28	15.115	7
1973 Nov 10	07:47	07:49	10:32	13:16	13:17	26.4	15.028	-17.17	3.296	6
1986 Nov 13	01:43	01:45	04:07	06:29	06:31	470.5	15.203	-17.87	3.466	4
1993 Nov 06	03:06	03:12	03:57	04:41	04:47	926.7	14.753	-15.97	3.025	10
1999 Nov 15	21:15	21:30	21:41	21:52	22:07	963.0	15.379	-18.54	3.635	2
2003 May 07	05:13	05:17	07:52	10:27	10:32	708.3	2.926	16.73	14.983	9
2006 Nov 08	19:12	19:14	21:41	00:08	00:10	422.9	14.925	-16.73	3.196	8
2016 May 09	11:12	11:15	14:57	18:39	18:42	318.5	3.130	17.58	15.190	7
2019 Nov 11	12:35	12:37	15:20	18:02	18:04	75.9	15.098	-17.45	3.366	6
2032 Nov 13	06:41	06:43	08:54	11:05	11:07	572.1	15.274	-18.14	3.535	4
2039 Nov 07	07:17	07:21	08:46	10:12	10:15	822.3	14.822	-16.27	3.095	10
2049 May 07	11:03	11:07	14.24	17:41	17:44	511.8	3.000	17.04	15.058	9
2052 Nov 09	23:53	23:55	02:29	05:04	05:06	318.7	14.996	-17.02	3.265	8
2062 May 10	18:16	18:20	21:36	00:53	00:57	520.5	3.206	17.88	15.265	7
2065 Nov 11	17:24	17:26	20:06	22:46	22:48	180.7	15.170	-17.73	3.435	6
2078 Nov 14	11:42	11:44	13:41	15:37	15:39	674.3	15.345	-18.41	3.605	4
2085 Nov 07	11:42	11:45	13:34	15:24	15:26	718.5	14.893	-16.58	3.165	10
2095 May 08	17:20	17:24	21:05	00:47	00:50	309.8	3.075	17.35	15.133	9
2098 Nov 10	04:35	04.37	07:16	09:56	09:57	214.7	15.066	-17.31	3.335	8
2108 May 12	01:40	01:44	04:16	06:47	06:52	724.7	3.281	18.16	15.340	7
2111 Nov 14	22:15	22:17	00:53	03:29	03:30	283.3	15.241	-18.01	3.505	6
2124 Nov 15	16:49	16:52	18:28	20:04	20:07	778.9	15.418	-18.67	3.674	4
2131 Nov 09	16:14	16:16	18:22	20:29	20:31	614.4	14.962	-16.87	3.234	10
2141 May 10	23:46	23:50	03:43	07:36	07:39	108.1	3.151	17.65	15.207	9
2144 Nov 11	09:18	09:19	12:02	14:44	14:46	112.7	15.137	-17.59	3.404	8
2154 May 13	10:03	10:18	10:58	11:38	11:53	930.6	3.357	18.45	15.414	7
2157 Nov 14	03.08	03:10	05:40	08:09	08:11	386.9	15.313	-18.28	3.574	6
2170 Nov 16	22.05	22:09	23.15	00:22	00:26	880.4	15.489	-18.92	3.744	4
2174 May 08	02:44	02:37	03:26	04:15	04:27	924.4	3.021	17.12	15.076	11
2177 Nov 09	20:28	20:50	23:09	01:28	01:30	509.8	15.033	-17.17	3.304	10
2187 May 11	06.27	06:30	10:24	14:18	14:21	96.0	3.226	17.94	15.282	9
2190 Nov 12	14:03	14:05	16:48	19:32	19:33	9.1	15.207	-17.87	3.474	8

Date	Transit contact times (UT)					r_{\min} "	α_{\odot} h	δ_{\odot} deg	GST h	Series
	t_I h:m	t_{II} h:m	t_{\max} h:m	t_{III} h:m	t_{IV} h:m					
2203 Nov 16	08:04	08:06	10:27	12:47	12:49	488.6	15.384	-18.54	3.644	6
2210 Nov 09	09:14	09:19	10:13	11:06	11:11	911.0	14.930	-16.73	3.203	12
2220 May 09	07:23	07:27	09:56	12:25	12:30	728.5	3.095	17.41	15.150	11
2223 Nov 12	01:25	01:27	03:55	06:24	06:26	406.5	15.103	-17.45	3.373	10
2233 May 12	13:13	13:16	16:59	20:43	20:46	296.2	3.301	18.23	15.357	9
2236 Nov 13	18:50	18:52	21:35	00:17	00:19	95.4	15.279	-18.14	3.543	8
2249 Nov 16	13:02	13:04	15:12	17:21	17:23	591.6	15.456	-18.80	3.713	6
2256 Nov 09	13:26	13:29	14:59	16:29	16:32	807.4	15.000	-17.02	3.273	12
2266 May 10	13:16	13:20	16:34	19:47	19:51	529.7	3.170	17.71	15.225	11
2269 Nov 12	06:04	06:06	08:42	11:17	11:19	302.5	15.175	-17.73	3.443	10
2279 May 13	20:14	20:18	23:38	02:57	03:01	499.5	3.376	18.50	15.431	9
2282 Nov 15	23:41	23:41	02:22	05:02	05:02	197.9	15.350	-18.41	3.613	8
2295 Nov 17	18:03	18:06	19:59	21:52	21:54	694.6	15.528	-19.04	3.783	6

Key to Table of Mercury Transits

Column	Heading	Explanation
1	Date	Gregorian calendar date
2	t_I	UT of Contact I: disc of Mercury externally tangent to the limb of the Sun (beginning of 'ingress')
3	t_{II}	UT of Contact II: disc of Mercury internally tangent to the limb of the Sun (end of 'ingress')
4	t_{\max}	UT of Greatest Transit: instant of closest approach by Mercury to the centre of the solar disc (as seen geocentrically)
5	t_{III}	UT of Contact III: Mercury again internally tangent to the limb of the Sun (beginning of 'egress')
6	t_{IV}	UT of Contact IV: Mercury's disc externally tangent to the limb of the Sun (end of 'egress')
7	r_{\min}	Minimum angular separation (in seconds of arc) between the centres of the discs of Mercury and the Sun (at the moment of greatest transit)
8	α_{\odot}	Geocentric right ascension (in hours) of the Sun at greatest transit
9	δ_{\odot}	Geocentric declination (in degrees) of the Sun at greatest transit
10	GST	Greenwich Sidereal Time at 00:00 UT
11	Series	The number of the transit series (see p. 287)

MERCURY TIMELINE

Date	Event
Pre-telescopic Era	
~1150 B.C.	Assyrian <i>mul.apin</i> tablet mentions observations of Mercury [1,2]
~1150 B.C.	Egyptians recognize that morning and evening apparitions of Mercury are the same body [3]
n.d.	Chaldeans recognize that morning and evening apparitions of Mercury are the same body [4]
n.d.	Pythagoreans claim that Mercury moves round the Sun [5]
~550 B.C.	Pythagoras or Parmenides recognizes that morning and evening apparitions of Mercury are the same body [6]
~ 380 B.C.	Plato the first to note the yellowish colour of Mercury [7]
265 Nov 15 B.C.	First recorded observation of Mercury (by Dionysios or Timocharis): morning, $\lambda_{\text{Mer}} = 213^\circ; 20$, $\lambda_{\odot} = 230^\circ; 50$ [8]
262 Feb 12 B.C.	Morning observation of Mercury by Dionysios or Timocharis: $\lambda_{\text{Mer}} = 292^\circ; 20$, $\lambda_{\odot} = 318^\circ; 10$, max. elong. = $25^\circ; 50$ [9].
262 Apr 25 B.C.	Evening observation of Mercury by Dionysios or Timocharis: $\lambda_{\text{Mer}} = 53^\circ; 40$, $\lambda_{\odot} = 29^\circ; 30$, max. elong. = $24^\circ; 10$ [10].
262 Aug 23	Evening observation of Mercury by Dionysios or Timocharis: $\lambda_{\text{Mer}} = 169^\circ; 30$, $\lambda_{\odot} = 147^\circ; 50$, max. elong. = $21^\circ; 40$ [11].
257 May 28 B.C.	Evening observation of Mercury by Dionysios or Timocharis: $\lambda_{\text{Mer}} = 89^\circ; 20$, $\lambda_{\odot} = 62^\circ; 50$, max. elong. = $26^\circ; 30$ [12].
245 Nov 19 B.C.	Babylonian morning observation of Mercury: $\lambda_{\text{Mer}} = 122^\circ; 20$, $\lambda_{\odot} = 234^\circ; 50$, max. elong. = $22^\circ; 30$ [13].
237 Oct 30 B.C.	Babylonian morning observation of Mercury: $\lambda_{\text{Mer}} = 194^\circ; 10$, $\lambda_{\odot} = 215^\circ; 10$, max. elong. = 21° [14].
146 B.C.	Cicero describes Mercury and Venus as ‘accompanying’ the Sun [15]
A.D. 31–27	Marcus Vitruvius Pollio claims that Mercury moves ‘round the Sun as a centre’ [16]
A.D. 130 Jul 4	Evening observation of Mercury by Theon of Smyrna: $\lambda_{\text{Mer}} = 126^\circ; 20$, $\lambda_{\odot} = 100^\circ; 5$, max. elong. = $26^\circ; 15$ [17]

Date	Event
Pre-telescopic Era (continued)	
A.D. 132 Feb 2	Evening observation of Mercury by Ptolemy: $\lambda_{\text{Mer}} = 331^\circ$, $\lambda_{\odot} = 309^\circ$; 45, max. elong. = 21° ; 15 [18].
A.D. 134 Jun 4	Morning observation of Mercury by Ptolemy: $\lambda_{\text{Mer}} = 48^\circ$; 45, $\lambda_{\odot} = 70^\circ$, max. elong. = 21° ; 15 [19].
A.D. 134 Oct 3	Morning observation of Mercury by Ptolemy: $\lambda_{\text{Mer}} = 170^\circ$; 12, $\lambda_{\odot} = 189^\circ$; 15, max. elong. = 19° ; 3 [20].
A.D. 135 Apr 5	Evening observation of Mercury by Ptolemy: $\lambda_{\text{Mer}} = 34^\circ$; 20, $\lambda_{\odot} = 11^\circ$; 5, max. elong. = 23° ; 15 [21].
A.D. 138 Jun 4	Evening observation of Mercury by Ptolemy: $\lambda_{\text{Mer}} = 97^\circ$, $\lambda_{\odot} = 70^\circ$; 30, max. elong. = 26° ; 30 [22].
A.D. 139 May 17	Evening observation of Mercury by Ptolemy: $\lambda_{\text{Mer}} = 77^\circ$; 30, $\lambda_{\odot} = 52^\circ$; 34 [23]
A.D. 139 July 5	Morning observation of Mercury by Ptolemy: $\lambda_{\text{Mer}} = 80^\circ$; 5, $\lambda_{\odot} = 100^\circ$; 20, max. elong. = 20° ; 15 [24].
~ A.D. 140	Theon of Smyrna claims that Mercury and Venus ‘turn round the sun’ [25]
A.D. 141 Feb 2	Morning observation of Mercury by Ptolemy: $\lambda_{\text{Mer}} = 283^\circ$; 30, $\lambda_{\odot} = 310^\circ$; 0, max. elong. = 26° ; 30 [26].
~A.D. 150	Ptolemy completes the <i>Almagest</i> (μαθηματικὴ σύνταξις), in which all the planets circle the Earth. Ptolemy’s elements for Mercury’s orbit: $R = 60^{\text{P}}$, $r = 22^{\text{P}}$; 30, $e = 3^{\text{P}}$; 00, $3e > e > e$, $\lambda_{\text{aph}} = 190^\circ$, $\lambda_{\text{P}_1} = 70^\circ$, $\lambda_{\text{P}_2} = 310^\circ$ (two perigees) [27].
A.D. 362 Dec	Julian the Apostate claims that the planets ‘round about him (the Sun), as though he were their king, lead on their dance, at appointed distances from him.’ [28]
A.D. 410–429	Martianus Capella claims that Mercury and Venus move round the Sun [29]
A.D. 12th c.	Alpatregius explained the apparent absence of transits of Mercury and as being due to the self-luminosity of these planets, rendering such transits invisible [30]
A.D. 1543	Copernicus publishes <i>De revolutionibus orbium coelestium</i> , in which he claims that the planets move round the Sun [31]
Telescopic Era	
1629	Kepler makes first successful prediction of a Mercury transit [32]

Date	Event
Telescopic Era (continued)	
1631 Nov 7	Gassendi observes Kepler's predicted transit of Mercury [33]
1639 May 23	Astronomer, mathematician and Jesuit priest Giovanni Battista Zupi(1590–1650) makes the first observations of the phases of Mercury [34]
1644 Nov 22	Johannes Hevelius (1611–1687) confirms the phases of Mercury [35]
1677	Gallet d'Avignon notes Mercury's oval form near the Sun's limb during (the 'black drop') [36]
1707 May 5	Flamsteed's assistant sees 'a mist or dense atmosphere' surrounding the black disc of Mercury during transit across the Sun [37]
1782	Wallot concludes that Mercury has an atmosphere [38]
1764	La Lande explains black drop as due to irradiation [39]
1792	Schröter reports a dense atmosphere on Mercury [40]
1799	Schröter and Harding find dark ring around Mercury during transit and deduce the presence of a thick Mercurian atmosphere [41]
1800–1801	Schröter notes shortened dichotomy of Venus [42] Schröter deduces a rotational period for Mercury of 24 h 5 min 30 s [43] Schröter reports a mountain on Mercury that is 1/126 of the planet's radius in height [44]
1832	Simms detected a ring around Mercury during transit [45] Bessel deduces 24 h 00 min 53 s rotation period and axial inclination of 70° from surface markings [46] Bessel attributes 'black drop' to irradiation [47]
1848	Dawes attributes 'black drop' to blurring caused by unsteadiness of Earth's atmosphere [48]
1865 (?)	Kirkwood deduces theoretically that Mercury's rotational period is tidally locked with its orbital period [49]
1867	C. L. Prince reports a bright spot on the surface of Mercury [50]
1870	Birmingham reports white spots [51]
1874	van de Sande Bakhuisen interprets 'black drop' phenomenon in terms of diffraction [52]

Date	Event
Telescopic Era (continued)	
1871	Vogel deduces the presence of a terrestrial-type atmosphere on Mercury from spectroscopic observations [53] Huggins deduces the presence of water vapour in Mercury's 'atmosphere' [54]
1877 March 22	The date for which Leverrier predicts the transit of the supposed intra-Mercurial planet Vulcan across the face of the Sun. No such transit is observed [55].
1881–1889	Schiaparelli's Mercury observing campaign; he deduces a rotational period equal to the orbital period (87.969256 day); he maps Mercury [56]
1882	Denning gives first reliable report of surface markings on Mercury and derives a rotation period of 25 h [57]
1889	Schiaparelli thought he had detected a dense atmosphere on Mercury [58]
1893	Müller notes the similarity of the light-curves of Mercury and the Moon indicating a similarity in their surfaces [59]
1896	Lowell charts Mercury and maps an illusory network of canals [60,61]
1900 Aug 31	Barnard reports lunar-like dark patches on surface of Mercury [62]
1912	Danjon and Couder independently confirm the 88-day rotation period of Mercury from telescopic observations [63]
1915	Einstein predicts 43 arcsec/century advance in perihelion of Mercury as a test of the General Theory of Relativity [64].
1929	Lyot finds that polarization curves for Mercury and Moon are similar and deduces the presence of volcanic ash on Mercury [65]
1932	Adams & Dunham find no difference between the spectra of Mercury and the Sun [66]
1933	Slipher detects no difference between the spectra of Mercury and the Sun [67]
1934	Antoniadi's <i>La Planète Mercure</i> published in Paris by Gauthier-Villars [68]
1965	58.6 day sidereal rotation period of Mercury measured by radar [69] Shapiro uses delay in radar signal to Mercury at superior conjunction as a test of the General Theory of Relativity [70] Colombo explains the cause of the 2:3 spin-orbital resonance of Mercury [71]

Date	Event
Space Exploration Era	
1973 Nov 3	<i>Mariner 10</i> launched from NASA's Kennedy Space Center [72]
1974 Mar 29	First Mercury flyby of <i>Mariner 10</i> (nearest approach 703 km) [73]
1974 Sep 21	Second Mercury flyby of <i>Mariner 10</i> (nearest approach: 48 069 km) [74]
1975 Mar 16	Third Mercury flyby of <i>Mariner 10</i> (nearest approach: 327 km) [75] <i>Mariner 10</i> reveals craters and large, lava-filled basins on Mercury's surface [76]
1976	<i>Mariner 10</i> team discovers Mercury's magnetic field (with a surface strength about 1 % that of the Earth) and maps the planet's magnetosphere [77]
1978	NASA publishes the first detailed atlas of Mercury, based on <i>Mariner 10</i> observations and showing numerous craters and plains [78]
2004 Aug 3	<i>MESSENGER</i> probe launched From Cape Canaveral Air Force Station at 02:15:56 EDT [79]
2008 Jan 14	<i>MESSENGER</i> 's first flyby of Mercury at 19:04:39 UTC (closest approach: 200 km) [80]
2008 Jan 30	<i>MESSENGER</i> maps 50 % of Mercury's surface, m21 % of which was unseen by <i>Mariner 10</i> , thus bringing the total percentage of the mapped surface to 66 % [81] <i>MESSENGER</i> discovers long, steep scarps (rupēs) on Mercury [82] <i>MESSENGER</i> discovers a system of over 100 troughs (Pantheon Fossae) radiating from the centre of the Caloris basin [83] <i>MESSENGER</i> find that Mercury's magnetic field and magnetosphere have evolved in structure since <i>Mariner 10</i> [84] <i>MESSENGER</i> studies the mineral structure of Mercury's surface and detects sodium, calcium and hydrogen in the planet's exosphere [85]

Date	Event
Space Exploration Era (continued)	
2008 Oct 6	<i>MESSENGER</i> 's second flyby of Mercury [86]
2008 Oct 29	<p><i>MESSENGER</i> maps a further 24 % of the Mercurian surface (hitherto unseen), bringing the total percentage of surface mapped to 90 % [87]</p> <p><i>MESSENGER</i> provides the first ever global view of the internal magnetic field of Mercury, the magnetic dipole being closely aligned with the planet's rotational axis [88]</p> <p><i>MESSENGER</i> measures the extended tail of Mercury's exosphere [89]</p> <p><i>MESSENGER</i> finds no hemispheric differences in the topography of Mercury (unlike Mars and the Moon, where such hemispherical differences are seen) [90]</p>
2009 Sep 29	<p><i>MESSENGER</i> probe's third flyby of Mercury [91]</p> <p><i>MESSENGER</i> maps a further hitherto unseen 6 % of the Mercurian surface (making 96 % of the total surface mapped, leaving only the polar regions still unobserved [92]</p> <p><i>MESSENGER</i> measures 10–20 times less intensity of the neutral sodium tail than in the previous two flybys [93]</p> <p><i>MESSENGER</i> find iron and titanium abundances in the Mercurian crust in similar amounts to those some lunar basalts [94]</p>
2011 Mar 18	<i>MESSENGER</i> inserted into Mercury orbit at 00:45 UTC [95]

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