Universal Gravitation and Kepler's Laws

Objectives:

• Discuss Newton's universal law of gravity, and understand that it is an attractive force between two particles separated by a distance, r.

- State and interpret each of Kepler's three laws of planetary motion.
- Use a sketch to illustrate the motion of a typical planet and calculate orbital periods using tabulated values of planetary data.
- Describe the nature of Newton's Universal law of gravity and the method of deriving Kepler's third law from this law of circular orbits.



















Out In Space

- The word "planet" means wandering star because the planets seem to wander across the night sky in an unpredictable way.
 - The most confusing motion was that of Mars.

 Sometimes it would move backward across the sky and then return on its course.
– Known as retrograde motion.



- Tycho Brahe spent his entire life collecting data on the position of the planets.
 - With his death, this information was passed to his apprentice, Johannes Kepler, who used it to develop 3 empirical laws that describe the motion of the planets.













The Graviton

- Physicists now believe that gravity is the result of mass-less particles known as gravitons.
 - Existence has been predicted by string theory.

Which is correct? Space-time curvature or the graviton?

We Don't Know Yet!