

Figure 8 Jupiter - Saturn - Neptune

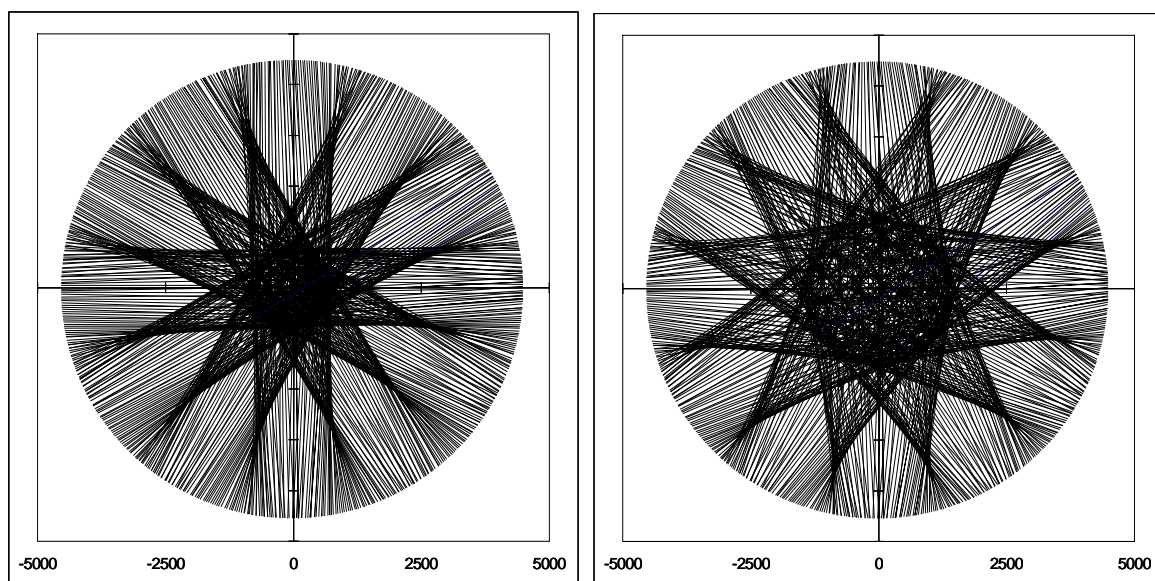
Neptune as seen from Saturn at Jupiter/Neptune conjunctions, 700 times, beginning 4 March 2477 BC, period 8,947.37 years. The points show the positions, the lines the connections between sequential positions.

Jupiter, Saturn and Neptune are the three most massive members of our planetary system. For the long-term stability of the complete structure, which depends on the gravitational interactions between the single members, the team-work of these three is surely the most meaningful. Their movements are arranged in such a subtle, multilayered and geometrically perfect way according to the number twelve that they are enthusiastically praised in *Signature of the Celestial Spheres*:

'The Number of Perfection' appears - and it appears in perfect form. In the outer planetary system, in the region bordering on the stars with their signs of the zodiac, the symbolic number appears before our eyes and before our minds which, since time immemorial and in varying cultures, has been associated with the heavens in the one sense as well as in the other. In heliocentric view this also would result in a star shape, if less expressive, organized according to the number twelve. In the planetocentric diagram shown here the lines linking the planetary positions form the two hexagons but the sequence of positions as such appears in three four-cornered star-like formations. The single figure is termed astroid. Three astroids interweave to form a 12-pointed star-figure and in combination with the figures traced by the lines the result is a geometrical expression of perfection capable of touching the very core of our being almost as music does.' (Pages 242 and 246).

Perhaps this order of almost supernatural beauty is the hidden reason for the - up to now - mysterious long-term stability of our cosmic home, seen mathematically and astronomically.

The number twelve appears in all constellations which result from the meetings of Jupiter, Saturn and Neptune. The following star-figures, for example, arise in the heliocentric view:



Linklines (imaginary connecting lines) at Jupiter/Saturn conjunctions, beginning ca. 5 April 4950 BC, 750 times, period 14,893.9 years. Left: Jupiter-Neptune; right: Saturn-Neptune. Scale in millions of km.