

Reflection on Ptolemy Project

Over the course of my research on Ptolemy, I discovered a few things. First off, I was surprised to learn that Ptolemy is surrounded by controversy since most of his work was already begun by Hipparchus, and neither man always had correct findings. For example, they both approximated the length of a tropical year incorrectly. Hipparchus also began the process of making sine tables, and since Ptolemy wrote a book including these tables, Ptolemy is often credited with Hipparchus's work. Few of Ptolemy's ideas were truly original. Because of this, Newton accused Ptolemy of fraud. His work in his book *Optics* is one of the few purely original ideas he published. The reason his legacy has survived the test of time is mainly due to his books, and the fact that original copies of early translations still exist today. There is no doubt that Ptolemy made an influence on the world of mathematics or astronomy, but there is doubt as to whether the credit is due solely to him.